

Current Research Objectives

Dr. Rhuanito Ferrarezi, Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences, IRREC
(rferrarezi@ufl.edu)

Research topic: Performance of capacitance sensors to monitor soil moisture and electrical conductivity in sandy soils for precise water and fertilizer management

Primary Research Objective(s): Determine soil VWC using several commercial capacitance sensors and establish calibration equations for different sandy soils used for citrus production in Florida.

Research Goal: Generate technical information to assist growers using soil moisture sensors to monitor and control irrigation

Outcomes to date: Calibration equations have been determined for five soils used for citrus production. Soil moisture sensors are being used to monitor irrigation and apply water on demand based on plant water requirements instead of rigid schedule.

Funding source for this objective(s): UF/IFAS faculty startup funds, 2017 Joye Giglia Endowment for Innovative Agricultural Technology (Project # F0013964), State Legislative funding for the UF/IFAS Citrus Initiative, and USDA-SCRI-CDRE (award 2018-70016-27387).