

## **Fort Pierce Field Test Site for Validating HLB and/or ACP Resistance**

PI: Ed Stover

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Collaborators: Jude Grosser, David Hall, Fred Gmitter, Kim Bowman, TAMU (was E. Mirkov), Mike Roose, Chandrika Ramadugu, Malcolm Smith, Gloria Moore, Jeffrey Jones, Zhonglin Mou, Tim McNellis, 2Blades Foundation

Duration of Requested Funding: 3 years

Total Requested Budget: \$287,950

Annually:

\$64,458 one tech

\$31,525 farm acreage  
charges for ten acres

## Project justifications:

- There is no HLB- resistance within cultivated *Citrus*
- Transgenic citrus offers the greatest potential for HLB-immunity/strong resistance, and has the huge benefit that:  
transgenics can be created from high-demand cultivars  
CLas-killing rootstocks MAY provide protection to  
conventional susceptible scions
- Research has shown that there is resistance in other genera in the citrus gene pool
- This project provides a controlled research site for testing HLB/ACP resistance/tolerance with high exposure to CLas and ACP.
- Provides care of plants, help with planting, liaison with all programs using the site, and some sample collection
- When desired, inclusion on Stover BRS permit with associated reporting, compliance visits, and BRS negotiations.

# Transgenics

- Over the previous iterations of this project, transgenics from five different research programs have been maintained, with UF and ARS dominating area.
- Total area of transgenics had reached 5 acres
- 1.75 acres have been pushed for new plantings
- Five more researchers have requested that I add their material to our permit and plantings will occur when this project is approved
- ARS transgenics have evolved to point where we have material that virtually eliminates CLas, some newly in field and some propagated in GH for field next year. Budwood of best at DPI











UF Grosser transgenics on left, ARS Bowman on right





# UF Gmitter & Grosser, ARS-Stover transgenics



# Open rows ready for planting





The collection of this information is authorized by the Plant Protection Act of 2000. The information will be used to determine eligibility to receive all types of permits. No permit will be issued until this application has been approved.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY SERVICE

**APPLICATIONS FOR PERMIT OR COURTESY PERMIT UNDER 7 CFR 340**

*(Genetically Engineered Organisms or Products)*

**1. NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, AND EMAIL OF APPLICANT**

**Name:** Eddie Stover  
**Position:** Research Horticulturist  
**Organization:** USDA / ARS  
**Organization Unique ID:**  
**Address:** 2001 S Rock Rd  
USDA/ARS US horticultural  
Research Lab  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

**County/Province:**

**Township/Island:**

**Day Telephone:** 772-462-5951

**FAX:** 772-462-5961

**Alternate:** 772-971-8990

**Email 1:** ed.stover@ars.usda.gov

**Email 2:**

**2. INTRODUCTION TYPE**

- ☐ Importation  
☐ Interstate Movement  
☐ Interstate Movement and Release  
☒ Release

**3. PERMIT TYPE**

- ☒ Standard Permit  
☐ Courtesy Permit

**4. PURPOSE OF PERMIT**

- ☐ Industrial Product  
☐ Pharmaceutical Product  
☐ Phytoremediation  
☒ Traditional

**5. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION VERIFICATION (CBI)**

Does this application contain CBI? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**CBI Justification:**

N/A

**6. REQUEST TYPE**

☒ New ☐ Amendment ☐ Renewal ☐ Variance ☐ Amendment, Renewal and/or Variance

**Amendment/Renewal Description:**

**Previous Permit Number(s):**

**7. MEANS OF MOVEMENT**

Transgenic citrus plants in 4-inch citripots will be taken from a certified greenhouse and transported to the field site (from University of Florida 230 miles, or Ft. Pierce 2 miles) in a closed truck. Transgenic plants will be planted and maintained by standard practices.

**8. VARIANCE VERIFICATION**

Have you previously applied for variance(s) that you wish to apply to this permit? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Variance Number(s):

## 10. ARTICLE SUPPLIER AND/OR DEVELOPER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Dr. Jeffrey Jones	U of Florida Dept of Plant Pathology 2550 Hull Rd U of Florida Dept of Plant Pathology Rm. # 2553 Fifield Hall Gainesville, FL 32611	Day Telephone: 352-273-4673 FAX: Email: jbjones@ufl.edu
Dr. T. Reuber	Two Blades Foundation 1630 Chicago Avenue, Suite 1901 Evanston, IL 60201	Day Telephone: 847-425-1277 FAX: Email: tlr@2blades.org
Dr. T Mirkov	2415 E. Hwy 83 Weslaco, TX 78596	Day Telephone: 956-969-5628 FAX: Email: e-mirkov@tam.u.edu
Dr. Ed Stover	USDA/ARS, US Horticultural Research Laboratory 2001 S. Rock Rd. St. Lucie Ft Pierce, FL 34945	Day Telephone: 772-462-5951 FAX: 772-462-5961 Email: ed.stover@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Randall Niede	USDA/ARS, US Horticultural Research Laboratory 2001 S. Rock Rd. St Lucie Ft Pierce, FL 34945	Day Telephone: 772-462-5919 FAX: 772-462-5961 Email: randall.niede@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Kim Bowman	USDA/ARS, US Horticultural Research Laboratory 2001 S. Rock Rd. St. Lucie Ft Pierce, FL 34945	Day Telephone: 772-462-5920 FAX: 772-462-5961 Email: kim.bowman@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Timothy McNellis	318 Buckhout Lab Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology Department University Park, PA 16802	Day Telephone: 814-863-7646 FAX: 814-863-7217 Email: twm4@psu.edu
Dr. Zhonglin Mou	University of Florida Rm. # 1249 Microbiology Building 981 Gainesville, FL 32611	Day Telephone: 352-392-0285 FAX: Email: zhlmou@ufl.edu
Dr. Yongping Duan	USDA/ARS, USHRL 2001 S Rock Rd Fort Pierce, FL 34945	Day Telephone: 772-462-5840 FAX: Email: yongping.duan@ars.usda.gov



# Negotiating with BRS

## Their initial conditions for new permit

- **(1) A. Flowering regulated GE citrus trees must not be located within 1 mile of nonregulated citrus seed breeding where sexual seed is saved, except as provided in (1) A.i. and (1) A.ii.**
- 
- **i. Nonregulated citrus may be used to produce zygotic seed if it is at least 500 ft. from the GE citrus (as measured from outside of tree canopy); only if all flowers are bagged where the seeds are saved.** During the days these flowers are receptive to pollen the bags will be checked daily to ensure there are no breaches. All nonregulated citrus fruit not bagged must be treated as regulated and destroyed as provided under conditions No. 2 or No. 3 AND No. 4 AND No. 5.
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- **ii. Nonregulated citrus may be used to produce seed for rootstock breeding without bagging flowers if it is at least 1,200 ft. from the GE citrus (as measured from outside of tree canopy); only if seeds that are saved are screened to determine that they are devoid of transgenic material.**

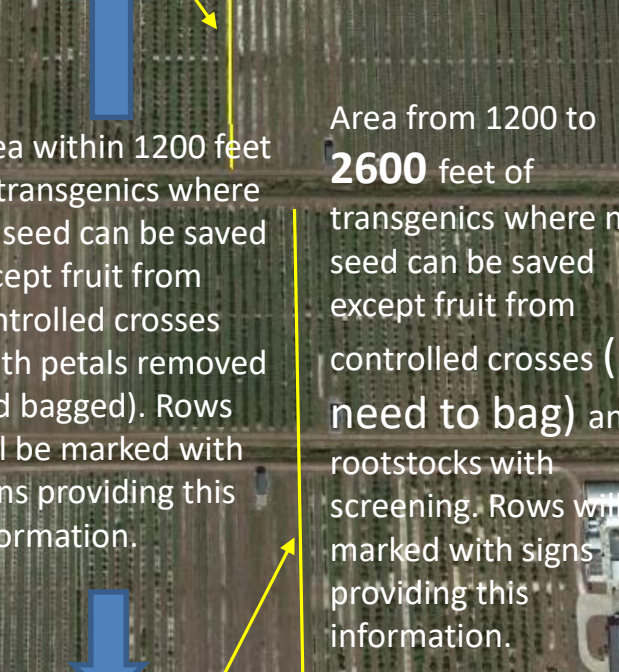
Signage indicating no removal of fruit or tissue without devitalization

Vegetable field

Apomictic citranges treated as transgenic

Transgenic test block Includes Grosser permit

Buffer trees treated as transgenic 2 rows mature and highly diverse

An aerial photograph of a large agricultural field, likely corn, with rows of crops visible. A vertical yellow line runs through the field, and a horizontal yellow line intersects it. A blue arrow points upwards from the bottom left towards the intersection, and another blue arrow points downwards from the intersection towards the bottom left. A yellow arrow points from the top left towards the intersection. The text is overlaid on the image, with the first paragraph on the left and the second paragraph on the right, separated by the yellow lines. The bottom left corner has a copyright notice for 2018 Google.

Area within 1200 feet of transgenics where no seed can be saved except fruit from controlled crosses (with petals removed and bagged). Rows will be marked with signs providing this information.

Area from 1200 to **2600** feet of transgenics where no seed can be saved except fruit from controlled crosses (**no need to bag**) and rootstocks with screening. Rows will be marked with signs providing this information.

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**Changed to allow no restrictions beyond 2600 ft and after this year all rootstock seed trees will be beyond this distance**

Row 31 from east Block 8  
N 27.435162 -80.434318 S 27.433480 -80.434318

Row 33 from east Block 2; Row 21 from east block 3  
N 27.436232 -80.429087 S 27.433515 -80.429087



## Effect of different isolation distances on breeding at Picos Farm

**One mile would mean no crosses without bagging anywhere and all rootstock seed would have to be screened for transgenes**

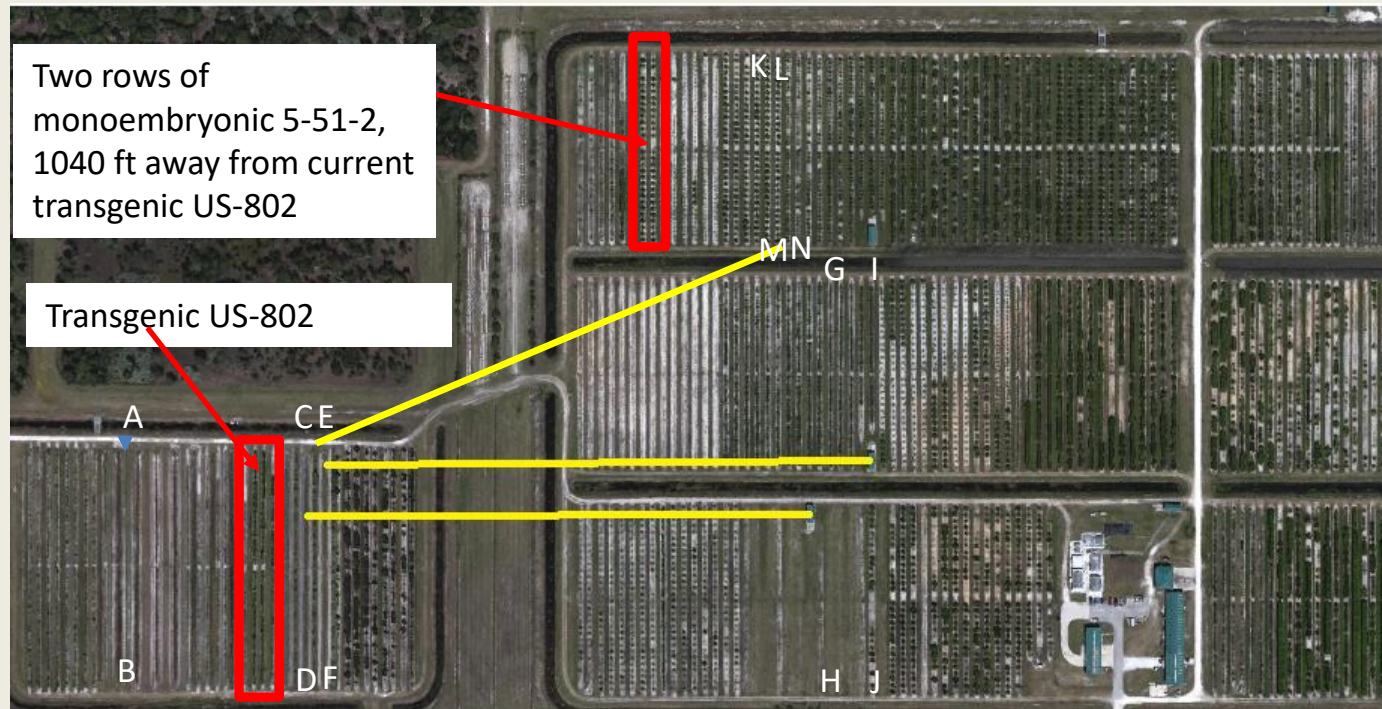
Longest line 3120 ft (1 km) from closest GE: row 43 block 5

Shorter line 2600 ft (1/2 mile) from closest GE: to row 20 block 5

Shortest line 2000 ft from closest GE: to row 4 from east block 2



## More moderate isolation contingent on pollen flow study



Picos farm with 1200 ft lines from irrigation to transgenic E edge

A: NW boundary, row 31 from East

B: SW boundary, row 31 from East

C: NW Boundary 1, row 13 from E (current UF)

D: SW Boundary 1, row 13 from E (current UF)

E: NW Boundary 2, row 11 from E transgenics

F: SW Boundary 2, row 11 from E transgenics

G: NE Boundary 1, block 2 row 32 from E, block 3 row 20 from E

H: E Boundary 1, block 2 row 32 from E, block 3 row 20 from E

I: NE Boundary 2, block 2 row 30 from E, block 3 row 18 from E

J: SE Boundary 2, block 2 row 30 from E, block 3 row 18 from E

K: NE Boundary 1, block 1 row 40 from E : L Boundary 2 row 38

M: SE Boundary 1, block 1 row 40 from E : N Boundary 2 row 38



## Planting of seed from 85 diverse citrus and relatives from NCGR gene bank

- Showed *Poncirus* among most-resistant to HLB and also psyllid colonization (Hall et al.)
- *Eremocitrus* and *Microcitrus*, also showed strong Las and psyllid resistance (Ramadugu et al)
- No resistance in *Citrus* but tolerance associated with citron in the pedigree (Stover et al.)





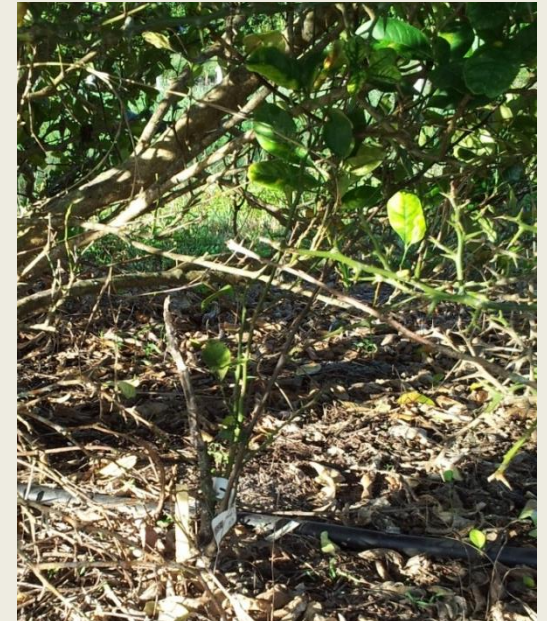
Egami Buntan pummelo

## Non-Citron Background



C. maxima

## Robinson



Pineapple Sweet Orange



Scarlet Emperor mandarin



Volkamer Lemon Hybrid



Diamante citron



S Coast Field Station Citron



Santa  
Barbara  
Rangpur





# Regressions: Tolerance and % Citron in Pedigree

Miles, Stover, Ramadugu,  
Keremane, Lee

% Citron

	$r^2$	P-value	Slope
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Canopy density	0.32	1.0E <sup>-06</sup>	+
Overall health	0.30	3.0E <sup>-06</sup>	+
Canopy volume	0.42	5.0E <sup>-09</sup>	+
Trunk diameter	0.57	2.0E <sup>-13</sup>	+
% leaves mottled	0.20	0.002	+

- Initiated breeding of acid fruit adapted to Florida
- Beginning to introgress citron into standard market types
- Hortsci. 52:31-39

UF Gmitter-led project on Citranges  
in 8<sup>th</sup> year- just identified 4 QTL associated with HLB-  
tolerance and manuscript accepted





Stover included USDA selections with Poncirus in pedigree, some with decent fruit quality and collecting data for potential juice usage in Baldwin-NIFA





# UCR Ramadugu-led project on HLB-resistance in Poncirus and hybrids from NCGR-CD in 6<sup>th</sup> and final year





# Stover/Smith (Queensland) project on inheritance of HLB-resistance from Microcitrus





Malcolm Smith has most advanced program on breeding with Microcitrus- wide range of pedigree % and some with mandarin-like fruit





UF Gmitter-led project on HLB-resistance from Citrus latipes. Only Citrus reported to be resistant





## So far:

- Regularly remind the researcher community that we are accepting plantings with a good chance of providing the industry with HLB-resistant planting stock
- Have never turned down a request
- Plantings at full 10 acres specified in proposal – half transgenics now, but proportion will increase this year and likely into the future
- Where appropriate, some plantings have been used for additional projects such as ACP colonization, canker susceptibility, freeze tolerance

## Refereed publications from this project:

- Huang, M., M.L. Roose, Q. Yu, D. Du, Y. Zhang, Z. Deng, M. Irey, E. Stover, and F.G. Gmitter Jr. 2018. Construction of high-density genetic maps and detection of QTLs associated with Huanglongbing infection in citrus. *J. Exp. Biol.* (in press).
- Hall, D.G. C, Ramadugu, M.G. Hentz, F.G. Gmitter, Jr., and E. Stover. 2018. Survey of *Poncirus trifoliata* hybrids for resistance to colonization by asian citrus psyllid. *Florida Ent.* (in press).
- Hall, D.G. M.G. Hentz, and E. Stover. 2017. Field survey of Asian citrus psyllid (Hemiptera: Liviidae) infestations associated with six cultivars of *Poncirus trifoliata*. *Florida Ent. Soc.* URL: <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.1653/024.100.0328>
- Dutt, M., G. Barthe, M. Irey, and J. Grosser. 2015 Transgenic citrus expressing an Arabidopsis NPR1 gene exhibit enhanced resistance against huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening). *PloS one*, 10(9), e0137134.
- Miles\*, G., E. Stover, M. Keremane, C. Ramadugu, and R.F. Lee. 2016. Tolerance to huanglongbing in a Florida field planting of diverse citrus relatives. *HortScience* 52:31-39.
- Ramadugu, C., M. Keremane, S. Halbert, Y-P. Duan, M.L. Roose, E. Stover, R. Lee. 2016. Long term field evaluation reveals HLB resistance in *Citrus* relatives. *Plant Dis.*100:1858-1869.
- Inch\*, S., Stover, E., Driggers, R., and Lee, R.F. 2014. Freeze responses of Citrus and Citrus-related genotypes in a Florida field planting. *Hortscience* 49:1010-1016.
- Stover, E.W., M.L. Richardson, R. Driggers, D.G. Hall, Y.P. Duan and R.F. Lee. 2013. Incidence and severity of asiatic citrus canker on *Citrus* and *Citrus*-related germplasm in a Florida field planting. *Hortscience* 49:4-9.
- Richardson, M.L., C.J. Westbrook, D.G. Hall, E.W. Stover, Y.P. Duan and R.F. Lee. 2011. Abundance of citrus leafminer larvae on *Citrus* and *Citrus*-related germplasm. *HortScience* 46:1260-1264.
- Westbrook, C.J., D.G. Hall, E.Stover, Y.P. Duan and R.F. Lee. 2011. Colonization of *Citrus* and *Citrus*-related germplasm by *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae). *HortScience* 46:1-9.