

A new sweeper system for fruit pick-up machines

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Presently, the only mechanical harvesting option for small- to mid-size citrus groves is a tractor-drawn canopy shaker which shakes the fruit to ground; however, hand labor is still needed to pick up the fruit. A pick-up machine that picks up fruit from the ground could complement the tractor-drawn canopy shaker and fully automate the process. Researchers at Dr. Reza Ehsani's lab, at the Citrus Research and Education Center at the University of Florida, have designed a fruit pick-up machine that consists of two main sections: a sweeper system and fruit pick-up head. The sweeper system utilizes a new innovative design to move the fruit from under the canopy and windrow to in front of the fruit pick-up head. The pick-up head then picks-up the fruit from the ground and puts them on the fruit conveyor belt. To learn more about this machine, visit our website at <http://citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu>.