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## CRDF Applies for Research Block Grant

CRDF has developed an aggressive approach to identifying and funding the most vital research aimed at addressing most important issues facing citrus growers, exotic diseases. In particular, HLB has been the priority topic since its discovery in Florida, and this year we also are responding to the threats of citrus black spot in Florida. With a considerable budget coming from grower dollars, CRDF is looking to other sources to continue to make progress in finding and delivering solutions. CRDF continues to seek partnership funding in a number of ways to augment grower investment in citrus research. With the challenges of HLB, additional funding can be used to accelerate programs aimed at reducing HLB impact, and to sustain current groves until more permanent solutions are available.

One source of funding which is of interest to CRDF is the USDA Specialty Crop Research Program, a federal program supporting efforts to improve production and marketing of fruits, nuts, vegetables and other horticultural crops. This program includes a national competitive grant program to which USDA and IFAS have applied for support. In addition, funding is allocated to states in what is called the Specialty Crop Block Grant. The Florida version of the Specialty Crop Block Grant is managed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and has approximately \$4.3 million to invest in research and marketing to enhance the production and marketing of Florida's specialty horticultural crops.

CRDF met the early April application to the Block Grant deadline with a submission that seeks \$1.8 million to support the most recently approved projects focused primarily on HLB. These new research and delivery projects meet high priority objectives laid out by the National Academy of Science study, having been subjected to national peer review and intense review by CRDF's Scientific Advisory Board and the Research Management Committee composed of citrus growers. The projects complement ongoing research efforts from previous years that have already received funding. Research contained in this group prioritized for funding by CRDF focuses on near-term management of HLB (psyllid monitoring and treatment), as well as medium and longer term projects leading to solutions and production practices to optimize tree health in the presence of HLB. If successful, the Block Grant funds would provide support for as many as 20 CRDF projects over the period January, 2012 through December 2013. This funding would greatly aid in maintaining the level of commitment necessary to find and deliver solutions, as recommended in the National Academy of Sciences study which provided CRDF with a 5-year research plan.

Funding from the Block Grant would be a significant boost to CRDF's research portfolio and would advance CRDF's goal of developing a sustained intensive research program to address short and long-term citrus industry challenges. Seeking outside funding to complement grower dollars has the potential to retain the high level of effort to solve HLB and other citrus problems, while reducing the amount growers are investing. Announcement of successful applicants to the Florida Block Grant will be made by FDACS in October of this year.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, May 19**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Governance Committee

**Monday, May 23**  
**8:15 a.m.**

Finance & Audit Committee  
(telemeeting)

**Tuesday, May 24**  
**8:30 a.m.**

Commercial Product Development  
Committee

**9:00 a.m.**

Research Management Committee

**9:30 a.m.**

Board of Directors

**Thursday, June 16,**  
**2:00 p.m.**

Board of Directors

*\*During Citrus Industry*

*Annual Conference in Bonita Springs*

# Updated Annual and Final Reports Available Online

All CRDF research projects contracts require quarterly, annual and final progress reports. These are the annual and final reports received since the April 2011 posting; numerous quarterly reports posted can be found on our web site [www.citrusrdf.org](http://www.citrusrdf.org).

LINK TO REPORT	TITLE	RESEARCHER	HEADLINE
	Characterizing the Roles of Callose and Phloem Proteins in HLB Symptom Development	Albrigo	Closing in on reason for disruption of phloem function
	Validation of Area-wide Management of Asian Citrus Psyllid	Bournique	Monitoring an Area Wide Psyllid Management Program
	Alternative Hosts for HLB to Assist in Disease Management	Brlansky	Differences in Susceptibility to <i>Candidatus Liberibacter</i> spp.
	Detecting citrus greening (HLB) using multiple sensors and sensor fusion approach	Ehsani	Performance of multiple sensing techniques for HLB detection
	Controlling HLB by controlling psyllids with RNA interference	Falk	Modified RNAs and improved feeding systems for RNAi
	Characterization of canker resistance in citrus plants created by 'Somatic Cybridization' without citrus transformation	Graham	Cybrids inherit resistance via transfer of organelle genes
	Increasing the Capacity of the University of Florida's CREC Core Citrus Transformation Facility (CTF)	Grosser	Service Lab facilitates transgenic solutions to HLB
	Accelerating the Commercialization of Transformed Juvenile Citrus	Grosser	Speeding up the delivery of transgenic solutions to HLB
	Genetic Resistance to Citrus Canker Conferred by the Pepper Bs3 Gene	Horvath	Analysis and expansion of stable canker resistance
	Recovery of Citrus germplasm from Florida	Lee	Recovering Florida Citrus germplasm
	145 - Evaluate Differences in Response to HLB by Scions on Different Rootstocks	Moore	
	A Rapid Screening Progress for Chemical Control of Huanglongbing	Powell	Antimicrobial compounds against Las Bacteria
	Sampling Plans to Guide Decision Making for Control of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)	Qureshi	Evaluation and promotion of sampling techniques for ACP
	Impact of insecticidal control of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) on leafminers, mites, scales, thrips and their natural enemies in Florida	Qureshi	Evaluation of insecticides sprays for ACP on non targets
	Spatial and Temporal Incidence of <i>Ca. Liberibacter</i> in Citrus and Psyllids Detected Using Real Time PCR	Roberts	Monitoring Huanglongbing in citrus and psyllids in groves
	Huanglongbing: Understanding the vector-pathogen interaction for disease management	Rogers	New information on pathogen transmission by ACP
	Development and Delivery of Comprehensive Management Plans for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Control in Florida Citrus	Stansly	Cooperative ACP management the key for psyllid control
	Ultra low-volume and Aerial Application of Insecticides and Horticultural Mineral to Control Asian Citrus Psyllid in Commercial Orchards.	Stansly	Low volume applications and ACP management
	Enhanced Biological Control of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) in Florida through Introduction and Mass Rearing of Natural Enemies	Stansly	Import, release and evaluation of <i>Tamarixia radiata</i> in Florida
	Thresholds for Vector Control in Young Citrus Treated for symptoms of HLB with a Nutrient/SAR Package	Stansly	Dormant sprays and first harvest in threshold experiment.
	Creation and Maintenance of the Online Citrus Greening Database	Stansly	HLB database, new home, more references, more links
	Characterization of the virulence mechanism of the citrus Huanglongbing pathogen <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Wang	Host responses of different tissues to Las infection
	Identification and characterization of critical virulence and copper resistance genes of <i>Xanthomonas axonopodis</i> pv. citri & related species	Wang	genome sequence of <i>X. axonopodis</i> pv. citromelo and Xac Aw
	Control of Citrus Huanglongbing by disruption of the transmission of citrus greening pathogen by psyllids	Wang	Identification of potential inhibitors against SecA of Las
	Development of transformation systems for mature tissue of Florida commercial varieties and strategies to improve tree management	Zapata	Plant Growth room completed