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***New Videos now available***

For Covid19 Update from UF and IFAS please visit these links:

<http://www.ufl.edu/health-updates/>

*As of today, January 8, 2021 GCREC remains closed to the public.*

*Our research continues with a limited number of essential staff, and we are so grateful for their continued dedication. For information contact*

*Christine Cooley [ccooley@ufl.edu](mailto:ccooley@ufl.edu). Administrative staff is on site every day, so please call if you need assistance 813-419-6670.*



*Give Back - Want to support Gulf Coast Research and Education Center? Consider making an online gift today! Questions can be directed to Cody Helmer at (352) 392-1975 or [helmer@ufl.edu](mailto:helmer@ufl.edu).*

## GCREC hosts Virtual Field Day on Wednesday, February 10, 2021

As we continue to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic, our faculty and staff will dive into the virtual meeting format in full force with our first Virtual Field Day scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021. All the best research updates just as if they were in person! Registration is live as of today - <https://gcrecvirtualfieldday2021.eventbrite.com>. The event will start at 9 a.m. and will be broadcast via Zoom throughout the day. You must register in order to get the link to the broadcast. After the event, you will still be able to view the presentations on our YouTube Channel. Registration is free and there is an application for CEUs in process. **NOTE: SCHEDULE AND PRESENTATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO THOSE WHO REGISTER.** Here's the agenda to date:

Welcome Remarks: Dr. Scott Angle, Vice President of IFAS and Dr. Jack Rechcigl, GCREC Center Director/Professor

**Strawberry Breeding:**

Dr. Vance Whitaker, Assoc. Professor – *Two New UF Strawberry Varieties*

Dr. Seonghee Lee, Asst. Professor – *Strawberry Tissue Culture and Cultivar Improvement*

**Ag Economics:**

Dr. Zhengfei Guan, Assoc. Professor – *Mexican Trade Updates*

**Pest/Disease Control for Strawberries:**

Dr. Johan Desaegeer, Asst. Professor – *Overview of Chemical and Non-Chemical Nematode Management in Vegetables and Strawberries*

Dr. Sriyanka Lahiri, Asst. Professor – *Insect Management in Organic Strawberry*

Dr. Natalia Peres, Professor – *Neopestalotiopsis on Strawberry*

**Tomato Breeding:**

Dr. Sam Hutton, Assoc. Professor – *Breeding Approaches to Develop Tomatoes for Mechanical Harvest; and Progress in Advancing Bacterial Wilt Resistance for Large Fruited Tomatoes*

Dr. Tong Geon Lee, Asst. Professor – *Research Focuses on the Study of Tomato Genetics and its Application in Solving Problems in Tomato Production*

**Pest/Disease Control for Vegetables:**

Dr. Nathan Boyd, Assoc. Professor – *Effects of Chloropicrin and 1,3-Dichloropropene Ratio and Rate on Pest Control*

Dr. Joseph Carrillo, Post Doc Assoc. and Dr. Gary Vallad, Professor – *Evaluation of Biological and Conventional Pesticides for Fusarium Wilt Management on Tomato and Watermelon*

Dr. Gary Vallad, Professor – *Identifying and Managing Downy Mildew on Common Cucurbit Species*

Dr. Hugh Smith, Assoc. Professor – *Managing Invasive Pests in an Agriculturally Diverse State*

**Soil and Water Science:**

Dr. Mary Lusk, Asst. Professor – *Excess Nutrients in Florida's Water – Where do they come from?*

**Geomatics:**

Dr. Amr Abd-Elrahman, Assoc. Professor – *Using Drone and Ground Images in Phenotyping and Precision Agriculture Applications*

**Plant Physiology:**

Dr. Shinsuke Agehara, Asst. Professor – *Double-Season Hop Production in Florida – How to grow hops in the subtropics*

## GCREC in the News

‘Hometown Hillsborough’ names local crops, harvest times and recipes

<https://www.observernews.net/2021/01/07/homegrown-hillsborough/>

Cheers! Here’s how to grow hops in Florida (op-ed)

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/12/25/cheers-heres-how-to-grow-hops-in-florida-column/>

UF Scientists Help Thwart Disease That Can Ravage the Popular Gerbera Daisy

<https://www.growingamerica.com/news/2021/01/uf-scientists-help-thwart-disease-can-ravage-popular-gerbera-daisy>

Florida weather results in next-level strawberry quality

<https://www.agweb.com/article/florida-weather-results-next-level-strawberry-quality>

<https://www.thepacker.com/markets/shipping/sustainable-options-help-florida-growers-fight-pests>

Florida nonprofit helps veterans into the agriculture industry

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/military/2020/12/23/florida-nonprofit-helps-veterans-into-the-agriculture-industry/>

## Latest Publications

Lin, S.-Y. and S. Agehara. 2020. Foliar application of defoliant before winter chill accumulation advances budbreak and improves fruit earliness of blackberry under subtropical climatic conditions. Hortscience. 10.21273/hortsci15533-20

## Social Media

GCREC is dedicated to make sure we share our amazing research with everyone – worldwide. One lesson we have learned during the last year is social media is something to embrace and certainly an easy way to disseminate information. You can find us on the following social media outlets:

[YouTube.com](#)

[Facebook](#)

[UF/IFAS Blogs](#)

*Here are a few new social media highlights:*

Virtual hopyard tour <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4qrj3jZ6i57aJHMbAgccdHDleJ4TZ4f>

Horticultural Crop Physiology Lab updates Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UFHortLab>

Hops research updates Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UFHops>



## Hops research update

Using LED supplemental lighting, Dr. Shinsuke Agehara's lab successfully harvested hops twice (June and November) in 2020 – Florida is the only state where hops have two growth cycles per year. Our first-year 'Cascade' yield was about 90% of the average commercial yield in the Pacific Northwest! It typically takes 3 years for hops to reach the full yield potential, so our yield is expected to increase this year. The spring growing season will start in mid-February.

## Grants and Awards for GCREC Programs

**Dr. Mary Lusk, Assistant Professor of Soil and Water Science** received a grant award from **St. Johns River and South Florida Water Management Districts**. The award will fund research on nitrogen and phosphorus in reclaimed water used for urban lawn irrigation, with the goal of better understanding how reclaimed water can be a source of the nitrogen and phosphorus that may be fueling algal blooms in the Indian River Lagoon. The project will be based in urban residential communities in St. Lucie County.

**Dr. Sriyanka Lahiri, Assistant Professor of Entomology and Nematology** received an FDACS - Specialty Crop Block Grant of \$294,854.00 to work on thrips management in strawberries and peppers. This is a joint effort from Lahiri and Dr. Hugh Smith's Entomology Lab to study the population dynamics of thrips pests and natural enemies in a relay cropped strawberry-pepper system of Florida for which we will collect field data from four commercial fields during two consecutive strawberry seasons.

## GCREC is HIRING!

**Research assistant (OPS position) to work on Citrus tissue culture**, agrobacterium mediated transformation, genome editing, gene expression, PCR, qPCR, DNA/RNA/Protein extraction and ornamental breeding. This position required to work on lab, clean bench for tissue culture, growth chamber, green house, and field. If you are interested to join our lab and get experienced with tissue culture and molecular biology techniques, please send your CV to [sparajuli@ufl.edu](mailto:sparajuli@ufl.edu) or [zdeng@ufl.edu](mailto:zdeng@ufl.edu). Hiring will be done immediately.

**OPS position available in small fruit entomology program** and the lab is ready to hire – start immediately. The position is based at GCREC and involves field and lab work. Contact [lahiris@ufl.edu](mailto:lahiris@ufl.edu).

