

Ricke Kress



Current President of Southern Gardens Citrus located in Clewiston, FL. Southern Gardens is a subsidiary of the U. S. Sugar Corporation. Southern Gardens is one of the largest growers of oranges in the State of Florida and one of the largest suppliers of Not From Concentrate Orange Juice to the major brands and private label grocery trade in the United States.

Graduated from Cornell University in 1973 with a B.S. degree in Food Science. Employed in the fruit, juice and vegetable industry for 38 years. Started as a night shift Quality Control Foreman with Libby, McNeill & Libby in 1973. Industry experience involves working for food manufacturing companies including Libby, McNeill & Libby, Nestle, Seneca Foods and Northland Cranberries, Inc. in a variety of senior management positions from agriculture through to and including Sales and Marketing.

Moved to Florida in September 2005 to join the Southern Gardens Citrus management team. Arrival in Florida coincided with the occurrences of the current citrus industry diseases, canker and greening. Southern Gardens Citrus and U. S. Sugar have taken a proactive position in working with all factions of the State of Florida and the overall world wide citrus industry in an effort to learn and deal with the current disease challenges and search for solutions and cures.

Currently serves on the Cornell University Institute of Food Science Advisory Council as well as the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station Advisory Council Task Force. Also has been past President of the Juice Products Association and Processed Apples Institute and is currently Chairman of the D. Glynn Davies Juice Products Association Scholarship program.