

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

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Washington State University Extension is active in mechanical harvesting research of several tree crops including cider apples. Their website includes information on mechanization that is used in England and France. Quoted from their site: “Mechanized harvest systems for cider apples have been common in Europe for years. Many traditional cider orchards in England and France are made up of large trees on vigorous rootstocks, free standing and widely spaced. At harvest time, tree shakers knock down the ripe fruit, which is then swept from the ground into a mechanized collector, often equipped with blowers to remove leaves and debris, and loaded into bins. Mechanical harvest technology uses methods designed for varying tree sizes and spacings, farm scale, and grower needs.”

To watch an apple harvester in France watch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yfdWr6cxO0&feature=channel&list=UL>. This and many other YouTube videos of mechanical harvesting systems can be found on our website at <http://citrusMH.ifas.ufl.edu>.