

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

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The United States is not the only country to use mechanical harvesting for harvesting juice oranges. Andrew Nelson, of Nelson Harvesting in New South Wales, Australia, has built and operated a harvester that is towed behind a tractor. Two rotating drums of spindles shake fruit off from both sides of a tree. Andrew wrote that “It’s best suited for high density plantings of 350 - 400 trees per acre. With trees planted in this configuration, it will remove 95% of the crop and do no more damage than leave the trees with a “frizzy” look. Crop on the ground is 0 - 10 pieces per tree.” Tree height, however, is limited to no more than 10 feet. To learn more about Mr. Nelson’s harvester, you can view it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Av17eM1Ruyo> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn4vzrhatf4>. You can also find the downlinks to these on our website at <http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu>.