

New OLL Clones OLL-DC-3-36 and OLL-DC-3-40 Show Enhanced Huanglongbing Tolerance

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Take Home Message:

- More HLB-tolerant OLL clones will reduce grower risk in replanting new groves.
- New high Brix oranges will increase blending opportunities for processors.
- New clones producing higher Brix from trees with HLB can help solve the current Brix crisis in our industry.

Summary: It's no secret that there has been a Brix crisis in Florida oranges this past season. New improved sweet orange clones that reliably produce higher Brix are desperately needed to maintain Florida NFC juice quality,

especially in fruit harvested from young trees. From a large population of somaclone-derived nucellar seedlings from commercially available OLL-8, we identified two new OLL clones that are showing enhanced HLB tolerance, and ability to produce fruit with high brix from young trees. These two clones, OLL-DC-3-36 and OLL-DC-3-40 were entered into the MAC-CREC-USDA scion trials (UF/IFAS CREC/Eagle Lake and Pantuso 20/20 Grove), and they are among the top performing clones in these trials that consist primarily of huanglongbing (HLB)-tolerant mandarin hybrids. Young 3.5-year-old reset trees on a

super-root mutant of UFR-1 (clone #55), grown with no psyllid control at Ori Lee Family Groves in St. Cloud, produced 11.4-11.9 Brix this past season. Both of these clones are showing exceptional tree health on multiple rootstocks including US-942, and both have been entered into the DPI Parent Tree Program for subsequent commercialization. OLL sweet oranges make the best orange juice in the world, so these two new OLL clones with enhanced HLB tolerance should have great potential for rescuing our industry.

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