

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

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During the 2013 Valencia’s season, the UF/IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting & Abscission Program conducted field trials looking at the effect of CMNP, a fruit abscission agent, on the productivity of hand harvesters. The Economics team, led by Fritz Roka, observed and collected data from two hand harvesting crews working in separate groves. Crews were observed for two consecutive days. On the first day, harvesters picked fruit under normal conditions. On the second day, they harvested trees that had been sprayed with CMNP. The IFAS team tracked the time it took each harvester to fill individual 10-box tubs throughout the day. The goal was to determine whether CMNP increased a harvester’s picking speed and whether an increase was sufficient to cover the added costs of applying CMNP. Results of these trials should be available by September.