During the 2010-11 season, two over-the-row harvesting machines were demonstrated in the UF/SWFREC model grove on a high density planting of 4-year-old Hamlin and ‘Valencia’ trees. These machines, a blueberry harvester and an olive harvester, both showed promising results for harvesting small dwarf trees. It is hoped that more acreage can be located to test these machines and allow the manufacturers to improve their harvesting performance. To learn more about the demonstrations, please visit our website at http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling Systems of Fruits and Nuts, April 2-4, 2011 in Lake Alfred (CREC). You can get more information at http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/harvest.