

Citrus Industry Magazine- UF/IFAS SWFREC Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Program “What’s Shakin” column

The Citrus Harvesting Decision Tool

The Citrus Harvesting Decision Model (<http://citrustool.ifas.ufl.edu>) is a new tool designed to help growers decide whether or not mechanical harvesting is a profitable option. With labor shortages likely during the 2006-07 season, growers should investigate mechanical harvesting options. If more than one mechanical system is available, the Decision Tool will also help them determine which system harvests at the lowest cost using information specific to a grower’s block or grove.

Some of the information you will be asked to enter is relevant data about yield, fruit prices, harvest costs, and costs to prepare trees for mechanical harvesting systems. You will also provide information on harvest costs for a hand crew and for one or more mechanical systems. Based on the data entered, the Decision Tool will compute the unit cost of harvesting (\$/box and \$/p.s.) by harvest method.

Anyone can access the Decision Tool without providing a username and password. If, however, you want to save your data for future use, an account can be created.