

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

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As we get closer to the registration decision by EPA of the abscission agent CMNP, research is continuing to develop best management practices. We have begun a long-term, late-season ‘Valencia’ field trial to determine the benefits of preserving the newly developing crop while enhancing removal of the mature crop. CMNP was applied or not applied to entire rows of ‘Valencia’ in a commercial grove every two weeks in May and June in 2010 and fruit harvested with self-propelled canopy shakers at two shaker settings. Fruit removal was generally similar at the lower shaking setting with CMNP as the higher shaker setting without. Estimates for the 2011 crop indicated that we could expect to extend mechanical harvesting with canopy shakers without impacting next year’s crop. This research will continue in 2012.