Solving Citrus Greening with Genetics and Nutrition





Jude Grosser Fred Gmitter and Bill Castle

UF-CREC Citrus Genetic Improvement Team 2020

What is Citrus greening?

- Citrus greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) a bacterial plant disease that is **fatal** for citrus trees.
- Diseased trees produce bitter, hard, misshapen fruit and die within a few years after infection.
- None of the commercial citrus Sweet Orange or Grapefruit cultivars grown in Florida have resistance to this disease.



http://californiacitrusthreat.org/huanglongbing-citrusgreening.php

What causes Citrus greening/HLB

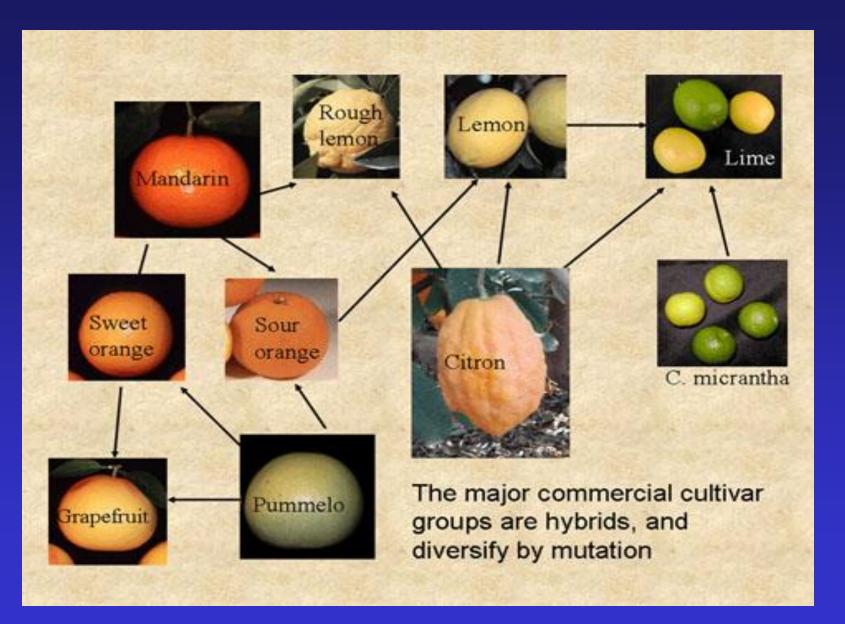
- Citrus Greening is caused by the gram negative bacterium Candidatus Liberibacter sp.
- In the United States and Asia, HLB is caused by the species asiaticus (CLas).
- Other species include:
 - Candidatus Liberibacter africanus (HLB in Africa)
 - Candidatus Liberibacter americanus (HLB in Brazil)

http://www.goletamonarchpress.com/wpcontent/uploads/2014/07/ACP-adults-005-Rogers.jpeg

- Transmission of the bacteria into the citrus tree is a two-step process.
 - First, psyllids acquire it from infected trees.
 - Second, infected psyllids pass on the bacteria to other trees.



Four Progenitor Species 2. Mandarin (*C. reticulata* Blanco) 3. Citron (*C. medica* L.) 4. Papeda (*C. micrantha* Wester)



Provided by Mikeal Roose, UC Riverside

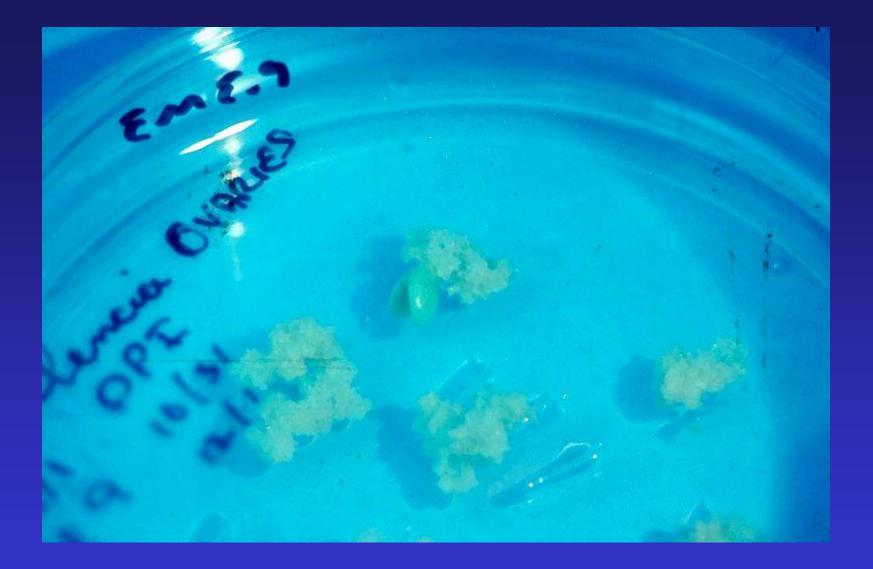
1. Biotechnology applications in scion breeding







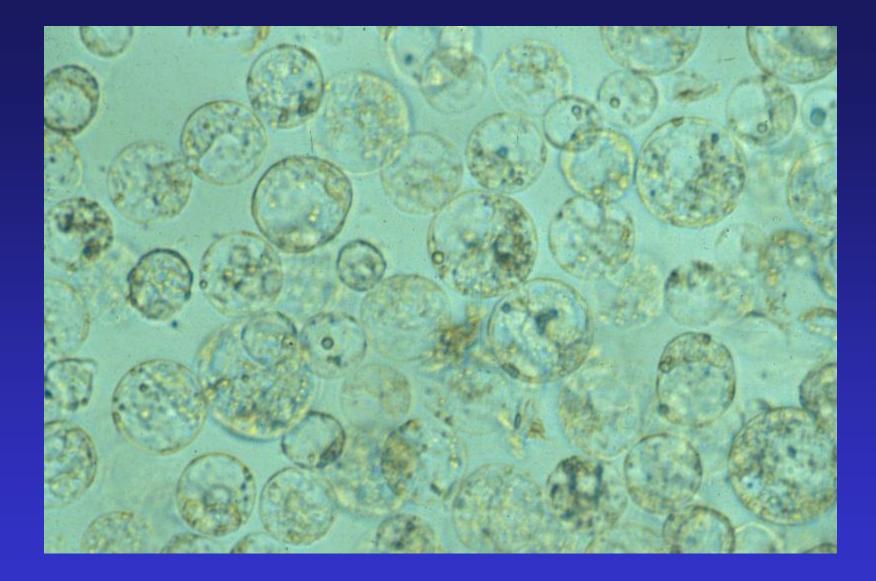
UF-CREC Citrus Genetic Improvement Team 2016



SWEET ORANGE EMBRYOGENIC CALLUS



SWEET ORANGE ORGANOGENESIS ADVENTITIOUS SHOOT BUD INDUCTION



SWEET ORANGE SUSPENSION CULTURE PROTOPLASTS

Somaclonal Variation: variability in plants regenerated from tissue culture that is either induced or uncovered by a tissue culture process. Most somaclonal variation is negative, but if enough plants are examined, positive changes can usually be recovered.

Sources of somaclones in citrus: organogenesis, somatic embryogenesis, protoplasts



Valquarius Tm processing sweet orange, an early-maturing selection of Valencia that can be harvested mid-January through February, with typical Valencia quality.

> Citrus Research and Education Center

Citrus Transformation



B9-65 Valencia (PP27,144) for processing

- A high yield, high solids selection with typical Valencia maturity, best of 30 selections for yield and soluble solids in trial at Conserve II. Table1. Yield Boxes / tree of Late Season sweet orange selections (somaclones, seedling introductions and controls) on Carrizo citrange rootstock planted 15' x25' at Water Conserv II, Winter Garden, FL, planted March, 2000.

		1	1	I	I	Cumulative	Cumulative
Late season selections	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Yield	Rank
B-9-65	2.21	1.28	5.38	1.4	4.8	15.06	1
Appleby	2.46	0.98	4.61	1.82	4.91	14.78	2
T-4-43	1.8	1.02	4.4	0.73	5.81	13.76	3
T-2-25	2.08	1.27	4.15	1.08	4.68	13.26	4
S441-54-3 (Juv. 10-12-7)	2.27	1.24	4.4	0.83	4.38	13.13	5
T-3-62	1.59	1.58	3.8	1.21	4.52	12.7	6
S822-111-5 (Mat.10-12-7)	1.94	1.53	3.13	2.31	3.72	12.62	7
B-8-66	2.03	1.18	3.88	1.23	4.25	12.58	8
B-10-81	1.89	1.29	4.25	1.18	3.94	12.56	9
B-6-68	2.13	1.11	4.21	1	4.1	12.53	10
B-12-71	2.25	0.75	4.19	1.13	4.2	12.52	11
Jenner	2.08	1.18	4.52	1.18	3.48	12.44	12
Natal	1.48	1.46	4.07	1.04	4.27	12.32	13
Smith	2.11	0.99	3.93	1.01	4.26	12.3	14
T-1-13	2.35	0.84	4.28	0.91	3.8	12.18	15
T-1-23	1.82	0.7	4.07	1.42	4.18	12.18	16
T-2-62	1.8	1.06	3.82	1.22	4.18	12.08	17
Frost	2.14	0.79	4.52	0.84	3.77	12.06	18
B-8-76	1.84	0.89	4.43	0.66	4.13	11.96	19
T-1-25	1.61	0.69	4.61	0.43	4.38	11.72	20
T-1-26	1.66	0.72	4.29	0.81	4.22	11.7	21
T-1-33	1.62	0.67	3.75	0.77	4.47	11.27	22
Rohde Red Valencia	1.51	1.49	3.47	1.57	3.19	11.22	23
Valencia SF8-2-35	1.72	1.19	3.11	1.88	3.31	11.21	24
B-10-68	1.82	0.96	4.12	1.07	3.2	11.16	25
Vernia	1.35	1.34	3.18	1.29	3.12	10.28	26
Valencia SF11-1-69	1.54	1.17	2.06	1.47	3.4	9.64	27
B-10-62	0.99	0.74	2.58	1.25	2.27	7.82	28
Valencia SF9-1-86	0.93	0.73	2.04	1.05	2.83	7.58	29
B-6-66 (seedless, dwarfing)	0.82	1.06	1.48	1.03	2.38	6.77	30

ORANGES

<u>'OLL-8'</u>

- Key attributes: Excellent color and quality, extends harvest window of 'Valencia' quality juice
- Produces round oranges with internal and external color similar to 'Rhode Red Valencia'
- Holds on the tree exceptionally well, and maintains quality into the summer
- Trees appear to yield better than standard 'Valencia'
- High juice content and good pounds solids
- Peels easier than a standard 'Valencia'
- With its added color, could also be a valuable addition to the Florida fresh market portfolio
- Most precocious bearing clone among the OLL somaclones

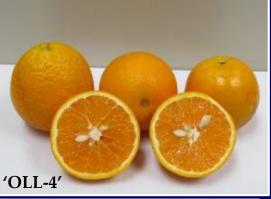
Juice Quality Data from OLL-Series Somaclones

Data 3-2-2012

Variety	Lbs. Juice Per Box	Acid	Total Brix	Ratio	Lbs. Solids Per Box	Color
Valencia Control	54.41	1.00	12.03	12.03	6.55	38.60
OLL 20	53.23	0.84	12.10	14.40	6.44	40.50
OLL 27	54.99	0.84	12.34	14.69	6.79	39.80
OLL 25	57.58	0.79	12.81	16.22	7.38	40.20
OLL 9	56.30	0.94	12.97	13.80	7.30	39.90
OLL 15	49.48	0.99	14.56	14.71	7.20	39.50
OLL 2	51.55	0.77	12.77	16.58	6.58	41.00
OLL 3	54.52	0.98	12.92	13.18	7.04	40.30
OLL 4	<mark>55.52</mark>	0.92	12.60	13.70	7.00	40.70
OLL 7	57.51	0.94	13.20	14.04	7.59	41.20
Valencia control/SW	48.46	0.79	12.91	16.34	6.26	39.10
OLL 21	58.20	0.77	12.38	16.08	7.20	40.30
OLL 10	55.55	0.82	12.42	15.15	6.90	40.60
OLL 5	53.92	0.93	13.13	14.12	7.08	40.10
OLL 23	57.21	0.81	12.12	14.96	6.93	39.90
OLL 19	54.02	0.84	12.32	14.67	6.65	40.90
OLL 1	55.10	0.90	12.90	14.33	7.11	41.50
OLL 6	58.19	0.96	12.85	13.39	7.48	40.80
OLL 3-10 dwarf	53.80	0.80	12.51	15.64	6.73	41.20
OLL 8	56.43	0.77	11.99	15.57	6.77	40.70



For more information on 'OLL-8' or 'OLL-4', please contact Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. www.ffsp.net



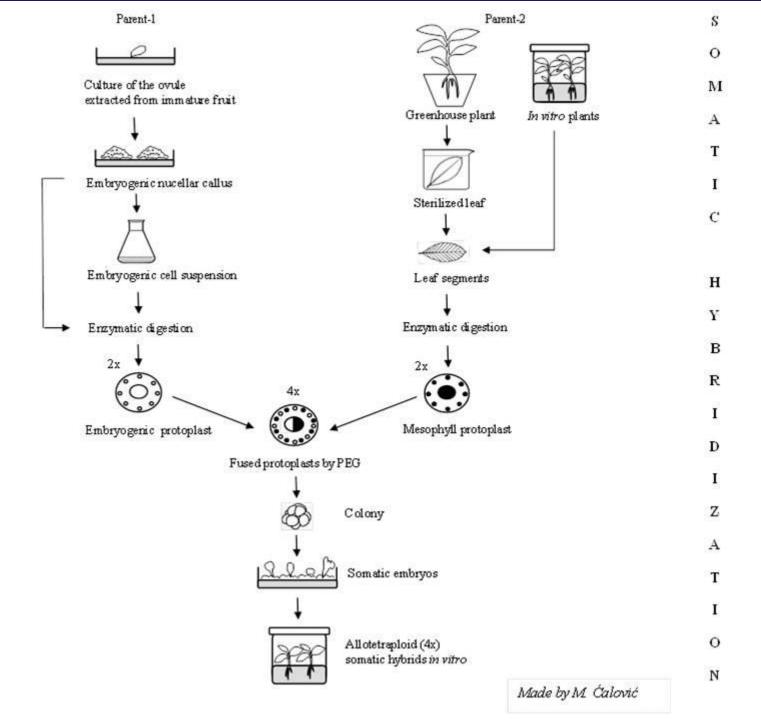
<u>'OLL-4'</u>

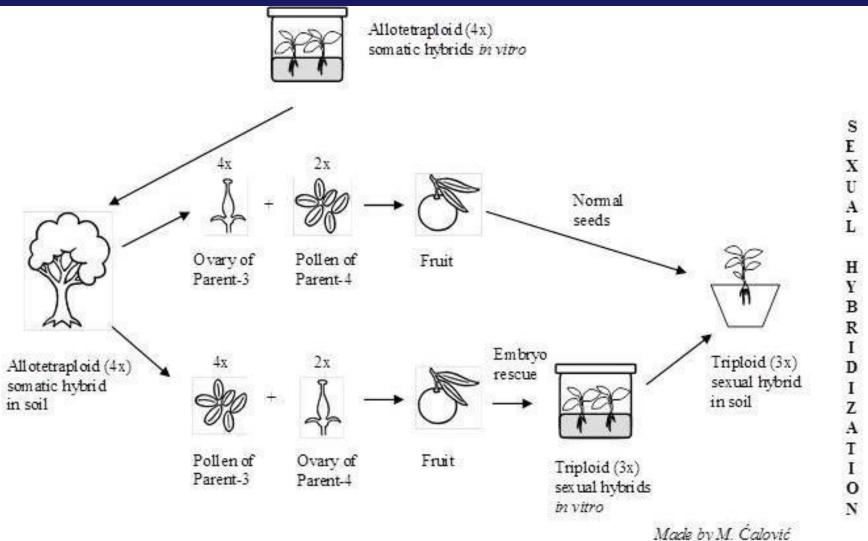
- Key attributes: excellent color and quality, extends harvest window of 'Valencia' quality juice; also believed to be higher yielding than 'Valencia'
- Produces fruit with excellent internal and external quality with exceptional juice color scores, juice content and soluble solids
- Holds on the tree exceptionally well
- Maintains quality into the summer; however, it matured earlier, and with better ratios than 'Valencia' in 2014
- Has been the highest yielding tree among the OLL somaclones



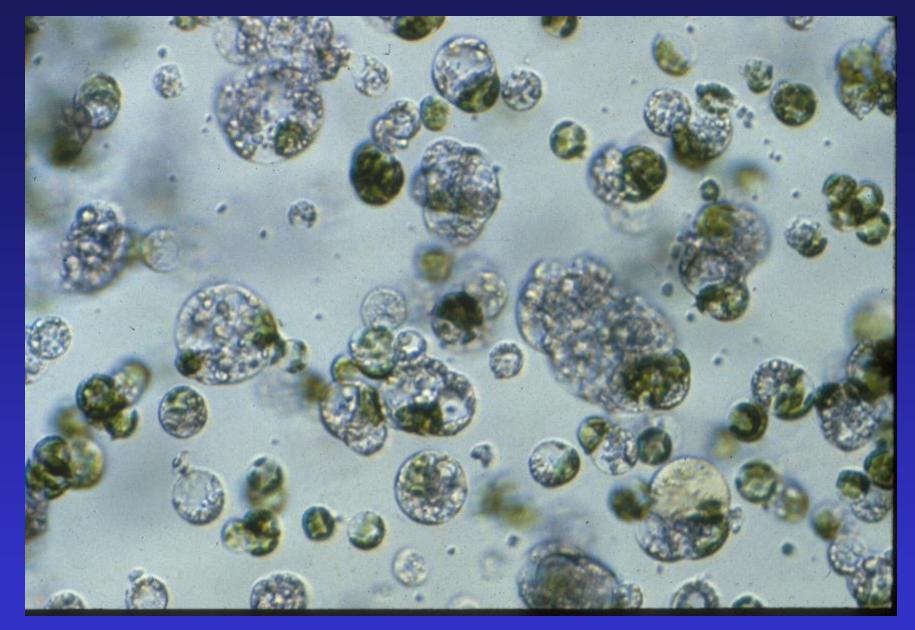
Our Primary Approach for Developing Novel Seedless Fresh Citrus Fruit – Triploidy! (just like banana and new watermelons)

- 1. Somatic Hybridization Via Protoplast Fusion to Generate Elite Allotetraploid Breeding Parents (Mostly Interspecific Combinations)
- 2. Interploid Hybridization (Mostly Interspecific)– Crosses of Diploid Monoembryonic Citrus with Selected Tetraploids as Pollen Parents (Reciprocal Crosses when Possible)
- 3. Embryo Rescue and Micro-grafting to Expedite Seedless Triploid Recovery (Crosses with Tetraploids as the Female do not Require Embryo Rescue)



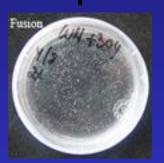


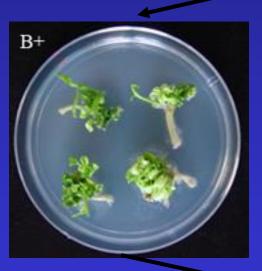
Made by M. Ćalović

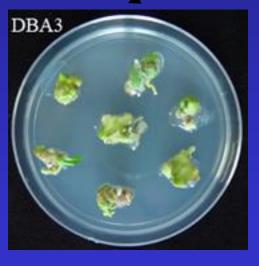


TYPICAL SUSPENSION PROTOPLAST + LEAF PROTOPLAST PEG-INDUCED FUSION



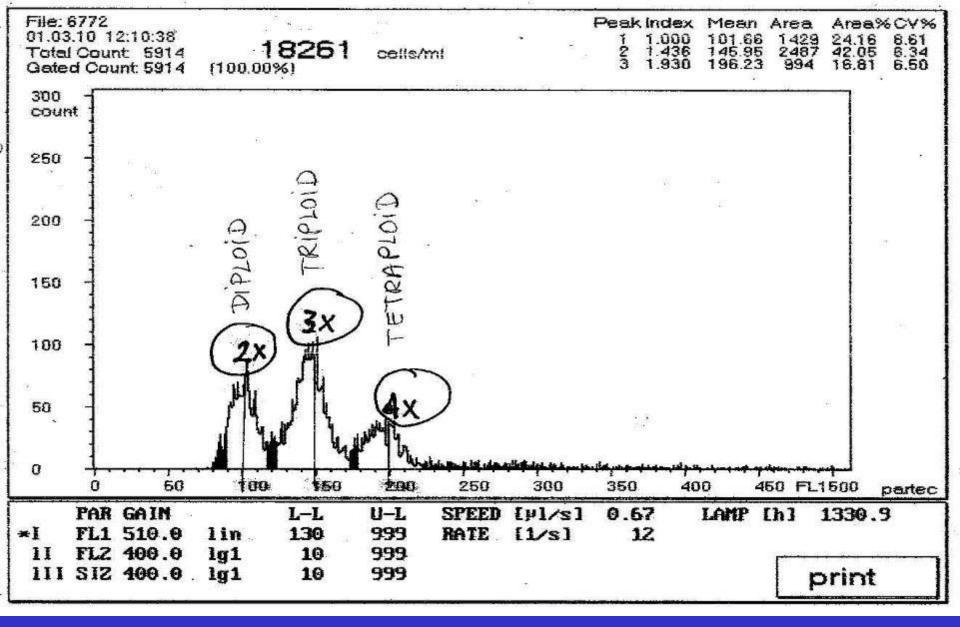












Ploidy Analysis Showing Diploid, Triploid and Tetraploid Peaks, Using a Partec Tabletop Flow Cytometer



NOVA + SUCCARI SOMATIC HYBRID TREE

Interploid hybridization using tetraploid somatic hybrids as pollen parents to produce seedless triploids for <u>mandarin</u> improvement:

- more than 16000 triploids produced to date,many fathered by somatic hybrids (under direction of FG Gmitter,CREC)
- oldest hybrids are now fruiting and most are seedless!!!!!



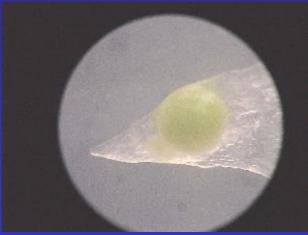
Rohde Red Valencia + Dancy harvested January 28,2004 brix=11.4, acid=1.57, ratio= 7.26 3 seeds/fruit

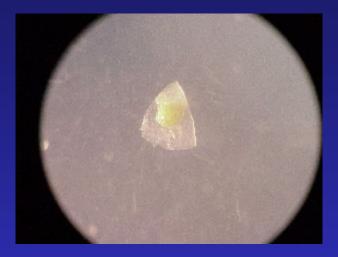


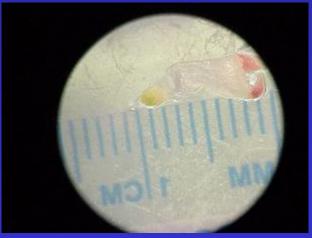
Page + (Clementine x Satsuma) First zipperskin tetraploid with large fruit size and rich flavor! First triploids in the ground!

Embryos at Rescue









Sec E S. 80.3 28 154 30 020 156 11-2 21=1 E 125 176 13 64 65 Ja 0203 1 ge (72 22 83 206. 9 -2 10 2 2 200 0,





LB8-9, Sugar BelleTm: a New Diploid Interspecific Mandarin Hybrid



Sugar Belle® near Vero Beach, HLB+ >8 years !





HLB-tolerant SugarBelle can transmit it's HLB tolerance to seedless triploid progeny: above is a triploid hybrid from a cross of SugarBelle with the Nova+Osceola somatic hybrid.





Triploid mandarin hybrid – C4-15-19: Sugarbelle x Nova mandarin+ Succari sweet orange somatic hybrid. First triploid hybrid ever released fathered by a somatic hybrid! Nick-named "Kid's Favorite"

UF 950

- EZ to peel, seedless
- Clementine size
- Convenient to eat
- Crisp texture
- Better color and flavor than Clementine
- December maturity
- Alternaria resistant
- HLB tolerant
- Moved into commercial plantings





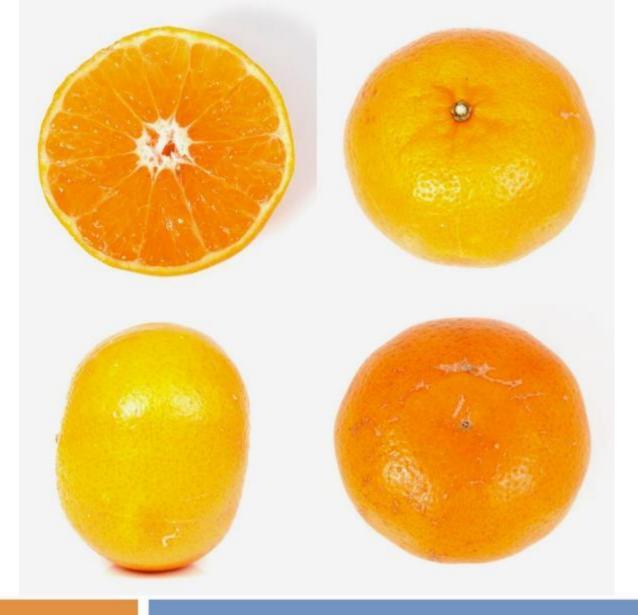
'BINGO'













*

- Brix: 12.5 Acid: 0.89 Ratio: 14.04 19 August 2015
- Brix: 13.0 Acid: 0.59 Ratio: 22.03 25 September 2015
- Brix: 14.0 Acid: 0.69 Ratio: 20.28 29 October 2015
- Brix: 17.4 Acid: 0.62 Ratio: 28.06 17 December 2015
- Fruit remained in sound condition until early January
- No clipping required



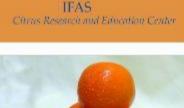


Mexican lime (*C. aurantifolia*) x [Valencia sweet orange (*C.sinensis*) + Femminello lemon (*C. limon*)]. EARLY

Development of New Grapefruit and Grapefruit-like Varieties for Florida

Jude Grosser, Fred Gmitter Ahmad Omar, Mayara Murata, Christine Chase, Qibin Yu, Aditi Satpute, Melinda Grosser, Jim Graham and Ethan Nielsen

> Wheat Breeder's Conference - 2018





Breeding Canker Tolerant Triploid Seedless Grapefruit-like Hybrids

X



Tetraploid Somatic Hybrid



Canker Tolerant Pummelo

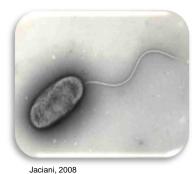
- -Several good breeding parents now flowering
- -Hundreds of triploid hybrids already produced
- -Embryo rescue not required when tetraploid parent is used as the female

Triploid hybrid fruit – 2/3 pummelo, 1/3 sweet orange 15 ratio October 1st!

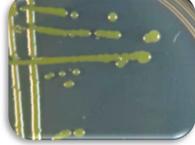




• Xanthomonas citri subsp. citri (Xcc)



Graham et al., 2004



Mayara Murata

Symptoms



Gottward et al., 2012



Fundecitrus, 2012



Mayara Murata



Breeding for canker & HLB resistance: canker epidemic causing a naturalscreen of CREC germplasm – leading to the identification of superior canker & HLB tolerant diploid and tetraploid breeding parents for use ininterploid crosses to generate seedless triploids – crosses underway! Hundreds of triploids have been produced.

1

CITRUS CANKER RESISTANCE SCREENING

Infiltration inoculation assay (attached leaf assay)

- 10 cybrids and positive (Flame and Marsh grapefruit) and negative controls (Meiwa kumquat)
- Bacterial suspension (Xcc): concentration 10⁴ CFU/ml
- 6 inoculation point per leaf: ~ 2 μl (water soaked area of 5-6 mm)
- 6 to 8 leaves per plant
- 5 plants per cybrid
- Experiment done two times





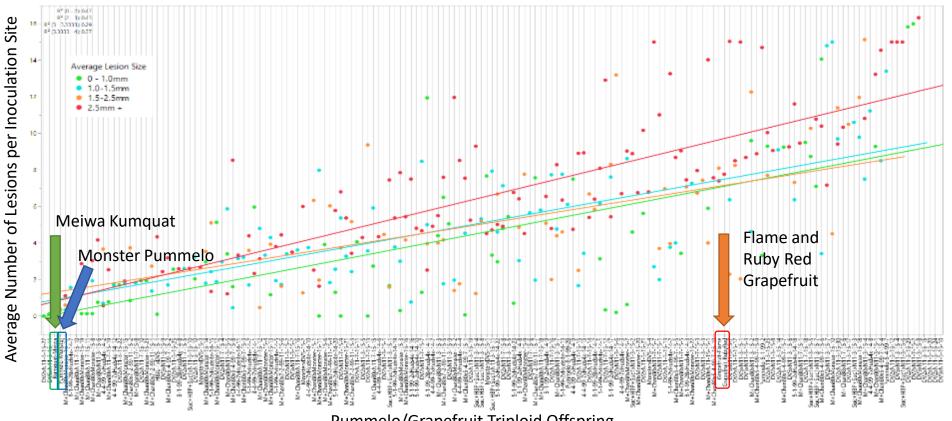


Testing of Triploid Pummelo/Grapefruit Hybrids for Citrus Canker Resistance



Citrus leaves 4 weeks post inoculation with Xanthomonas citri var. citri, Meiwa kumquat on left

Wide Range of Response of Inoculations with Citrus Canker Among Offspring



Pummelo/Grapefruit Triploid Offspring

Love grapefruit but can't eat it because you're taking prescription drugs?

We may have the answer!!!

UF 914

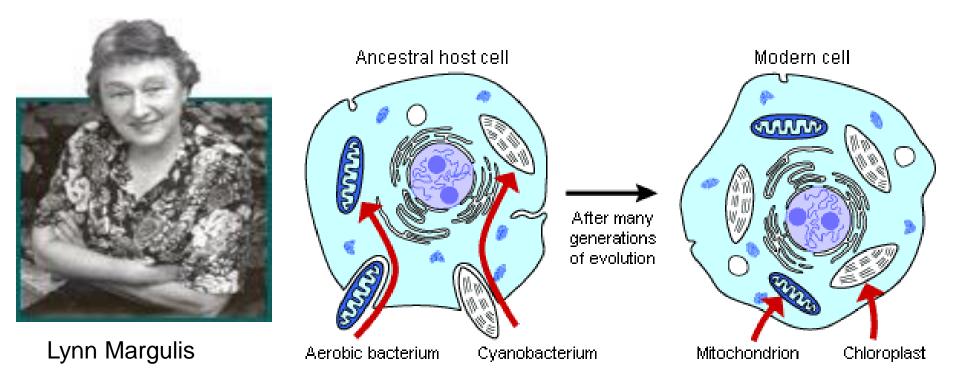
- Red flesh color
- Attractive peel blush
- Grapefruit size (+)
- Grapefruit flavor and aroma
- Tender and juicy flesh
- Very low in FC's (GJE)
- Seedless
- Good brix, lower acid
- Slightly thicker peel than grapefruit



SOMATIC CYBRIDIZATION w/ Chris Chase for genotyping

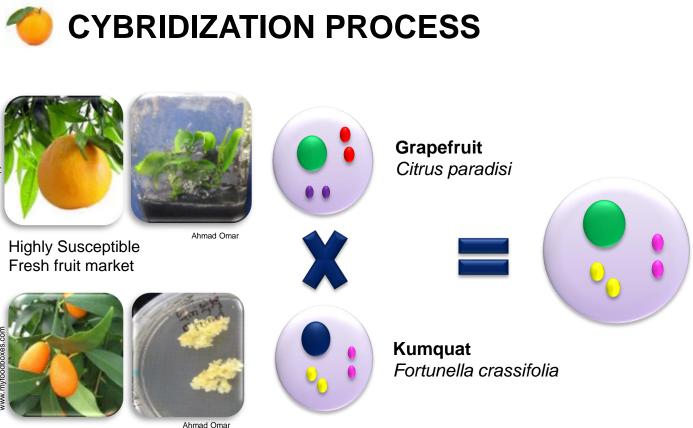






From: http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/history_24

EndoSymbiosis Theory – Lynn Margulis (1970) published her argument in: *The Origin of Eukaryotic Cells*.



Highly Resistant

• All genes are not housed in the nucleus. Both mitochondria and chloroplasts have small genomes.

ICTION

- Citrus cybridization often occurs in citrus somatic hybridization experiments (via protoplast fusion).
- Citrus cybrids from embryogenic culture + leaf cell fusions always have the mitochondrial genome from the culture cell parent, the chloroplast genome is generally randomly inherited. Allows for study of nucleo-cytoplasmic interaction.

Accidental Cybridization – creation of the N2-28 'Summer Gold' grapefruit

Efforts to generate triploids directly by fusing protoplasts isolated from mandarin embryogenic callus with protoplasts isolated from grapefruit pollen tetrads (haploid) resulted in the regeneration of plants with grapefruit morphology. These plants produce delicious grapefruit with an exceptionally long harvest window. We hypothesize that they regenerated from fusions of mandarin suspension cells with contaminate grapefruit pollen wall cells.



UF-CREC Citrus Genetic Improvement Team 2013



Mitochondrial Genotyping

PCR amplified Cybrid DNA (C1, C2 and C3) in mixture with Dancy (D) and Ruby Red (R) DNA to reveal polymorphism using intron based marker *nad7i1*.



The *nad*7i1 primer set developed by Grosser et al. (in preparation) amplifies a mitochondrial genome target

N2-28 Summer Gold Grapefruit

Table 1. Comparison between summer N2-28 'Summer Gold Grapefruit' and controls 'Ruby Red' and 'Pink Marsh" for the Brix, color and titrable acidity value (average of 20 fruit per selection, test conducted July, 2013).

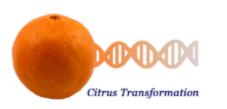
	Brix°	Color	Titrable Acidity (ml)
Summer Gold N2-28	11.6	34	0.98
'Ruby Red' grapefruit	9.4	34.5	0.85
'Pink Marsh' grapefruit	8.2	34.3	1.2

- Cybrid with 'Dancy' cytoplasm
- Sweeter than Ruby Grapefruit
- Harvest from December to August!
- No granulation or seed germination



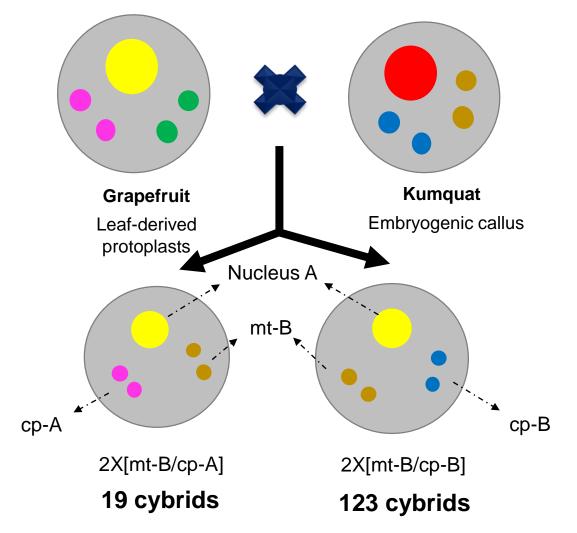
TARGETED SOMATIC CYBRIDIZATION

w/ Jim Graham and Mayara Murata





Example of grapefruit cybridization with kumquat cytoplasm



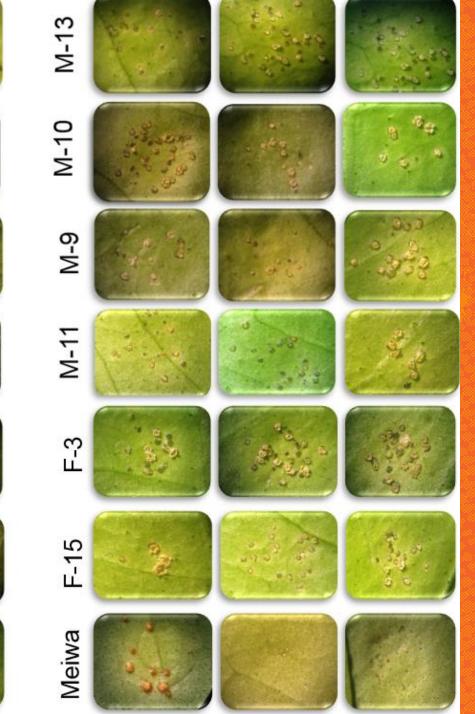
Somatic cybrid plants of Grapefruit containing Mewia 'Kumquat' cytoplasm (mitochondrial genome).

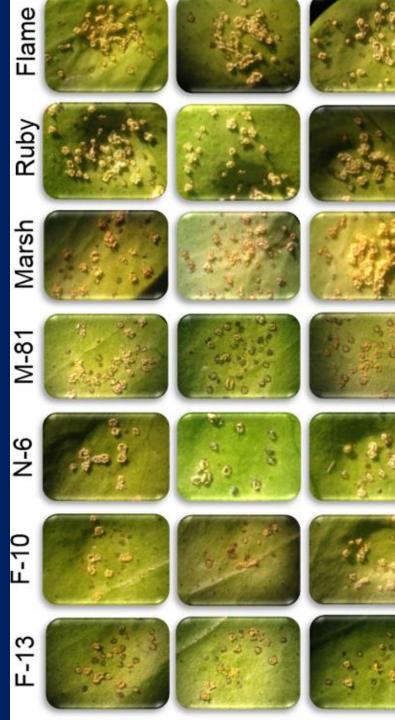


Somatic cybrid plants of White Marsh, Flame and red somaclone N11-11 grapefruit containing Meiwa Kumquat cytoplasm (mitochondrial genome)



OBJECTIVE 2





Citrus Rootstock Breeding for an HLB-Endemic Florida: The Way Forward

Jude Grosser Fred Gmitter and Bill Castle w/ Ahmad Omar, Lili Cano and Anas Fadli









Citrus Rootstock Breeding:

The UF/CREC Citrus Improvement Team has worked very hard to establish a common sense delicate BALANCE between providing viable/profitable rootstock options for the shortmedium term, and developing the HOMERUN rootstock(s) that will be the ANSWER to HLB for the future, regardless of the scion.





University of Florida Rootstocks (UFR's)

In 2011, we were asked to assess our new rootstock germplasm and release a group of rootstocks that we thought had the best potential against HLB, not waiting for the usual traditional data sets.

We chose to divide this up into appropriate categories, and we released the following 17 following UFR rootstocks, based on limited but positive data:

Tetraploid Rootstocks:UFR 1-6; 17 (from somatic hybridization and 4x breeding)Citranges:UFR 7-12Ichangensis hybrid:UFR 13Sour orange types:UFR 14-16



NEW STRATEGY: BREEDING SOMATIC HYBRID ROOTSTOCKS AT THE TETRAPLOID LEVEL – CREATION OF **'TETRAZYGS'**

- -Use of allotetraploid somatic hybrid breeding parents allows the mixing of genes from 3-4 diploid rootstocks at once.
- Progeny can be screened at the seed/seedling level for wide soil adaptability and Phytophthora resistance.
- Products can have direct rootstock potential including adequate polylembryony, ability to control tree size due to polyploidy, and improved disease resistance.



Candidate for ACPS

Valquarius on Orange #15 tetrazyg rootstock – just < 5 years at St. Helena, Dundee FL – released as UFR-3

St. Helena Project 2019 Top 30 Data – Rootstock Recovery Contest under Improved Nutrition

Scion/Rootstock Combination 10-year old trees	PS/Box [2019]	Boxes/Tree [2019]	PS/tree [2019]	Optimum Trees/Acre	Optimum Sq ft/tree [2019]	PS/Acre Projected [2019] (% increase 2019/2018)	Boxes/Acre Projected [2019] (% increase 2019/2018)	cum PS/acre [projected] 2011-19 (9 years of data)
Vernia:Orange1804	6.5	3.0	19.1	207	210	3951 (150)	611 (114)	16509 (9)
Vernia:KCZ	6.9	2.6	17.7	212	205	3756 (119)	543 (87)	13466 (9)
Valquarius:Orange1804	5.9	3.3	19.6	189	230	3713 (121)	629 (95)	13479 (8)
Vernia:Yel1800	6.5	2.4	15.4	235	185	3619 (136)	559 (122)	13516 (9)
Vernia:Blue1	6.5	2.5	16.0	223	195	3573 (NA)	546 (173)	18278 (9)
Vernia:MG-11	6.8	2.3	15.6	229	190	3571 (113)	527 (72)	16081 (9)
Vernia:Orange21	6.6	1.9	12.5	281	155	3518 (129)	534 (83)	14550 (9)
Vernia:Purple2	6.1	2.0	12.1	281	155	3411 (46)	556 (21)	17951 (8)
Vernia:Volk	5.6	3.5	19.7	171	255	3362 (104)	604 (84)	14339 (9)
Valquarius: FG1793	6.1	3.0	18.1	185	235	3341 (150)	551 (139)	13651 (8)
Valquarius:Orange13	6.6	2.0	12.9	256	170	3312 (127)	502 (93)	16746 (9)
Vernia:Aqua1803	6.6	2.3	15.4	203	215	3131 (114)	473 (73)	16612 (9)
Vernia:Cleo+CZO	6.9	1.8	12.4	249	175	3097 (NA)	448 (39)	18089 (9)
Vernia:Chang+50-7 [UFR 6]	7.3	1.4	10.3	300	145	3079 (249)	420 (156)	13902 (9)
Valquarius:Amb+HBJL-2B	6.4	2.3	14.8	207	210	3067 (223)	482 (177)	15128 (8)
Valquarius:681G26F4P6	6.2	2.5	15.1	198	220	2993 (70)	485 (53)	15716 (8)
Valquarius:Aqua1803	6.2	2.3	14.4	207	210	2971 (145)	482 (112)	14538 (8)
Valquarius:White1805	6.1	2.8	17.2	171	255	2942 (138)	484 (112)	15380 (8)
Vernia:Wgft+50-7	6.7	1.9	12.3	235	185	2891 (NA)	435 (104)	16168 (9)
Valquarius:Pink1802	6.4	1.7	10.5	272	160	2868 (73)	449 (53)	12977 (9)
Vernia:White1805	6.9	1.4	9.9	290	150	2866 (101)	415 (69)	13868 (9)
Valquarius:MG-11	6.0	2.1	12.4	229	190	2834 (109)	476 (69)	13885 (8)
Valquarius:FG1707	6.8	1.9	13.2	212	205	2790 (72)	409 (45)	14208 (8)
Vernia:Orange19 [UFR 4]	6.4	1.9	12.2	223	195	2730 (147)	426 (102)	14720 (9)
Valquarius:FG1733	6.3	1.8	11.4	229	190	2609 (172)	412 (110)	15233 (8)
Vernia:Orange18	6.7	1.5	10.1	256	170	2573 (NA)	384 (49)	13824 (9)
Vernia:Orange3 [UFR 1]	6.8	1.6	10.8	235	185	2542 (127)	376 (86)	12726 (9)
Vernia:SWC	6.7	1.8	12.1	207	210	2513 (114)	377 (88)	12500 (9)
Vernia:Purple4	7.5	1.1	7.9	311	140	2466 (NA)	330 (42)	15659 (9)
Valquarius:Orange3 [UFR 1]	6.5	1.8	11.5	212	205	2445 (93)	377 (82)	16295 (8)

Best of 125 hybrid rootstock selections originally being tested against blight.



9-year old Valencia on 46x20-04-6 (HB Pummelo x Cleo) grown at Lee Alligator Grove (St. Cloud) with no psyllid control and no special nutrition.

Plant species have thrived for thousands of years in the presence of evolving, hostile pathogens – HOW? They have created their own genetic diversity, and through the process of natural selection, tolerant or resistant genotypes overcome the threat and allow the species to evolve.

In Citrus, this process has been largely interrupted by man, with Citriculture now approaching monoculture – leading to the problem that has brought us all together.

Facilitated by biotechnology, citrus breeders have the opportunity to artificially reinstate this process by creating broad and unique genetic diversity from elite parents, followed by robust screening. Maybe this is the answer for solving the HLB and other disease problems!

The New Gauntlet in the **HLB** world High Throughput Screening Method >12,000 hybrids screened to date

- 1. Crosses of superior parents made at diploid and tetraploid levels
- 2. Seed harvested from crosses planted in bins of calcareous soil (pH=8), inoculated with *P. nicotianae* and *P. palmivora* (JH Graham)
- 3. Selection of robust seedlings based on growth rate, health and color (most don't make it!)
- 4. Transfer to 4x4 pots in commercial potting soil
- 5. Top of new tree goes for seed source tree production; remaining liner to the HLB screen
- 6. Hybrid liner is grafted with HLB-infected budstick of Valencia sweet orange; remaining rootstock top removed, forced flushing from HLB-infected sweet orange budstick
- 7. Trees monitored for HLB symptoms healthy appearing trees entered into 'hot psyllid' house for 4 weeks, followed by field planting at Picos Farm (under DPI permit).



Rootstock cross with good Phytophthora resistance.



Gauntlet trees are produced by 'stick' grafts. HLB-infected Valencia budsticks wrapped in parafilm are grafted into selected rootstock candidates. Rootstock tops are used to produce rooted cuttings for seed trees on their own roots.



Quite often the first flush is symptom free, selection is based on the 2nd flush, which usually shows symptoms.



2016 Field Planting will include trees on left; featuring 3 superior crosses: C2-5-12 pummelo x papeda; A+HBP x White 1 and A+HBP x sour orange+rangpur. Candidates on left already passed through the 'hot psyllid' house.



Gauntlet Survivor at Picos Farm -Valencia on Milam+HBP x Orange #14-09-14





Gauntlet Survivor at Picos Farm -Valencia on Milam+HBP x Orange #14-09-14



Top 'Gauntlet' rootstock trees in Row 13 at USDA Picos Farm; planted with HLB+ Valencia scion – January 2020.

Sample code	Row	Tree	Rootstock	Height	Health	Fruit	Cal_ct	Diagnosis
1	13	57	MILAM-HBP x Orange 4	6	4	3	30.61	Questionable
2	13	58	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13-75	5.5	4	2	27.71	HLB Positive
3	13	62	A-HBP x SORP-13- 72	5	4	2	31.68	Questionable
4	13	64	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13-54	7	4	2	26.51	HLB Positive
5	13	68	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13- 44	6	4	2	30.10	Questionable
6	13	71	A-HBP x White 1-13- 25	6	4	2	27.20	HLB Positive
7	13	72	A-HBP x White 1-13- 13	6.5	4	3	33.17	No HLB Found
8	13	76	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13- 5	7	4	2	30.22	Questionable
9	13	91	A-HBP x White 1-13- 37	6	3	3	28.16	HLB Positive
10	13	102	A-HBP x White 1-13- 1	5.5	3	3	26.26	HLB Positive
11	13	109	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13-1	5.5	3	3	27.52	HLB Positive
12	13	116	A-HBP x SORP-13- 79	6	4	2	37.28	No HLB Found
13	13	129	A-HBP x White 1-13- 20	6	4	1	33.67	No HLB Found
14	13	138	A-HBP x SORP-13- 12	5	3	3	25.08	HLB Positive
15	13	141	Orange 15 mutation 16-2X	5	4	1	25.64	HLB Positive
16	13	146	A-HBP x SORP-13- 50	5.5	4	3	27.18	HLB Positive
17	13	156	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13- 53	6	3	3	26.48	HLB Positive
18	13	160	Orange 15 mutation 25-4X	5.5	3	3	34.00	No HLB Found
19	13	167	Orange 15 mutation 34-4X	7	4	3	40.00	No HLB Found
20	13	172	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13- 74	3.5	4	2	30.95	Questionable
21	13	173	A-HBP x SORP-13- 48	4.5	3	3	33.30	No HLB Found
22	13	180	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13- 11	7	4	2	31.85	Questionable
23	13	183	A-HBP x SORP-13- 10	6.5	4	3	40.00	No HLB Found
24	13	184	A-HBP x SORP-13- 20	4	3	3	40.00	No HLB Found
25	13	192	C-2-5-12 x C. Latipes-13- 77	6.5	4	3	40.00	No HLB Found
26	13	193	A-HBP x SORP-13- 60	4	3	3	40.00	No HLB Found

PCR performed at Southern Gardens diagnostic lab, c/o Mike Irey



Sour+Rangpur Seed Tree

HLB+Valencia/ A+HBPxSORP-13-29

Genetic Pattern 3. Gauntlet HLB+ Valencia on a complex rootstock hybrid of Amblycarpa+HBPummelo x Sour orange+Rangpur. The Sour orange+Rangpur parent seed trees are planted at 3 locations, and all are exceptionally tolerant of HLB. However, it does not make a good rootstock itself due to slow growth and excessive zygotic seed production. Hybridizing it with the tolerant A+HBP parent has corrected the vigor problem!



3-year old Valencia on gauntlet rootstock A+HBPxSORP-13-60 at USDA Picos Farm, planted HLB+, now HLB-negative (photo from October, 2019).

Sugar Belle (LB8-9) Rootstock Hybrid Cuttings Inventory

U	•				0	
Hybrid*	Number		Hybrid*	Number	Hybrid*	Number
LB8-9 X S10-15-5	5		LB8-9 X S13-15-1	8	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-25	11
LB8-9 X S10-15-7	10		LB8-9 X S13-15-2	5	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-26	12
LB8-9 X S10-15-9	6		LB8-9 X S13-15-4	6	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-23	13
LB8-9 X S10-15-10	6		LB8-9 X S13-15-6	12	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-6	22
LB8-9 X S10-15-11	8		LB8-9 X S13-15-8	9	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-12	15
LB8-9 X S10-15-12	7		LB8-9 X S13-15-9	5	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-7	21
LB8-9 X S10-15-14	5		LB8-9 X S13-15-10	4	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-5	8
LB8-9 X S10-15-17	5		LB8-9 X S13-15-11	8	Sugar Belle LB-Zyg x 50-7-16-4	33
LB8-9 X S10-15-18	13		LB8-9 X S13-15-12	5	LB8-9 x 50-7-16-4	4
LB8-9 X S10-15-19	10		LB8-9 X S13-15-13	8	LB8-9 x 50-7-16-2	8
LB8-9 X S10-15-20	9		LB8-9 X S13-15-14	6		
LB8-9 X S10-15-21	4		LB8-9 X S13-15-15	8		
LB8-9 X S10-15-25	11		LB8-9 X S13-15-16	6		
LB8-9 X S10-15-28	5		LB8-9 X S13-15-18	4		
LB8-9 X S10-15-29	7		LB8-9 X S13-15-22	6		
LB8-9 X S10-15-30	11		LB8-9 X S13-15-23	4		
LB8-9 X S10-15-41	11		LB8-9 X S13-15-24	7		
LB8-9 X S10-15-47	4					
LB8-9 X S10-15-15	5					
LB8-9 X S10-15-16	2					
	144			111		147
*Name: Sugar Belle X C	OP Pumme	lo -	+ Trifoliate 50-7-XX-X (T	he Last		
Number is designates	the sibling :	#. I	_B-ZYG = Lime Block Zyg	otic		
Or LB8-9 X OP Pumelo	+ Trifoliate	e 5(D-7-XX-X			

SugarBelle Rootstock Hybrids – Moving Through the 'Gauntlet'



No stone unturned! Left: 1-year old HLB+Valencia on SugarBelle x 46x20-04-S15-15-16, under heavy psyllid pressure; Right: HLB+Valencia on various SugarBelle rootstock hybrids prepared for 'Gauntlet' field screen at USDA-Picos Farm in Fort Pierce.



Improving delivery of trial information to growers

- Citrus Improvement Team Website Now Online one stop shopping for growers/processors, packers. Data from 16 trials at present:
- <u>https://citrusresearch.ifas.ufl.edu/rootstock-field-data/</u>
- Website will eventually have tabs to General Information, CRDF supported trials, MAC trials, and NIFA grant progress.
- Website will also provide links to FFSP, NVDMC, etc. for information on scion and rootstock access/licensing, etc.



Rootstock improvements regarding HLB are like likely to come in stages:

First stage: Rootstocks that reduce the frequency of HLB infection, and reduce the severity of the disease once infected – already proven to work with midand late-season oranges when grown with optimized nutrition programs focusing on root health.

Second stage: Potential rootstock mitigation of the disease – research is underway to possibly identify rootstocks that can protect the entire tree – regardless of the scion. Psyllid control may not be necessary. No horticultural performance data would be available on such selections initially, but the hybrids would have good rootstock pedigree, and can be mass-propagated by tissue culture (Ruck's Nursery, Agristarts, Agromillora, Citrific, etc.).

Many of the most promising hybrids have been entered into expanded field trials via MAC grants. The first MAC grant (w/ Kim Bowman @ USDA) is testing 48 new rootstocks (24 from UF and 24 from USDA) with industry cooperators at 9 locations. The 2nd 'Rogers' MAC grant is testing 79 scion/rootstock combinations in LA. A third MAC grant will test putatively tolerant scions and rootstocks in Florida and California (w/ Vidalakis and McCollum, USDA). Numerous other trials are also planned and underway.

Clues Emerging Regarding the Relationship of Nutrition and Root Health in HLB-infected trees

Jude Grosser

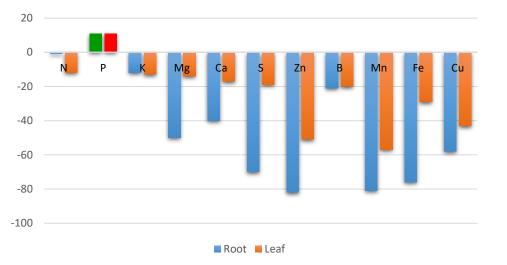




Orie Lee, Frank Rogers, Ed English, Alton Green, Jobie Sherrod, Jim Graham, Bryan Belcher, Matt Shook, Trey Whitehurst, Brian Patterson, Jim Chason, Ward Gunter, Jack Zorn, &

Lake County – CREC 2018

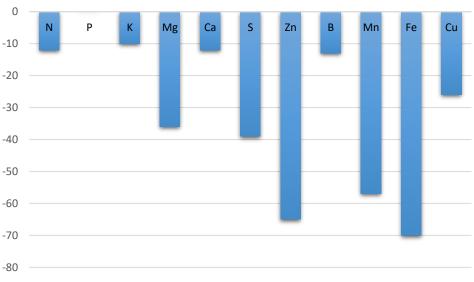
HLB Impacts Root Micro-nutrient Metabolism



Val/CZO Greenhouse

- Comparison of Healthy/Symptomatic trees (average of 10 trees) - % change compared to healthy GH trees
- Root deficiencies are much higher than leaf deficiencies

- Comparison of Healthy/Symptomatic trees - % change compared to healthy field trees
- Same patterns as greenhouse trees
- Soil pH and micro-nutrient content not responsible!
- Foliar sprays do not address this!



Val/SW field Root

Supplemental Nutrients in Controlled Release Forms

Micronutrients – applied at 3x concentration

Tiger-Sul Micronutrients Zinc 18% (18% Zn, 65% S) Tiger-Sul Micronutrients Iron 22% (22% Fe, 55%S) Tiger-Sul Micronutrients Manganese 15% (15%Mn, 65% S) Tiger-Sul 'Arnolds mix' (3.85% Fe, 7.50% Mn, 5.85% Zn, 63% S) Florikote Polymer Coated Sodium Borate (8.82% B) Florikote Polymer Coated Magnesium Sulfate (13.9%) Florikote Polymer Coated Triple Super Phosphate (40% P_2O_5) Florikote FeSO₄ Polymer Coated Ferrous Sulfate (28% Fe, 17% S) BioChar from Southern Yellow Pine (97%)

Macaronutrients—applied at 2x concentration

Florikote Polymer Coated Mini Ammonium Sulfate (19% N) Florikote Polymer Coated Sulfate of Potash (47% K₂O) Florikote Polymer Coated Urea (42% N)

Polycoated Florikote products kindly provided by Brian Patterson (Florikan Corp.)



Stick-graft method - Valencia budstick taken from heavily HLB-impacted field tree. Graft wrapped with budding tape, Budstick wrapped with parafilm. 10 trees per treatment. Greenhouse Study – Effects of nutrient overdoses on HLB-infected Valencia on UFR-3 (Orange #15) tetrazyg rootstock after 1 year. Total Root length (cm), determined by winRhizo washed root image analysis.

Treatment	Ν	Mean*	Standard Deviations	Tukey Grouping
Harrell's + 3x TigerSul Mn	10	2361	848	А
Harrell's + 3x Tiger-Arnold's Mix (Mn, Fe, Zn)	9	2270	933	А
Harrell's + 3x TigerSul-Arnold's + Biochar	9	1955	1237	AB
Harrell's + 3x Tigersul Zinc Sulfur	10	1672	1039	AB
Harrell's - Control	8	1670	900	AB
Harrell's + 3x Florikan Sodium Borate	10	1554	1466	AB
Harrell's + 3x Tigersul Fe	7	1419	704	AB
Liquid Fertilizer Only - Control	6	1349	1273	AB
Harrell's + 3x Florikan Magnesium Sulfate	8	1315	1025	AB
Harrell's + 2x Florikan Ammonium Sulfate	8	1276	805	AB
Harrell's + 2x Florikan Urea	8	1173	766	AB
Harrell's + 3x Florikan Iron Sulfate	7	1032	544	AB
Harrell's + 3x Florikan Super triple Phosph	6	910	642	AB
Harrell's + 2x Florikan potash	4	902	226	AB
Harrell's + Biochar	9	559	403	В

* Means with the same letter are not significantly different at 95% confidence



Control liquid fertilizer Harrell's CRF+TigerSul Mn HLB-infected greenhouse trees after one year; Valencia/UFR-3.



Harrell's CRF Control #1

Harrell's+TigerSul Mn #10

Hughes Post Office Block Yields – New 'Hybrid' nutrition program with micronutrient treatments

13 year old Valencia/Vernia trees on mostly Swingle and some C-35, 100% HLB

Overall yield for 2015 harvest bottomed out at 1.25 boxes per tree, severe drop

2015: change from traditional program to 50-50 traditional/Basacote CRF (200 lbs. N per acre), 2 applications plus the per row treatments below.

Data per 2 rows (approx. 95 trees per row):

Treatment	Boxes/tree 2016	Boxes/tree 2017						
Arnolds TigerS mix#	1.50	1.70						
3x polycoated boron*	1.72	1.71						
3x TigerS manganese	1.69	1.74						
3x Tiger mn + 3x pc boron	1.79	1.68						
Arnolds Mix + 3x mn + 3x boro	n 1.89	2.00						
#Arnolds Mix: TigerSul Fe + TigerSul Mn + TigerSul Zn								
*Florikan product								
One box = 90 lbs. or 40.8 kg.								

Hughes Post Office Block (Haines City, 10 acres) - Overall Yield and Lbs. Solids

13 year old Valencia/Vernia trees on mostly Swingle and some C-35, 100% HLB

Year	Total Boxes	Lbs. Solids/box	Total Lbs. Solids	% change lbs. solids
2015	1567	5.77	9,041.6	
2016	2282	5.80	13,228.5	+46.3
2017	2233	6.06	13,524.4	+02.2

One box = 90 lbs. or 40.8 kg.

2017 crop reduced slightly by PFD



13-year old Valencia/Swingle, 100% HLB-infected; after 2 years on 50/50 CRF/dry soluble fertilizer program (2 applications/year); Trees have good crop, fruit sizing well – 2nd consecutive yield increase expected.

Typical fruit from young HLB-infected (3 years) LB8-9 SugarBelle[™] trees treated with controlled release fertilizer containing extra manganese and boron, and Tiger-Sul micros.

Typical fruit from young HLB-infected (3 years) LB8-9 SugarBelle[™] trees with standard fertilization regime.

What are 'HYBRID' Nutrition Programs?

Any program that combines multiple sources of nutrient delivery with a goal of providing a <u>constant</u> supply of all required nutrients year round (including winter!) at an affordable cost. Can be tailored to address micronutrient deficiencies in HLB-impacted roots. Continued fine-tuning will improve results and lower costs!

Examples:

- 1. Fertigation supplemented with CRF (Controlled Release Fertilizer) during the rainy season (Tropicana program).
- 2. Traditional dry soluble N & K, monthly liquid micronutrient nitrates; separate liquid phosphoric acid (E. English program).
- Traditional NPK supplemented with CRF: (Duda program) 30/70% CRF/WS January; 50/50% CRF/WS April; 30/70% CRF/WS September.

NO SILVER BULLET, BUT THESE PROGRAMS WORK!!!

Ed English (Alton Green) Program:

Citra-Guard Nitrate Soil Ammendment 7–0–0; monthly treatment. Material is being applied through airblast sprayer, bottom two nozzle ports open on each side. It is applied at 50 GPA.

7% Nitrate nitrogen
0.75% copper
4.60% iron
3.80% manganese
3.80% zinc
all nitrate derived

Phosmax (Phosphorous Acid) @ 1 quart per acre. The goal is to get 60 lb of phosphorus per acre per year.

Dry and Foliar: 11-37-0



Revived 100% HLB-infected Valencia/Swingle trees in Alva, Ed English (Alton Green) monthly liquid nitrate program. Concept of 'tree momentum'



Inside fruit on Ed English Valencia/Swingle trees; 7.4 lbs. solids!

Evolution to the McKenna Liquid Program:

they are applying the 5-0-7 'strawberry mix' at 10gal/acre (calcium, potassium and magnesium nitrates) mixed with 1 quart/acre of the CitraGuard (micro-nitrates - see below). This is alternated weekly with a 9-4-9. They do not apply during weeks when they are spraying and during periods of heavy rain.

Citra-Guard Nitrate Soil Amendment 7-0-0; It is applied at 50 GPA.

7% Nitrate nitrogen
0.75% copper
4.60% iron
3.80% manganese
3.80% zinc
all nitrate derived

Results: increased yield and fruit quality, reduced fruit drop in first year across several groves, scion/rootstock combinations and trees of different ages! Take care of your roots!



14 year-old Valencia/rough lemon +CRF + extra Mn and boron

Alligator Matthew Block Nutrition Study – 2017 December PCR and yield results

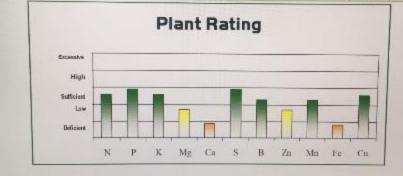
Vernia/rough lemon (10-years old; treatments started fall of 2015, 12 trees per treatment (2-six tree reps); 2017 harvest heavily impacted by PFD. Last column is boxes per treatment (12 trees) since trial began (2-years of production). Products: Harrells CRF St. Helena mix, TigerSul mn, Florikan polycoated boron. CT value 32 or above considered negative for Liberibacter.

Treatment	CT Value mean	SD	# trees 32+ ct	Yield (B/T): 2016	2017	2018 (<u>Cumm</u>
1 standard	23.19	4.8	0	1.67	0.56	1.71	27.2
2 + Harrells	27.81	5.3	5	1.50	1.02	1.75	33.2
3 + Harr/2x mn	27.57	5.3	3	1.50	0.83	1.54	28.4
4 +Harr/2x bn	29.48	5.4	5	1.92	0.83	1.71	30.5
5 +Harr/2x mn8	kbn 30.32*	5.5	5	1.50	0.94	1.71	31.8
6 +4x mn	32.75*	5.7	7	1.75	0.92	2.21	37.6
7 + 4x bn	28.07	5.3	5	1.58	0.44	1.63	24.8
<u>8 +4x mn & bn</u>	23.81	4.8	0	1.50	0.90	1.79	32.3

*significantly different than standard at 95% CI

Evidence: Overdoses of manganese can be therapeutic against HLB!!!!!!!

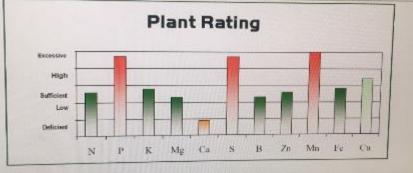
					Plan	nt Lab R	esults				
N	P		K	Mg	Ca	S	В	Zn	Mn	Fe	Cu
3.09 %	0.22	%	1.66 %	0.27 %	2.13 %	0.34 %	46 ppr	1 23 ppm	40 ppm	45 ppm	11 ppm
NO ³ -N	Na		Al	Mo	Ni	CI				N:S	N:K
asn		35	ppm	2071					Actual Ratio	9.1	1.9
		10	100	2011	ppm :	4			Sufficient Ratio	10.2	1.6



Red grapefruit /Sw on standard CREC soluble dry nutrition



N	-		10	1000	Plan	nt Lab R	esuits		111111		
LA .	P		K	Mg	Ca	S	B	Zn	Mn	Fe	0
3.19 %	0.32	%	2.46 %	0.37 %	2.51 %	0.52 1		1111111			Cu
		_		1000 A (1)22	4.01 10	0.00 %	50 ppm	53 ppm	159 ppm	101 ppm	21 ppr
NO 3 - N	Na		AI	Mo	Ni	CI	1.000.000	5 (KRY) - 27	1	11.8	NK
ppre		1%	ppm	ppm	pan	-		1.111117	Actual Robo	6.0	1.3
		1122	3530	Sec.	birau	95	A CONTRACTOR		Safficient finto	10.2	1.8



Recovering Cybrid Flame/Sw on CREC + Harrells 14-3-11 + Florikan Mn



qPCR

32.9

qPCR Ct value 25.4

14-3-11



FERTILIZER

Batch #: 1901-0679

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Total Nitrogen (N)*	14.00005
5.1250% Nitrate Nitrogen	
4.6060% Ammoniacal Kiltragen	
4.3700% Ures Nitrogen	
Available Phosphate (P O)"	3.00007
Soluble Potash (K O/	11,00805
Calcium (Ca)	2.0000%
Magnesium (Mg)	1.3480%
1.3480% Water Soluble Nagnesium (Ng)	
Bullur (S)	10.3430%
6.2130% From Sulfur (8)	
4.1300% Combined Bullur (S)	
Boron (B)	0.0360%
Copper (Cu)	0.0380%
6.0380% Water Soluble Copper (Cu)	
Iron (Fo)	0.5000%
0.1500% Cheleted Iron (Fe)	
Manganese (Mn)	1.8660%
0.0550% Water Soluble Nanganese (Mn)	
Nolybdanum (Mo)	0.0050%
Zing (Zn)	0.6230%
0.0390% Water Soluble Zins (Zn)	

Darhvad Form: Polymer Coalid Ammonium Nitrate, Polymer Coand Ammonium Prosehnic, Polymer Coalid Cation Nitrate, Polymer Centel Aumine's of Polishi Polymer Coaled Selfale of Polishi, Polymer Cented Uma, Lamental Suffur, Ferd Collas, Nisawith, Kanaganaa Collas, Polymer Cation Copper Solitas, Polymer Nanganess Suffue, Polymer Coaled Selfue Molybdate. Polymer Cested Zinc Solitate, Solitame Ronda, Zinc Volec

* 14% coaled slow release Nitrogen(N) from Polymer Coaled Ammonium Kitrate, Polymer Coated Ammonium Phosphate, Polymer Coated Coldium Nitrale, Polymer Costed Sulfate of Polash, Uras, 3% opated slow release available Phosphate(P,O,), and 11% coated now release Soluble Potenti IK OI

NOTICE: The application of fertilizing materials containing Molybolenum(Mo) may result in house crops containing lewest of Molybolenum/Me) which am foods to numbran animals. Product contains benegib. Do not apply in Berne Secarity or pos.

Chiorine (Ci), Not more than...... 4.2580%

> F352 Density - 65 IS JOU. R. Directions for Use

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the Intents at: http://www.sepifob.org/inecats.html

Net Wt. 50 LBS. (22.7 KG)

First Aid

1903-0679 211901

Warning Dust may cause Serious Eye Damage skin, Eye and Respiratory Tract Irritant. Harmful if swallowed.



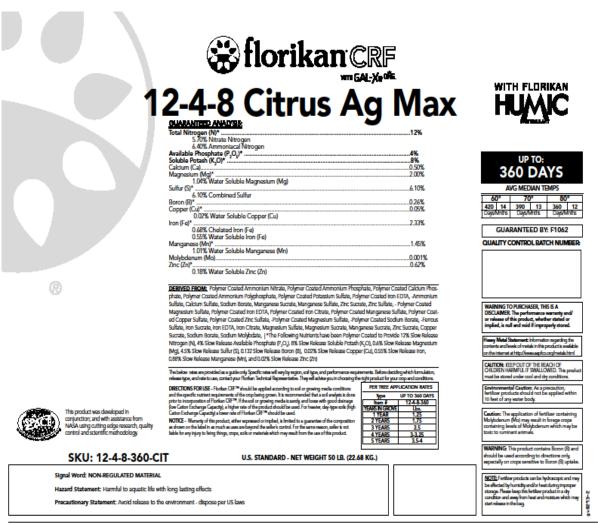
Precoutionary Statements: Wear safety glasses with side thields or goggles when handling product. Avoid breathing dust, Wash face, hands and exposed skin thoroughly after handling. Do not eat, drink or use tobacco products when using this

Effectives (III) Epec Flush with water for 15 minutes. Call a doctor for treatment advice if initiation persists. If III) Advis thoroughly with scap and water. Launder clothing before reuse. If III) Advis thoroughly with scap and water. Launder clothing before reuse. If III) Advis thoroughly with scap and water. Launder clothing before reuse.

direction (<u>l'agestat</u>: Do not induce voniting. Get medical attention. Have the product label with you when calling a doctor or going for treatment.

product.

MANUFACTURED AND GUARANTEED BY HARRELL'S, LLC PO 80X 807 LAKELAND, FL 33802 (863) 687-2774 (800) 282-8007



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The Ticket For the Immediate Future

Improved Scion Genetics for HLB Tolerance Plus Improved Rootstock Genetics for HLB Tolerance Plus Improved Affordable Production Systems w/ Enhanced Root Nutrition \$\$Success \$\$





Combination of good scion genetics, good rootstocks genetics and evolving nutrition (McKenna nitrate program): OLL-8 sweet orange/UFR-4 rootstock, 4 year old trees – Working! To HALL OF FAME CITRUS GROWER-RESEARCHER And Outstanding Industry Collaborator Mr. Orie Lee

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Thanks!

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