

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: Grapefruit plant nutrition, irrigation and cultural practices

Primary Research Objective(s): Understanding the effects of fertilizer sources, irrigation methods and spacing in grapefruit and orange tree survival and fruit yield

Research Goal: Identify if different fertilizer sources, irrigation methods and tree density plays a role in grapefruit and orange young tree yield under high HLB pressure

Outcomes to date: We have learned that water-soluble fertilizers and higher plant densities increase yield in young grapefruit and orange trees. Growers are changing their existing fertilization practices and increasing tree planting densities to maintain production. The increased yield obtained using high density plantings is a viable option growers should consider when replanting.

Funding source for this objective(s): State Legislative funding for the UF/IFAS Citrus Initiative, IFAS new faculty startup funds