

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: Flowering in HLB-affected trees

Primary Research Objective(s): Synchronizing and compressing flowering time for HLB-affected trees for better control of flower-associated diseases such as post-bloom fruit drop (PFD) and reduce off-season fruit production.

Research Goal: HLB-affected trees often display prolonged and off-season flowering due to stress. Our goal is to suppress off-season flowering by making trees flower uniformly and in a compressed window.

Outcomes to date: We have found that a plant hormone regularly applied from September to December can suppress off-season flowering and result in uniform, short flowering window without significantly affecting the yields. Growers can use this strategy in groves that show high off-season bloom or in case of high chance of predicted PFD incidence.

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