

Current Research Objectives

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Primary Research Objective(s): Develop technologies for the ultra-rapid detection of HLB and to improve the laser technology for foliar application of agrochemicals

Research Goal: Enhance the effectiveness of foliar nutrient and other agrochemicals to improve the health of already HLB-affected citrus trees.

Outcomes to date: We have developed an ultra-fast method to detect HLB in citrus trees using Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) technology. The method takes fractions of a second to identify HLB+ trees. A much improved laser system to enhance penetration of agrochemicals was developed. The new method is faster, simpler, caused no damage to leaf tissue, covers substantially larger surface areas and substantially more inexpensive.

Funding sources for these objectives: CRDF, USDA-NIFA