

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

**January 2011**

Jim Syvertsen, plant physiologist at CREC and the Tree Health project leader, conducted trials during three consecutive seasons (2007-2009) to determine if winter drought stress could delay flowering and fruit development of immature ‘Valencia’ sweet orange. Their objective was to determine if the bloom period could be delayed by a few weeks without negative effects on the quality of the current season’s crop. The trials were conducted during the months of December–March and after resuming normal well-irrigated conditions in the spring, there was shown to be little or no measurable physiological effects and no differences in current fruit yield, fruit size and percentage of juice or juice quality. To learn more about this and the other projects being done by the program, please visit our website <http://citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu>.