

Current Research Objectives

Dr. Lukasz Stelinski, Associate Professor, Entomology & Nematology, CREC
(stelinski@ufl.edu)

Research topic: Psyllid Management

Primary Research Objective(s): Understanding movement patterns of Asian citrus psyllid

Research Goal: Implement effective disease management based on dispersal capabilities of the vector

Outcomes thus far to advance the science: We have learned that adults fly 25-50 m regularly, but can fly 100 m to new leaf flushes. Movement into managed citrus groves in Florida is often from adjacent abandoned groves. Maximum movement of 1.2 km can occur over a period of 10-12 days. Most movement occurs during citrus flushing periods. Currently, 80-100% of captured adults carry the pathogen causing HLB. Area-wide management of the vector is a requirement of effective vector suppression programs. Abandoned citrus acreage poses a threat to managed groves and thus should be effectively mitigated. Protecting grove borders adjacent to unmanaged citrus and applying insecticides prior availability of feather flush for egg laying promotes population suppression of ACP.

Funding source for this objective(s): CRDF