

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: IRREC CUPS

Primary Research Objective(s): Evaluate CUPS efficacy for HLB protection in young grapefruit trees

Research Goal: Assess the ability of covered structures to reduce HLB incidence and determine the yield ability of container-grown 'Ray Ruby' grapefruit at super-high planting densities relative to in-ground open-air trees

Outcomes to date: We have learned that CUPS provide 100% protection against HLB and increase fresh fruit yield when compared to infected open-air trees
Growers are using the info regarding higher yield and improved fruit quality to expand commercial operations in different regions of Florida. Grapefruit acreage under screen was identified as a potential opportunity due to the increase in fruit price and low fresh fruit supply.

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