

Florida Citrus Industry
Research Coordinating Council
Priorities for 2009

Florida Citrus Industry Research
Coordinating Council
2009 Annual Report



<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

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The Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council (FCIRCC) annually establishes research priorities based on input from all segments of the industry. Projects from each research agency are obtained and evaluated. Priority areas that lack adequate resources are identified as “gaps” and documented for further investigation. A final review with the directors at each research agency and industry organization verifies the research gaps and the resources needed to bridge these gaps.

This year the FCIRCC established a prioritized list of 19 items as shown on the back page. These items were then placed into three categories: **Critical**, **Essential** and **Important**. Greening (HLB), citrus canker and genomics were at the top of the list and deemed **Critical**. These items will require maximum funding and an intensive research effort if the Florida citrus industry is to survive.

Eight issues (as noted on the back) were determined to be **Essential** research needs. Work must continue with these projects to assure more efficient production, harvesting and marketing of the crop.

The remaining eight priorities are **Important** to the industry and especially relevant to the various segments. A concerted effort needs to be made to continue work with the **Important** needs. In a few cases, special attention must be given to establish research projects in this category.

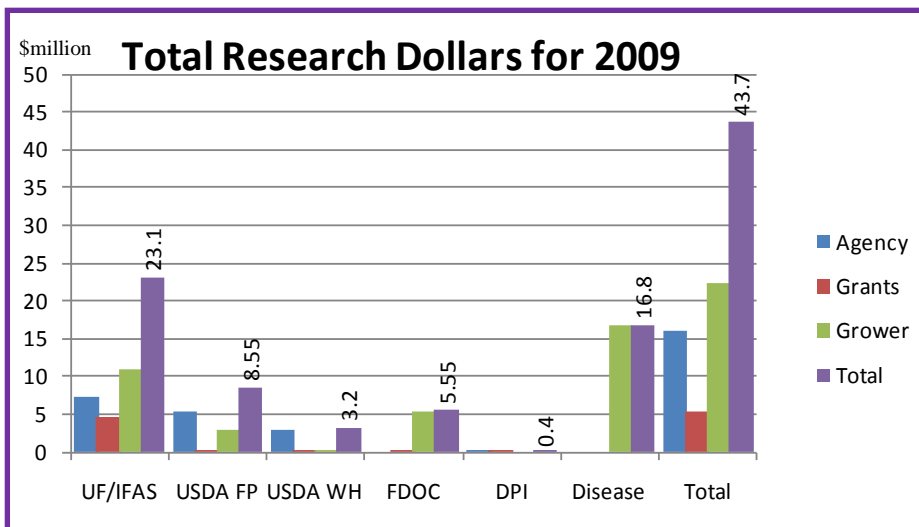
A detailed “Gaps Analysis” was done to determine if there was sufficient research work being done in each priority area. It was evident that all **Critical** and **Essential** priorities were being addressed

There are some “under-researched” priorities in *the Important* area. With the tremendous emphasis on greening and canker, attention to post-harvest research has declined. Development of a strong post-harvest research program will take time. The shortfalls with fresh fruit and processing technology must be addressed. Filling the flavor chemist position at the USDA Winter Haven lab was an important step to maintain a strong program. Some priorities in the fresh squeezed juice categories are being addressed by the FDOC research staff. In addition, food safety issues have moved up the list, and it is necessary to intensify work in this area. The Council encourages researchers dealing with fresh fruit to work with colleagues in California whenever possible in order to expand the knowledge base and incorporate new ideas into fruit quality and decay control.

The current research effort is addressing each priority to some degree; therefore, there are no “gaps”.

Gaps / Needs Recommendations

- ✓ Continue to provide adequate funding to support ongoing viable projects with greening and canker (establish new ones if needed)
- ✓ Provide necessary funding to sequence the citrus genome
- ✓ Fill the flavor chemist position at USDA Lab (Winter Haven)
- ✓ Support consolidation of USDA labs (Winter Haven to Ft. Pierce)
- ✓ Continue funding the New Variety Corporation
- ✓ Continue FDOC research work with health/wellness, abscission, etc.
- ✓ Explore funding sources (California) to expand fresh fruit work
- ✓ Secure funding from multiple sources to maintain a sustainable citrus research program
- ✓ Maintain a strong national presence in citrus research picture
- ✓ Provide assistance to special projects such as 24c labels
- ✓ Support the Citrus Research & Development Foundation



Summary Information 2009

Personnel *Source of Funds (millions)*

Agency	Personnel		Source of Funds (millions)		
	Scientists	Support Staff	Agency \$	Grant \$	Industry \$
UF/IFAS	31.5	183	7.4	4.7	11.0
USDA –ARS Ft. Pierce	10.5	47	5.4	0.25	2.9
USDA –ARS Winter Haven	7	10.6	2.9	.17	.13
FDOC	7	7		0.15	5.4
FDACS-DPI	7	7	0.3	0.14	
FCPRAC/FCC					16.8
Total	62.9	254.5	15.96	5.41	22.2

Sources and Spending of Research Dollars

The table above and the graph provide a general view of the financial situation for 2009. There are some interesting items to note. Growers now provide over 50% of the dollars for citrus research in Florida!

The level of citrus industry support for research is increasing dramatically. Numbers for 2009 reflect over \$22 million from growers, which is 51% of the funds available for citrus research. This past year the FCC/FDOC and the box tax council funded 106 greening and canker projects investing \$16.8 million. The FCC/FDOC continued to fund registration of the abscission chemical CMNP, health/wellness research to support the marketing effort, and the New Varieties Corporation.

Those agencies receiving substantial industry support have a much larger support staff-to-scientist ratio. This reflects the large number of scientists, technicians, and support personnel on “soft” dollars. It also points out that UF faculty and USDA scientists are becoming research managers.

A change in the research administration is taking place. The Citrus Research & Development Foundation was formed to deal with securing long term funding, improve management of projects, deal with intellectual property rights, insure technology transfer (research results from lab to grove), tackle regulatory issues, and much more. It is imperative that the entire citrus industry provide strong support and encouragement to the Foundation.

The FCIRCC feels research is our best hope for surviving greening and canker. In order to have a sustainable citrus industry research program, grower dollars need to be available. An important step was taken with the approval of increasing the “box tax” to three cents and having the Citrus R&D Foundation administer the funds. Continued financial support will be needed from the FCC for several years and an all-out effort made to secure federal, state and even private dollars for citrus research.