



CITRUS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION GROWER RESEARCH REPORT

Volume 5, Issue 8

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PFD Workshop Advances Research

The CRDF Research Management Committee held a workshop recently to engage growers and research scientists on potential solutions and opportunities in regards to Post-bloom Fruit Drop (PFD).

Targets for management and intervention were discussed, as were potential research questions that need to be answered.

The CRDF said it planned to assemble data from ongoing field trials as soon as possible to determine if additional test materials and applications are necessary in spring 2017. The presumption is that current trials will be continued into the next season.

Dr. Pete Timmer summarized his view of the best practices for managing PFD in the current situation:

- a) Pull non-productive trees, eliminating potential for winter bloom and inoculum buildup
- b) Focus on the major bloom period that must be protected.
- c) Monitoring and treatment should begin early, especially when the main bloom is progressing, beginning applications when first major bloom is coming on.
- d) Prioritize blocks for their bloom progression and PFD pressure to schedule most timely applications to those higher-risk blocks.

It was suggested the UF-IFAS 2017 Pest Management Guide would be a great vehicle to update growers on PFD. While some felt most of this PFD detail already is present in the guide, the group encouraged that review of the PFD section should be done with an eye to update the broader issues of flush phenology, scouting, timing of applications, and other details that were discussed at the workshop.

For the full white paper on the PFD workshop go to www.citrusrdf.org

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Most meetings are held in the Ben Hill Griffin Hall at the UF-IFAS, CREC campus in Lake Alfred, Florida.

9/27/16	CRDF Board of Directors Meeting	9:30 am
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The CPD Committee Working to Get Tools in Growers' Hands

The CRDF's Commercial Product Delivery Committee is solely focused on expediting the time it takes to get commercially viable HLB solutions to growers. In fact, this has become Job One at the entire CRDF as it transitions from a research funding entity into a product development hub.

The recent Section 18 approval of three bactericide products as well as the effort to study the Post-bloom Fruit Drop issue are a direct result of the CPD Committee's work.

In addition to getting tools to market fast, the CPD is responsible for working with sponsored research partners to insure intellectual property rights are protected and commercial partners for manufacturing and marketing the technology are identified. The Committee will also support the industry need for re-registration or changes to labels on existing pesticides.

COMMERCIAL PRODUCT DELIVERY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

William B. (Ben) McLean III, Chairman
N. Larry Black, Jr.
Jacqueline K. Burns, Ph.D.
Joe L. Davis, Jr.
Ricke A. Kress
Jerome M. (Jerry) Newlin
Hugh W. Thompson III

NON-BOARD MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCT DELIVERY COMMITTEE

Timothy A. Anglea, Ph.D.
Holly L. Chamberlain
David Howard, Vice Chairman
Peter McClure

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Anderson H. (Andy) Rackley
Brian Scully, Ph.D.
Shannon Shepp
Tom Stopyra

The CRDF Board of Directors has identified eight of the most promising research topics and has tasked the Commercial Products Delivery Committee (CPDC) to begin work on creating roadmaps, timelines and other assistance to facilitate their commercialization for the benefit of the Florida citrus industry. As these projects move forward, there may be opportunities for growers, nurseries, processors and packers to participate in pilot programs and other development activities.

For more information on the CPD and to view its latest progress report go to <http://citrusrdf.org/committees/commercial-product-development-committee>

CRDF Unveils Bactericide Survey

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation played a prominent role in discussing the latest on bactericides at the 2016 Citrus Expo in Ft. Myers and grower interest centered on results of the recent usage survey.

The eight question survey yielded 100 respondents representing 240,305 acres. Sixty five respondents indicated that they were planning to treat 100% of their acres with bactericides.

The general consensus was that trees at the age of 3-10 years have seen some improvement but more data is needed to justify the cost on anything more than a trial basis at this point

The CRDF said field research predicts season-long application may lead to improvement in several metrics important to growers, such as general tree response and reduction in *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) titer in the plants.

“More important improvements that include reduction in pre-harvest fruit drop and increased yield and quality are predicted to appear once tree health has been improved,” said Harold Browning, chief operations officer of the CRDF/

The survey’s sample of nearly fifty percent of Florida’s citrus acreage was spread across the major production regions. Respondents also represented the range of size of operations, from less than 500 acres to more than 10,000 acres

Ninety three respondents indicated that they have already ap-

plied bactericides to their groves. An average of 1.9 applications have been made to date

Dr. Bob Shatters, Research scientist with the USDA, ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory at Fort Pierce, presented summaries of ongoing replicated field trials to evaluate streptomycin and oxytetracycline bactericides. The value of this work is that it compares treatments side-by-side with untreated controls, and the plots in commercial groves have been treated over two seasons, with harvest data collected in the 2015-16 season representing the second year of continued treatment. These same plots are included in the ongoing trials for 2016, which will add a third year to the evaluation. Results varied across the various sites and citrus varieties, but several indications of effects of the treatments were reported.

As part of the Expo bactericide discussion, several growers took part in a panel to share their experiences to date. Marty McKenna, Mike Stewart, Wayne Simmons and Jim Snively all agreed they shared a cautious optimism that the bactericides would work over the long term but more data is needed. Each



grower related their personal experiences as far as the strategy their company was using to apply bactericide treatments, including details of tank mixing, day versus night and other details. They also are participating in grower efforts to learn from their applications this season. CRDF is partnering with growers to collect data from over 60 blocks in which an untreated plot is preserved. This will augment the data coming from the replicated field trials discussed above.

You can find a more comprehensive white paper on the survey at www.citrusrdf.org