



# REPORT

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## CRDF Budget for FY 2012-13 Approved

Approval of the CRDF operating budget at the June 14 Board meeting means that CRDF has the funding in place to continue actively pursuing solutions to HLB, citrus canker and other citrus diseases on behalf of the Florida citrus industry. Going forward from July 1, 2012, CRDF will be supporting 130 multi-year research projects focused largely on HLB. Some are nearing completion, while those projects approved this spring as part of CATP11 (Citrus Advanced Technology Program 2011) are just beginning their first year of up to three years duration. This is significant, since the first round of HLB projects funded by the citrus industry in 2008-09 is being completed, and new projects are building on the results of that earlier work. The insight of Florida citrus growers, research institutions, and many others led to a comprehensive plan and approach to learn what is necessary to develop and deliver solutions. A broad net was cast in the early round, and 113 projects emerged from the first round process to reach out nationally and internationally to seek partners to contribute information and tools. The scope of these first proposals was wide-ranging from vector tracking to delving into the genetics of the citrus trees and how that might control susceptibility of trees to HLB and citrus canker. Understanding of the disease system allowed scientists the opportunity to design solutions, and the program responding to HLB is anchored on the need to develop stop-gap solutions, while also considering long-term solutions. Much of the early work has guided Florida growers' response to HLB spread and led to use of tools that were not available when HLB was first detected in south Florida in 2005.

The search continues for a range of tools that will meet the goals of the industry, which include:

- Maintain tree health and productivity in existing Florida citrus groves. This is important to retain market share for fruit and citrus products, as well as to maintain the infrastructure that contributes to profitability for the industry
- Preserve fruit quality that is associated with Florida citrus. Research efforts on citrus canker and citrus black spot as well as HLB address the impacts of these

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### JUNE, 2012

26	Box Tax Advisory Committee	Telephonic	9:30 am
26	Finance & Audit Committee	Telephonic	9:45 am

#### JULY, 2012

24	Board of Directors	CREC, Lake Alfred	9:30 am
24	Commercial Product Development Committee	CREC, Lake Alfred	TBD

diseases on processed products and fresh market destinations.

- Enable the successful replanting of citrus trees (both resetting and replanting) to balance loss of tree inventory due to annual attrition and specific disease and weather impacts. Minimally, the rate of new planting should meet or exceed the annual rate of tree loss, but increased planting will be required to overcome the acreage lost over the last decade to hurricanes and disease.
- Make available tools to achieve overall citrus grove management success (fertilization, irrigation, pest and disease control, and other production requirements) while preserving economic viability. Current practices for HLB disease and vector control have substantially increased production costs. Delivery of solutions that reduce these costs will contribute to industry sustainability in the long term.

Progress in this quest is reported regularly via a wide array of meeting presentations, articles and web communications. The Foundation considers communication of research results as an important element of its mission, as does UF, IFAS through their extension activities. Thus, there are a variety of ways to stay abreast of progress.

Continued progress in developing and delivering solutions to HLB, citrus canker, citrus black spot, and other diseases affecting citrus would not be possible without the critical support that is being invested. The citrus industry is providing the majority of recurrent resources via the research box tax and through FDOC funding. The addition of donations from other sectors of the industry, particularly

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the processors, also has been important. As we move into the 2012-13 fiscal year, we also acknowledge the efforts of growers, industry organizations and your leaders to make policy makers aware of the financial needs to maintain research momentum. This awareness has led to state and federal funding commitments which complement the overall effort to sustain research support. Through these efforts results will emerge.

## **The Benefit of Coordinated Treatments for Suppressing Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)**

The June Florida Citrus Mutual Annual Citrus Grower Meeting in Bonita Springs featured an in-depth look at how Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs) are working, and presentations by FDACS and UF, IFAS participants highlighted the process that has emerged to assist growers in timing applications against the Asian citrus psyllid. Through recurrent monitoring of groves across the state, trends in psyllid populations can be seen across time and across the state. Organized according to CHMAs, these monitoring data show the value of coordinated sprays, and demonstrate the influence within a CHMA of those not participating. As more growers see this information, hopefully it will affirm the value of the grower-driven coordination to make best use of psyllid control efforts.

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## **ANNUAL AND FINAL REPORTS**

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Following are the annual and final reports on CRDF-funded research projects which have been posted online since our last issue. The full report can be accessed from the 'link' button. These, and interim progress reports on all projects as well as projects funded by the California Research Board and Texas Citrus Producers Board can be found online at [www.citrusrdf.org](http://www.citrusrdf.org)>GROWERS>RESEARCH UPDATES.

LINK	TITLE	RESEARCHER	HEADLINE
	Analysis of transcriptome of citrus infected with <i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i> and <i>Ca. L. americanus</i> .	Machado	Transcriptome in the infection of <i>Ca. L. americanus</i> x <i>Ca. L. asiaticus</i> .
	Genetic Resistance to Citrus Canker Conferred by the Pepper Bs3 Gene	Horvath	Analysis and expansion of stable canker resistance
	Acquisition and Assembly of the Genomic Sequence of the Citrus Rootstock Variety Carrizo	Belknap	Sequencing and assembly of the Carrizo genome
	Effects of nutrition and host plant on biology and behavior of the Asian citrus psyllid and implications for managing psyllid populations	Rogers	Final Report
	Increasing the Capacity of the University of Florida's CREC Core Citrus Transformation Facility (CCTF)	Grosser	Service Lab facilitates transgenic solutions to HLB
	Intensively managed citrus production systems for early high yields and vegetative flush control in the presence of greening and canker diseases	Schumann	Drip fertigation outperforms conventional production methods