

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: 'Gauntlet' Rootstock Screening for HLB Tolerance/Resistance

Primary Research Objective(s): Development and Identification of New Rootstocks that Impart HLB Tolerance or Resistance to grafted Commercial Scions.

Research Goal: Commercial release of rootstocks that can guarantee successful and profitable citriculture under HLB-endemic conditions, regardless of scion.

Outcomes to date: More than 10,000 hybrid rootstocks have been screened to date. Several hybrid rootstocks have been identified that are growing off normal sweet orange trees despite infection at the time of grafting. Some are even showing promise to greatly reduce or eliminate Liberibacter. Superior parental combinations are being identified. Florida growers are actively participating in the largescale evaluation of selected promising rootstock hybrids via direct collaborative trials in their own groves, thereby facilitating future commercial releases.

Funding source for this objective(s): CRDF, MAC, SCRI/NIFA