
What is Causing that Greasy Green Color on My Grapefruit?

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In the last few years, 89% grapefruit growers reported struggling with a disorder that they refer to as greasy-green, leading to losses between \$20,000 to \$1.7 million per year. The disorder causes the fruit to have large, diffuse green patches on the rind after degreening, making it no longer suitable for the fresh market. The disorder visually resembles rind blotch, caused by the fungus *Zasmidium citri-griseum* (formerly known as *Mycosphaerella citri*), but when

the trees are observed, there are few symptoms on the leaves. The cause of greasy-green remains unclear, but UF/IFAS started a project in Spring 2022 to determine if the *Z. citri-griseum* sporulation cycle was responding to changes in the host caused by HLB, a warmer environment, or cultural practices. We will also be investigating possible physiological changes or burns of the fruit in response to newer pesticide and nutritional programs that are commonly used to combat the effects of HLB.

The project started in April 2022, and we have started gathering what stages of flush are present on trees in the Indian River growing region. We are collecting leaf and fruit samples to see when the fungus is present and at what intensity. We plan to rate disease on the trees shortly before harvest. Surveys and interviews are in the design stage to gather information to better document what management practices are underway and then plan experiments accordingly.

Funding

