

## Current Research Objectives

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**Research topic:** Psyllid Management

**Primary Research Objective(s):** Identification of Bt toxins active against Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) for use in vector suppression.

**Research Goal:** Identify Bt toxins with toxicity to ACP and further enhance toxicity by addition of a psyllid gut-binding peptide to provide an artificial toxin anchor.

**Outcomes thus far to advance the science:** Three ACP-active toxins were identified from a screen of multiple Bt strains and one have been modified for enhanced toxicity. This work provides the foundation for long term sustainable management of ACP through the use of transgenic citrus, or through delivery of the ACP-active Bt toxin using a non-pathogenic phloem-limited virus such as the Citrus tristeza virus vector.

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