



Economic Effects Of Greening

In the long term, lower production due to HLB could spell higher prices for growers.

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The 2008 International Research Conference on Huanglongbing was held in Orlando during the first week of December. Huanglongbing is the internationally used term for citrus greening, which is also called “Yellow Dragon” or simply HLB. The conference focused mostly on the pathology and detection methods for citrus greening. It was impressive that nearly 400 people representing 26 countries attended the conference. This clearly demonstrates

that the presence of greening in both Florida and São Paulo, Brazil, has gained the attention of both the scientific community and participants in the world’s citrus industry.

Seeing Is Believing

A visit to a grove infected with greening gives an “up front and personal” view of the destructiveness of the disease. I have had several opportunities to view citrus greening in São Paulo. In younger groves, the rate of spread is astounding. I visited a grove twice in two years near Araras in São Paulo state. On my second visit, it

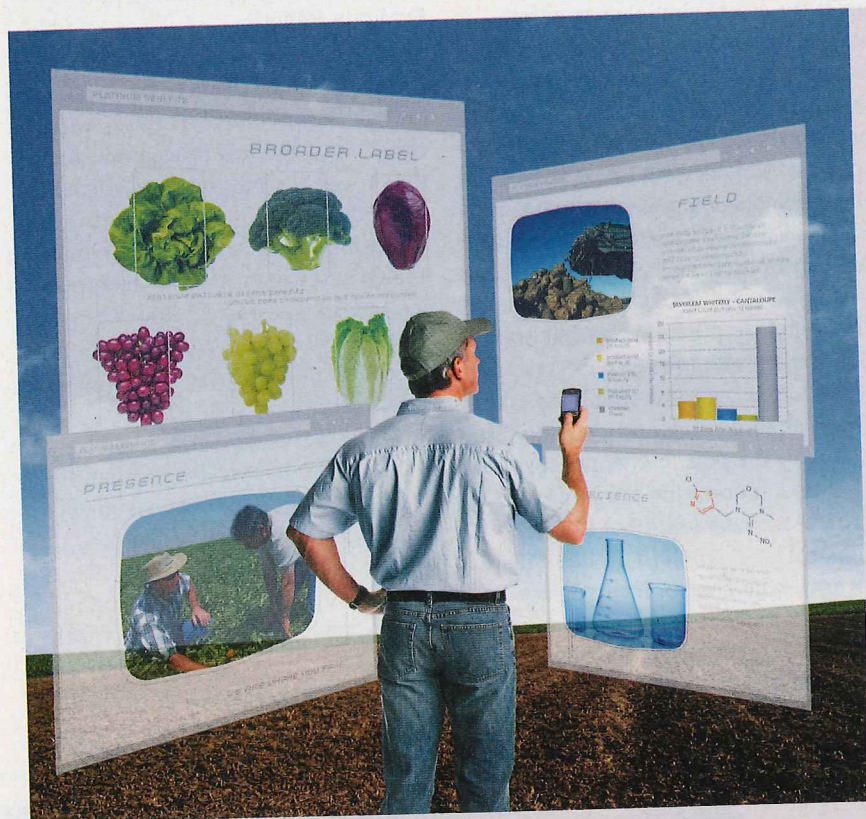
appeared that nearly one-half of the grove had been eradicated since my previous visit. Furthermore, the disease had spread to nearby groves.

Increased Costs

While there is much to be learned about citrus greening, our work suggests that the disease will affect both grove-care costs and citrus production in Florida and São Paulo. The work of Ron Muraro and Allen Morris at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred suggests that the additional grove-care costs associated with an aggressive citrus greening program



An aggressive program to fight citrus greening can cost growers up to \$450 per acre.



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