Connecting Research to Get Better Huanglongbing Management Results

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Take Home Message:

- Growers are not experiencing the greatest benefit from current HLB research results.
- Conclusions from projects or scientific journal articles are not easily digested by growers.
- Growers need to be able to find and understand research information from the USDA for better management.

Summary: Growers need to know about and understand the findings from huanglongbing (HLB) research that is currently available to make informed management decisions. However, the delivery of research results to growers is often fragmented and results can be difficult to find.

HLB Research and Extension Outputs Network

Furthermore, what information is available to growers can be highly technical and difficult to easily absorb. To help improve the communication between researchers and growers, the Coordination Network aims to make it easier for growers and researchers to find information about management and research funded and/or carried out by USDA agencies. The project will develop a database that will make the information more easily searched in part by including key words used by growers. Short. non-technical summaries of research projects and findings will be available that will be linked to relevant technical documents if there is interest in the details. Since all summaries cannot be completed at the beginning of the project, we

will be bringing together an advisory committee of growers to help prioritize what research areas to focus on first. We will also be conducting surveys to understand the priorities of the citrus growers from around the United States to inform our priorities. From the information gathered from growers, we will develop two decisionmaking tools based on the available research results to help growers make the most informed management decisions. If you are interested in participating in our surveys or on an advisory committee, please contact Megan Dewdney at mmdewdney@ ufl.edu or 863-956-8651. This cannot be a success without input from the citrus industry.

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