

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

May 2013

In June, 2012 Oxbo International Corporation invited members of the FDOC Citrus Harvesting Research Advisory Council to California to observe mechanical harvesting in the olive industry. Dave Crumbly, vice president of fruit control at Florida’s Natural Growers, who attended gave his thoughts. “High density plantings are a viable means of growing citrus profitably, helping to both minimize the impact of disease and address the escalating cost to harvest. In a short period of time the California olive industry has transitioned from about 60 trees per acre to new super high density plantings of over 600 trees per acre. Facing the same tree size and crop removal issues that we see with citrus, they successfully developed dwarfed trees and over the top mechanical harvesters to increase early production and reduce roadside harvesting cost to about \$300/acre. Their success can serve as a model for producing citrus going forward.” Please visit the our website for more information on citrus mechanical harvesting: <http://citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu>.