

Recovering from Hurricane Ian

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Canopies following Hurricane Ian



Take Home Message:

- It can take months to see all of the effects of hurricane winds.
- Fall applications of GA has helped provide some protection from damage.
- We are still looking for participants to follow their groves over time.

Summary: Hurricane Ian harmed citrus trees in much of Florida, especially in the sweet orange growing areas. Reports from growers suggest that trees take a long time to recover from hurricanes. Unfortunately, we don't know at what wind speeds or

durations trees begin to see damage or how long they take to recover. We began this project to describe the recovery process as well as to document what grower practices protected trees from damage or helped trees recover more quickly. In 18 groves throughout the state, we are following trees of various varieties. We are assessing what production practices mitigated damage, how intense the storm was in various places, and how long it takes to recover. We have seen that trees exposed to Category 1 winds, showed less defoliation initially, but

the leaves are more stressed during the dry season. This is probably because the storm damaged the branches' ability to move water to the leaves, which only shows up later, when warm, dry weather causes high demand for water. Stronger winds showed more immediate damage, but less stress to new leaves in the dry season. Gibberellic acid (GA) applications provided some protection from Category 1 wind damage. We hope to use the information we gather to make predictions of damage and recommendations to protect trees in future storms.

Funding:



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE