

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

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ABSCISSION PROGRAM UPDATES

Late Season Management

An important goal for the late season management problem is to identify immature fruit sizes susceptible to removal and subsequent yield loss. Funds have been redirected to this area and more trials have been established. There are 4 more trials scheduled for the months of May and June.

Abscission Management

Nine new abscission compounds were screened on ‘Hamlin’. Of these, 2 were moderately active. The impact of rootstock on abscission agent-directed fruit loosening is being evaluated. Daily fluctuations in fruit pull force were shown to be associated with the time of day, temperature, and humidity changes.

Long term yield monitoring will occur in planned and on-going trials. During a period between bloom and 3 weeks post-anthesis, abscission agent removal of young Valencia fruits are being evaluated. Return bloom and yield will be monitored in these trees.