



Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council

Citrus Industry Research Priorities – 2009

The citrus industry priorities for 2009 are basically the same as they were for 2008. It is important to note that several of the items have expanded to incorporate a wider impact on the industry. For example greening is more than tree loss in the field. Could there be possible issues with juice from infected trees in the processing stream? Canker reaches beyond the grove to the packinghouse where one lesion can prevent an entire block from being shipped outside the state. Therefore, note that the attached priorities refer to a wider impact of a problem. Growers, packers, processors and harvesters once again ranked the various research needs which were submitted by each segment of the industry.

For 2009 there are nineteen (19) priority items. Each council member scored them in order of importance. From this individual ranking a Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council ranked list of industry priorities is obtained and provided below. The council then decided to segregate the list into categories. For 2009 the FCIRCC will continue to have three categories as shown below.

Those items which the council feels are required for the survival of the industry are identified as **CRITICAL**. These items need immediate attention and adequate funding to assure that research work is unencumbered. The next level of research needs is identified as **ESSENTIAL**. These priority items most likely are being addressed by research and should continue to receive concerted effort. The remaining research priorities are identified as **IMPORTANT**. In no way are these priorities to be ignored, for they may be vital to one or more of the various industry segments.

Greening continues to be at the top of the list. Maximum effort must continue if there is to be a chance for the industry to survive. It should be noted that genomics moved to number two with plant improvement ranked fourth. It appears that even though these items are more long term in nature, the industry feels they are the keys to the future and work must be done now to obtain superior scions and rootstocks.

The most significant shift in priorities saw food safety move from twelve on the list last year to seventh this year. With health benefits ranked sixth this year, the industry recognizes the importance of having a nutritious product with no safety issues. Abscission chemicals and mechanical harvesting are still high on the list. As work continues with harvesting those involved are getting a better understanding of the process and challenges.

The council strongly supports providing industry funding for not only the **CRITICAL** items, but the **ESSENTIAL** and **IMPORTANT** priorities as well. The level of financial support for the **ESSENTIAL** and **IMPORTANT** priorities may be significantly less than for greening, and in fact some priorities may not receive financial support from the industry. Creative efforts must be made to provide other dollars for **ESSENTIAL** and **IMPORTANT** priorities.

<http://www.fcircc.org>

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Coordinating Council**

Priorities for 2009

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Status</i>
Greening	1	Critical
Genomics	2	Critical
Canker	3	Critical
Plant Improvement	4	Essential
Abscission	5	Essential
Health Benefits	6	Essential
Food Safety	7	Essential
Mechanical Harvesting	8	Essential
Pest Management	9	Essential
Fertilization/Irrigation	10	Essential
High Value By Products	11	Essential
Grove Production System	12	Important
Off Flavor	13	Important
Processing Techniques	14	Important
Fruit Quality/Decay Control	15	Important
Lab Testing Methods	16	Important
Fresh Squeezed Juice	17	Important
Health/Nutrition Fresh Juice	18	Important
Caribbean Fruit Fly	19	Important