

# A look at CREC leaders

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**A**lthough the Citrus Experiment Station was founded in 1917, it took almost two decades before the facility had a true on-site director. Here is a look back at everyone who provided leadership over the past 100 years for the facility we know today as the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Citrus Research and Education Center.



**PETER ROLFS** (1917–1920)

Rolfs was director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (FAES) from early 1906 through the end of 1920. By virtue of his position, he was technically considered director of the Citrus Experiment Station beginning with its authorization in June 1917 and ending when he departed UF at the end of 1920. Rolfs passed away in February 1944.

**JOHN H. JEFFERIES** (1920–1935)  
A former UF gardener and self-employed citrus grower, Jefferies was appointed superintendent of the Citrus Experiment Station in October 1920. He was the station's primary on-site supervisor until A.F. Camp was appointed director in December 1935. Jefferies remained on staff until retiring in late 1941; he died in May 1945.



**WILMON NEWELL** (1921–1935)

Newell was appointed director of the FAES in January 1921, and therefore was also director of the Citrus Experiment Station from that time until A.F. Camp's appointment. An entomologist, Newell helped quell a 1929 outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly in the Orlando area. He still held the FAES director position when he died in October 1943.



**A.F. CAMP** (1935–1956)

In December 1935, longtime Citrus Experiment Station plant physiologist Arthur Forrest Camp was promoted, becoming the station's first on-site director. Camp conducted many studies on citrus nutrition and fertilization. He retired on Dec. 31, 1956, and Herman Reitz took over the position the following day. Camp passed away in 1982.



**HERMAN J. REITZ** (1957–1982)

Much like his predecessor, Reitz had worked at the station for several years before taking over the directorship in January 1957. He focused much of his attention on citrus nutrition. His 1964 publication on fertilizers and nutritional sprays is considered a classic, and he pioneered sampling methods for assessing the quality of citrus fruit before harvest. Reitz retired in March 1982 and died in March 2008.



**WALTER J. KENDER** (1982–1997)

The only person appointed director of the citrus facility who did not have previous work experience with UF, Kender was a viticulture expert from Cornell University. He was appointed in August 1982, and devoted much of his research to abscission agents and the possibility of developing methods for large-scale mechanical harvesting. Kender retired in November 1997 and passed away in January 2016.



**HAROLD W. BROWNING** (1997–2009)

An entomologist who specializes in biological control, Browning had several years' experience in the subject when he arrived at CREC in 1988 and was promoted to director in November 1997. Browning held the position until early 2009. He is now chief operations officer for the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to HLB research and improvement of the citrus industry.



**JACQUELINE K. BURNS** (2009–2014)

The first woman to serve as director, Burns joined the CREC faculty in 1987, initially focusing on postharvest processing for fresh citrus, then moving into research on abscission and mechanical harvesting. She was named interim director in early 2009, named permanent director in April 2011 and was promoted in November 2014 to her current position, UF/IFAS dean for research.



**MICHAEL ROGERS** (2014–present)

Current CREC director Michael Rogers is an entomologist who has been with the center since 2004. Beginning with the emergence of HLB cases in Florida, his research has focused on control of the invasive citrus psyllid, vector for the HLB pathogen. Rogers was appointed interim director in November 2014, and the position was made permanent in July 2015. 🍊

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