



# CITRUS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION GROWER RESEARCH REPORT

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## Agriculture Commissioner and EPA Announce Recertification of Citrus Tree Health Section 18

The Florida Commissioner of Agriculture was notified Wednesday that the Citrus Tree Health Section 18, authorizing emergency use of specific bactericides, was recertified by EPA for the 2018 calendar year ([click here to see letter](#)). Minor revisions to product labels are being completed, and these labels will be available soon. The Commissioner has announced the recertification in a letter to the industry earlier today.

The conditions for use of the three products covered under the Tree Health Section 18 (Firewall™ 50 WP, Fireline™ 17WP, and MycoShield®) have not changed from those in place over the past two years under the Section 18 Emergency Use. Revised labels showing the updated certification numbers will be available from the registrants and the CRDF website will provide a link to the Commissioner's letter and the labels. Label instructions should be followed closely as applications of these products resume.

The industry greatly appreciates the outstanding efforts of the commissioner and the staff of FDACS in working with the industry on the timely assembly and submission of the request for recertification, and his commitment and that of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to work with the citrus industry in putting these tools to work.

While the total impact of bactericides remains to be determined, providing tools for growers to incorporate into their production systems remains the primary goal of CRDF.

## CRDF Plans for 2018 Request for Research Project Proposals

The CRDF is planning the 2018 call for proposals for funding of research and delivery projects to primarily address HLB, but also other citrus diseases. To inform this process, we are seeking input from growers to complement the report we are expecting from the National Academy of Sciences in March 2018 and input from researchers and others. Our Research Management Committee, in conjunction with the Florida Citrus Production Managers Association, is planning a committee meeting for Thursday, February 15 at 9:30 am

at the UF, IFAS CREC as an opportunity for growers to participate in sharing their ideas for next cycle funding, and to work with the Research Management Committee to identify priority topics and questions that could be included. We invite your participation in this event and look forward to your attendance on the 15th of February. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

During this evaluation period, CRDF also is seeking input from the research community and other interested parties. Please feel free to attend CRDF meetings to share your thoughts and ideas that might be incorporated into the Spring, 2018 Call for Proposals.

## CRDF Recognizes Dr. Tom Turpen, Technology Innovations Group, for His Work

Dr. Tom Turpen was recruited by the Florida citrus industry in 2008 to assist with development of an approach to aggressively invest grower funding for solutions to HLB. TIG provided the requisite experience in R&D, commercialization, and other aspects to envision how the Florida industry could manage a broad approach to HLB solutions.



*Dr. Tom Turpen being congratulated by Tom Jerkins, President of CRDF Board of Directors.*

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Tom's early responsibilities with the industry were to develop a business plan, and in 2008-2010, he worked closely with citrus industry leaders and with the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate available background information on HLB and to develop research directions and priorities. The initial call for proposals from grower funding was initiated in 2009 with co-sponsorship by the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council (FCPRAC) and the Florida Department of Citrus. The initial calls for proposals led to funding of over 100 first cycle projects which were transferred to CRDF upon its formation in 2010. Dr. Turpen assisted with this transition as well from the FCPRAC to establishment of CRDF in 2010.

As Research Program Manager, Tom coordinated the annual call for proposals and managed both scientific and grower relevance reviews by the Scientific Advisory Board and CRDF committees, leading to recommendations to CRDF's Board for projects to be approved from among those submitted. Nearly 400 projects have been supported by CRDF since inception of the grower-led program in 2009.

As CRDF has focused more on field applications of its research progress, the need for a Florida-based Program Manager has led to the hire of Dr. Weaver as Senior Program manager. Tom and his TIG colleague Dr. James Dukowitz were recognized at the October Board meeting for their roles in advancing the idea of an industry-driven organization and how it could advance HLB solutions.

### Upcoming CRDF Board & Committee Meetings

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

01/22/2018	Finance & Audit Committee	9:30 am
01/23/2018	Board of Directors Meeting	9:30 am
01/23/2018	Commercial Prod. Devel. Comm.	1:00 pm
02/15/2018	Research Management Committee	9:30 am

### New Faces at CRDF

#### Dr. Lisa Weaver, Senior Program Manager



Dr. Lisa Weaver is the Senior Program Manager of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF). Dr. Weaver joined CRDF in September 2017 and oversees the prioritization, review and management of projects aimed at finding short term

management strategies and long term solutions to citrus greening (HLB), a devastating citrus disease in Florida and worldwide. She also leads the team of project managers coordinating research and development activities funded by CRDF.

Lisa provides direction and oversight of the CRDF project portfolio, topical organization of the research and delivery projects, and assists with coordination of topics through CRDF Project Managers, in addition to having responsibility for certain topics, such as RNAi targeting the Asian citrus psyllid. Lisa will coordinate communication on PI progress and other aspects of the technical programs of CRDF that are overseen by the Research Management and Commercial Product Delivery Committees, as well as the Board of Directors of CRDF. Lisa assumed responsibilities formerly held by Dr. Tom Turpen of Technology Innovations Group (TIG), as well as some aspects of technical support conducted by the COO, Harold Browning.

Prior to joining CRDF, Dr. Weaver held various technical leadership positions within private industry, including BioDirect Process Development lead and Operations Lead for Chemistry Technology at Monsanto. Dr. Weaver was an Associate Fellow during her tenure at Monsanto, and is the recipient of the St. Louis YWCA Leaders in the Workplace award. Lisa's background in plant biochemistry and her experience at several levels of management in product discovery and advancement provide a combination of skills and experience that will assist CRDF in moving forward with its goals.