

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: Biological soil crusts in agriculture

Primary Research Objective(s): Characterize the presence and composition of biological soil crusts (biocrusts) in agricultural fields (including citrus) and determine their nitrogen cycling potential. Biocrusts are naturally occurring groups of bacteria and fungi that have been reported in arid ecosystems and are a major nitrogen source. But, they've rarely been reported in agriculture. We have identified numerous agriculture locations, including in Florida citrus groves.

Research Goal: Provide growers with a natural and sustainable method to contribute to crop management through the cultivation and management of biocrusts.

Outcomes to date: This project is in the very early stages, and the experiments are ongoing. So far, no recommendations were provided

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