

Current Research Objectives

Dr. Fred Gmitter, Professor, Horticultural Sciences, CREC (fgmitter@ufl.edu)

Research topic: Citrus breeding, genetics, and genomics

Primary Research Objective(s): Understanding the genetic control of mechanisms underlying tolerance of HLB in certain citrus varieties, such as lemon and LB8-9 Sugar Belle® mandarin hybrid.

Research Goal: Understanding genetic control of HLB tolerance will provide tools to develop new tolerant or even HLB-resistant scion and rootstock varieties.

Outcomes to date: Key mechanisms identified thus far include activation of cellular defense genes, changes in hormonal relationships and carbohydrate metabolism, and regeneration of vascular tissue to overcome blocked and damaged tissues.

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