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# Can Phytophthora Management Stop the Nibbling Away of My Profits in the Days of HLB?

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Phytophthora diseases are frequently a concern for growers. In Florida, they are caused by two species *Phytophthora nicotianae* and *P. palmivora* and they are responsible for multiple diseases, the most common being foot rot and brown rot. Managing phytophthora foot rot prior to HLB was usually beneficial providing the grove was above the management threshold of 20 propagules/cm<sup>3</sup>. Below that threshold, populations were not considered to be damaging. It is important to sample to see if the

population is above the threshold because these organisms, particularly *P. nicotianae*, are commonly found in Florida soils at low levels. Please see instructions in the Florida Citrus Production Guide for further guidance on sampling for phytophthora. A trial was initiated to see if phytophthora management in a southwest Florida HLB-affected grove could be improved. We are evaluating six treatments: 1) Phosphite alone, 2) Phosphite alternated with Orondis, 3) Phosphite alternated with Ridomil, 4) Phosphite

alternated with Presidio 5) Ridomil, Presidio, Phosphite, Orondis sequentially, and 6) and Untreated control. Treatments were applied when root flushes were present. The first year of treatments were inconclusive in terms of yield and fruit size, but yields were low overall in the block, likely because of stressors outside of the trial. Economic analysis will be done on the results of this year and the next. A second site has been added in the Peace River area for 2022.

## Funding

