

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

June 2007

The Grove Design Program Update-

Retrofitting Existing Trees

A video is being produced to help educate citrus growers on retrofitting a grove for mechanical harvesting. This video will demonstrate how to retrofit existing field trees and also include a demonstration on how to skirt and hedge as well as hand pruning and debris clean up.

Concept Grove/Nursery Tree Design

The planting of the demonstration site “concept grove” took place in 2006 and contains tree spacing of 151,198 trees and 545 trees/acre on different variety/rootstock combinations suitable for mechanically harvested. The trees planted were high headed trees.

The web page at the citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu website has been updated and contains information about orchard grove design and high-headed nursery trees for planting groves designed for mechanical harvesting.