

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

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Update on Research Projects for the 2007-08 Season

The IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Research & Abcission Program is currently working on several new projects for the 2007-08 season. The nine faculty funded are doing research in seven areas including abcission management, abcission registration, late season problems, machine enhancements and improvements, grower education, loads and allocations, and tree health.

Examples of the projects for the 2007-08 season include developing a mathematical model to predict the required concentration of CMNP to optimize the loosening effects of the abcission agent. Another project will analyze the anticipated shifts in harvesting logistics caused by the widespread adoption of mechanical harvesting systems. In addition, how mechanical harvesting affects the amount of trash (leaves, stems and twigs) that is deposited into a trailer will be studied.