



**WINDERMERE TREE BOARD**

**Chair: Frank Krens**

**Vice Chair: Vicki Hearst**

**Secretary: Bonnie Di Cocco**

**Treasurer: Pamela Schrimsher**

**Joan Foglia**

**Olga Aleksandrova**

**Elena LaRochelle**

***Agenda***

***Agenda***

**Council Liaison: Tom Stroup**

**March 12, 2024**

**9:30 AM**

**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM  
614 MAIN STREET, BUILDING 100  
WINDERMERE, FL 34786**

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS**

PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH F.S. 286.26: Person with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any such proceedings should contact the Office of the Clerk at least 48 hours beforehand at (407) 876-2563.

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2005-12 adopted on December 13, 2005, the following Civility Code shall govern all proceedings before the Town of Windermere Windermere Tree Board:

1. All electronic devices, including cell phones and pagers, shall be either turned off or otherwise silenced.
2. Prolonged conversation shall be conducted outside Council meeting hall.
3. Whistling, heckling, gesturing, loud conversations, or other disruptive behavior is prohibited.
4. Only those individuals who have signed the speaker list and/or who have been recognized by the Mayor (or Chair) may address comments to the Council.
5. Comments at public hearings shall be limited to the subject being considered by the Council
6. Comments at Open Forums shall be directed to Town issues.
7. All public comments shall avoid personal attacks and abusive language
8. No person attending a Windermere Tree Board meeting is to harass, annoy, or otherwise disturb any other person in the room.

Any member of the public whose behavior is disruptive and violates the Town of Windermere Civility Code is subject to removal from the Windermere Tree Board meeting by an officer and such other actions as may be appropriate. PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH F.S. 286.0105: Any person who desires to appeal any decision at this meeting will need a record of this proceeding. For this, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of such proceeding is made which includes the

## AGENDA

- 1. MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR**
- 2. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minutes Limit)**
- 3. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHED)**
  - a. February 15, 2024 Tree Board Minutes**
- 4. OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**
  - A. Financial Report (Pam Schrimsher)**
  - B. Strategic Planning Sessions**
    - i. Summary and Impressions from Session 1 (Frank Krens / all)**
    - ii. Date and Time for Session 2 (all)**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. 500 Block Tree Mitigation Planting Plans and Status (Vicki Hearst)**
  - B. Bylaws Update – revised and copy to Dorothy Burkhalter, Town Clerk?  
(Bonnie Di Cocco)**
  - C. Historic Grove Maintenance Contract Status / Update / Additional Actions  
(Tonya Elliott-Moore)**
  - D. Tree Survey Status / Update (Tonya Elliott-Moore)**
  - E. Input / Coordination with Other TOW Committees and Garden Club (Vicki Hearst)**
  - F. Vision / Mission / Strategic Plan Workshop Report (Tonya Elliott-Moore)**
  - G. 500 Block Update (Brad Cornelius / Tonya Elliott-Moore)**
  - H. Update on trailer repairs and cleanout**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Near-Term / Urgent Actions Discussed / Proposed at Strategic Planning**

## **Workshop**

- i. WTB Booth at Windermere Fine Art Show March 9-10 (Frank Krens)**
- ii. Educational and Outreach Opportunities at Other Community Events (Frank Krens)**
- iii. Budget Planning Process, Timing, Inputs Needed (Pam Schrimsher and Tonya Elliott-Moore)**
- iv. Unadopted Tree Plan and Status (Vicki Hearst)**
- v. 500 Block Mitigation Plantings Plan and Status (Vicki Hearst)**
- vi. Grove Enhancement Question to HPB (Frank Krens)**
- vii. Regulatory Update Approach / Status (Tonya Elliott-Moore and Brad Cornelius)**
- viii. ix Board Education Opportunities (Tonya Elliott-Moore)**

**B. Creation of list of trees planted each year for database inclusion.**

**C. TOW Centennial Celebration Ideas**

- 7 SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED AND ACTIONS TAKEN (Bonnie Di Cocco)**
- 8. POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (all)**
- 9. DATE AND TIME FOR APRIL MEETING (all).**
- 10. ADJOURN (Frank Krens)**



## MINUTES

Windermere Tree Board  
February 15, 2024

Mission Statement: Augment community awareness of our Urban Forest, provide education regarding the benefits of trees and a commitment to protect, preserve and proliferate our community's Urban Forest. Beautify our Windermere Parks and Recreation Areas.

Tree Board Members: Frank Krens, Pamela Schrimsher, Vicki Hearst, Bonnie DiCocco, Joan Foglia, Elena LaRochelle, Olga Aleksandrova

### 1. THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER

Tree Board member Frank Krens called the meeting to order at 10:00am in the Windermere Town Hall at 520 Main Street, Windermere, FL 34786. The requirement for a quorum was met.

Participants:

- **Tree Board** – Frank Krens, Pamela Schrimsher, Vicki Hearst, Bonnie DiCocco, Joan Foglia, Olga Aleksandrova, Elena LaRochelle
- **TOW Public Works** – Tonya Elliott-Moore, Travis Mathias
- **Town Council** – Tom Stroup

### 2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments

### 3. Minutes of January 18, 2024.

- a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Vicki Hearst. Joan Foglia seconded. Motion carried.

#### **4. Officer/committee reports and administrative issues**

- a. Administration - Roberts Rules of Order (Attachment) (Frank Krens)
- b. Financial Report (Pam Schrimsher) \$210 of trees sold at Tree Giveaway. Pam asked that expenses for the Tree Giveaway be submitted by the end of February.
- c. Other

#### **5 OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Tree Giveaway Review and Lessons Learned (Vickie Hearst)
  - i. 121 trees were brought in for the Tree Giveaway. 20 trees remained for the sale. 5 trees remained after the giveaway and sale. Vicki obtained permission to plant the trees at Windermere reserve.
  - ii. It is recommended that next year, we hire additional help to unload the trees.
  - iii. Nothing was stolen this year with Vicki's signage and the additional police car.
  - iv. It is recommended that the Tree Giveaway be shortened by an hour next year. We can then have a 'second chance day'.
  - v. It is recommended that we order 110 trees next year.
- b) Bylaws Update – if not present, members can call and listen only
  - i. Dorothy sent an update that those calling in may not speak. Frank is making sure the bylaws are updated accordingly.
- c) Historic Grove Update and Plans
  - i. Jennifer Hitchcock, of Orlando Tree Consultants, spoke to the Board regarding the state of the historic grove. She designated 8 trees that need to be removed. She recommends getting a head start and 'lightly' pruning. She recommends using horticultural oils to get ahead of leaf miners and aphids while it is still cooler. These cannot be used in the hotter months as it can burn the leaves. She recommends fertilizing 4 times a year.

- ii. Per Jennifer, citrus greening has sky rocketed in the last year. Meaning many trees have fruit that will not ripen. Some of our trees do have citrus greening. It is expected that more trees in the historic grove may get citrus greening as the bacteria is present and may travel to other/new trees. Jennifer recommends considering lemons and limes as they're more resistant to citrus greening.
  - iii. Vicki stated that she has observed the grove and recommends proceeding with the grove plan as is, along with planting 15 additional citrus trees and 2 fruit trees on the north exterior perimeter of the grove along with more care and attention. She recommends another 3 year commitment to seeing the grove through as it is.
  - iv. Vicki moved to continue to have a fertilizer and treatment program for the grove and remove the 8 trees Jennifer recommends and add a minimum of 15 additional citrus trees that are resistant to citrus greening. Olga seconded the motion. Motion was discussed as follows: Pam suggested adding a few more varieties of fruit, however, Joan believes that from a historical perspective, the grove may need to be all citrus. As a group, we will determine if this is accurate. Motion approved with 6/0 votes.
  - v. Vicki made a motion to have Orlando Tree Consulting submit an additional proposal for the purchase and installation of 15 additional trees in the historic grove paid for by public works. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried 6/0.
  - vi. Olga made a motion to seek a second opinion for the maintenance and care on the state of the historic grove up to \$250. Elena seconded the motion. Motion carried 5/2.
  - vii. Pam made a motion to hire Orlando Tree Consulting in an amount up to \$4,000 through December 2024 to continue the greening contract, removal of the 8 recommended trees along with additional fertilizing and pruning as necessary. Vicki seconded the motion. Joan asked for clarification on what this plan entails and Jennifer noted that she will send an updated proposal. Motion was approved 5/1.
- d) Tree Survey Review / Status / Plans (Tonya Elliott-Moore)
- i. Tonya is seeing to it that Greehill updates the study's finding to reflect the correct trees. As it stands, all trees are noted as magnolias.
- e) Input/Coordination with Other TOW Committees (Vicki Hearst)

- i. Arbor Day Tree Celebration - Vicki recommends that next year, the Tree Board meeting is held at 12pm after the event so as not to interrupt the Tree Board meeting.
  - ii. Contact the preschool in October of 2024 to secure the children's participation in the 2025 event.
  
- f) Vision/Mission/Strategic Plan Workshop Facilitator and Planning (Tonya Elliott-Moore)
  - i. Joan made a motion to have Thomas Kohler, per Tonya's recommendation, act as a consultant to determine a strategic plan and actionable goals for the Tree Board moving forward. The plan is to have at least (2) 4 hour workshops to determine our direction and he will then create a strategic plan for the Board. The cost to the Tree Board is \$2,500. Elena seconded the motion. Motion carried 6/0.
  
- g) 500 Block Update (Brad Cornelius)
  - i. John Fitzgibbon – Town Consulting Engineer
  - ii. There is a crane in the project strategically removing the remaining trees. They are root pruning and air spading the current trees and they will then go ahead and remove the stumps under structure. The ones not under a structure, they will grind below grade. The next step will be to prune the trees and then move the barriers to the appropriate location on the perimeter of the project. Generally, he is please with how things are proceeding. He believes the current company is doing a great job 'surgically removing' the trees.
  - iii. Vicki is concerned over tree number 1 not being properly marked. John noted that any trees outside of the green fence, with the exception of the tree in the driveway, will not be removed. Right of way trees will be pink taped.
  - iv. John recommended removing part of the exterior barrier to improve the line of sight and aesthetics.
  - v. Vicki made a motion to remove the orange barriers around the trees on Main Street to improve the line of sight and aesthetics as these barriers will foreseeably remain for the next 12 months. Bonnie seconded the motion. Motion carried 7/0.

- vi. Vicki recommends that we begin with the plan to use the trees the Town will received based upon the mitigation plan as we have 176 inches of trees we need to find locations for. She has a list of places and wants to find appropriate trees. She recommends using 45-60 gallon potted trees as their roots are most suitable for quick growth.
- vii. Pam made a motion that Vicki and Elena will work with Tonya to determine locations where the 176" of trees can be used in town along with a list of appropriate trees. Elena seconded the motion. Motion carried 6/0.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Urgent / Time-Critical Matters and Opportunities (all)**

- i. It has been suggested that we find a new storage place. Or, at a very minimum, cleanout and inventory the trailer. In order to move it, the tires would need to be restored. Tonya suggested we get a storage unit like Parks and Rec and Historic Board. The location of these storage units is on Hwy 50 near the Turnpike.
- ii. Joan made a motion to restore the trailer including air in the tires or whatever means necessary. The hatch will also need to be repaired. Joan and Bonnie will clean out the trailer and inventory its contents.

### **b. Potential New Projects (all)**

- i. Heritage Tree Walk (like WG Bloom & Grow Garden Society) (Frank). Frank suggested implementing programs like those noted above as we move forward with the future strategic plan.
- ii. Replace Live Oak the Uprooted at Fernwood Park (Frank)
- iii. Other (all)

## **7. POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (ALL)**

- i. None

## **8. CONSIDERATION TO MOVE MARCH MEETING DATE**

- i. The Board will not be meeting March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board is considering moving the March meeting to March 12 at 9:30am.

## **8. ADJOURN(Frank Krens)**



- i. Pam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:13pm. Olga seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

# Orlando Tree Consulting

722 Adirondack Avenue  
 Orlando, Florida 32807  
 407-476-9444  
 orlandotreeconsulting@gmail.com |  
 www.orlandotreeconsulting.com



**RECIPIENT:**

**Town of Windermere**

520 Main St  
 Windermere, FL 34786

Quote #339	
Sent on	Mar 07, 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,100.00</b>

Product/Service	Description	Total
Annual Fruit Program Treatment 1	<p>Application 1 - March 2024</p> <p>Prepare and treat (26) citrus fruit trees to enhance fruit production by applying special blend slow release citrus blend fertilizer and soil amendments at base of soil. Includes any natural insecticides and fungicides as needed when.</p> <p>*Initial pruning of all older growth to promote new growth and flowers/fruit.                      *Initial pH soil testing of citrus grove to determine annual nutrition program.                      *Spring deep root feeding.</p> <p>Benefits of implementing multi-species cover crops at the research farm have included reducing weed pressures, building organic matter and shielding soil from excessive heat and evaporation. The most obvious benefit however has been attracting beneficial insects. This has kept rust mites, spider mites, greasy spot, sooty mold, scale, orange dogs, aphids, root weevils, and psyllids at extremely low populations.</p>	\$1,000.00
Annual Fruit Program Treatment 2	<p>Application 2 - May 2024</p> <p>Prepare and treat (26) citrus fruit trees to enhance fruit production and development by applying special blend slow release citrus blend fertilizer and soil amendments at base of soil. Includes any natural insecticides and fungicides as needed.</p> <p>*Additional bone meal is applied to better enhance calcium during fruit development.</p>	\$700.00
Cover Crop Citrus Program	<p>Application 3 - July 2024</p> <p>Prepare and treat (26) citrus fruit trees to enhance fruit development by applying special blend slow release citrus blend fertilizer and soil amendments at base of soil. Includes any natural insecticides and fungicides as needed.</p>	\$700.00
Annual Fruit Program Treatment 4	<p>Application 4 - October 2024</p> <p>Prepare and treat (26) citrus fruit trees to enhance fruit development by applying special blend slow release citrus blend fertilizer and soil amendments at base of soil. Includes any natural insecticides and fungicides as needed.</p>	\$700.00*

# Orlando Tree Consulting

722 Adirondack Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32807  
407-476-9444

orlandotreeconsulting@gmail.com |  
www.orlandotreeconsulting.com



**Total**

**\$3,100.00**

\* Non-taxable

All services to be provided must be stated on our work order. If you have any questions, please make sure to ask your Arborist. All proposals over 90 days are subject to review.

TO BE PAID UPON COMPLETION UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED ABOVE. All accounts over 30 days will be charged interest at a rate of 1% per month =/ 12% per annum.

This work is fully covered by public liability of Divine Timing LLC DBA Orlando Tree Consulting., for the complete protection of our clients. Furthermore, Orlando Tree Consulting service trained professionals and modern equipment assures you the safest job possible. In the event Orlando Tree Consulting has to take collection action or is the prevailing party with respect to any collection or litigation arising out of or as a result of the Agreement or the transaction contemplated herein, Orlando Tree Consulting shall be entitled to recover all of its costs and expenses with respect to such collection or litigation, including collection agency fees, reasonable attorney's fees at trial and appellate levels. This agreement is subject to approval by management. Orlando Tree Consulting will not be responsible for any damages to property not visible where not specifically mentioned herein, especially underground installation such as sprinkler systems, water and sewer pipes, septic tank and drain fields, and electrical systems including landscape lighting. It is advisable to not enter the tree's drip line after treatment for at least 4 hours unless the arborist communicates less time otherwise.

The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above. Trees and plants are living things and are subject to a variety of potential health problems, abiotic factors and unpredictable weather that can cause healthy trees and plants to fail. Orlando Tree Consulting is not responsible for acts of unplanned natural causes where the tree/palm fails. Treatments recommended and administered are to enhance the palm/tree's current health. And are based on my professional experience, formal education, and methodologies and science-based research of the International Society of Arboriculture, ISA and the University of Florida IFAS research/publications. Ultimately the client must use their own judgment and decisions but may consider our treatments and recommendations for long-term health options.



Photo by Juanita Popenoe

**Figure 1.** Clover planted as a cover crop has nodules containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

# Cover crops for citrus

By Sarah Strauss, Davie Kadyampakeni, Ramdas Kanissery, Tara Wade, Lauren Diepenbrock and Juanita Popenoe

**C**over crops are specific crops not intended for sale but for soil improvement and sustainability. They are increasingly common in the agricultural fields of the Midwest and other grain-producing regions because of the wide range of benefits not just for the soil, but also the cash crop. In those systems, cover crops improve water and nutrient retention, promote microbial activity, reduce weed growth and insect pests, and improve plant growth. Similar impacts have been found in tree crops like apples and peaches, where cover crops are planted in row middles.

As citrus greening (huanglongbing or HLB) can significantly impact root growth and nutrient and water uptake, the benefits from cover crops may be an additional strategy to improve Florida citrus production and reduce fertilizer and water inputs.

## WHY PLANT COVER CROPS?

One of the main benefits of cover crops is their contribution to the key drivers of soil health: soil organic matter (SOM) and soil microbial diversity and composition. One of the primary methods for increasing SOM occurs when soil carbon (C) is added to the soil, which drives increased soil microbial activity and decomposition. Unlike compost, which for citrus is often only applied at planting or periodically throughout the year, cover crop root mass and leaf litter can provide soil C inputs year-round. Increasing the SOM can also improve soil nutrient retention and availability.

For example, increased SOM can increase the soil water-holding capacity and reduce the soil temperature. In citrus, this might reduce the amount of irrigation necessary and potentially allow for greater tree water uptake and reduced nutrient leaching.

Changes in the soil microbial community composition due to increased SOM may include more plant growth-promoting bacteria, which can improve root growth, or changes in the abundance of nitrogen (N) cycling organisms. In a preliminary trial where bahiagrass was planted as a cover crop, a significantly different bacterial community composition was found

after just six months in soils under bahiagrass compared to soils under the grower-standard of mowed weeds. We are currently investigating whether this composition change includes increases in plant growth-promoting bacteria that correlate with improved root growth and production.

Cover crops can also suppress weed growth by directly competing with weeds for space, light, nutrients and moisture. Depending on the cover crop mix and timing, weed proliferation may even be reduced for the duration of the cover crop life cycle. In a preliminary University of Florida trial, planting bahiagrass as a cover crop reduced weed density by 95 percent compared to the grower-standard citrus row middles. Both broadleaf and grass weeds were suppressed by bahiagrass in this trial.

Competition from a fast-growing and vigorous cover crop can prevent the emergence and growth of most annual weeds. Perennial weeds that regenerate from stolons, rhizomes or tubers are more difficult to suppress, but even their growth and reproduction can be reduced by planting a combination of aggressive cover crops. Chemicals produced by the roots of cover crops or from decaying plant residue might also inhibit germination of weed seeds and emerging seedlings and retard their growth and proliferation.

## TYPES AND TIMING

The type and mix of cover crops planted can provide additional soil health and production benefits. Legume cover crops, such as perennial peanut, sunn hemp and some clovers, can contribute to soil N (Figure 1), although the inoculation of these cover crops with rhizobia can be hindered by too much N fertilization. Cover crop biomass, and therefore soil C inputs, can also vary with variety. For example, sunn hemp can produce more than twice the biomass of sorghum-sudangrass. The cover crop species may also impact the soil microbial community, which could have implications for soil nutrient cycling and availability.


In a preliminary vegetable trial in Southwest Florida that examined different summer cover crops, the bacterial community composition was significantly different under three treatments:

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\*Turfgrass Nutrition: iron, manganese and magnesium: Travis Shaddox, PhD, et al. Florida Turf Digest, March/April 2016



Photo by Sarah Strauss

**Figure 2.** A summer mix of cover crops planted in a commercial citrus grove (pictured a few weeks after germination) includes buckwheat, browntop millet, sunflower and sunn hemp.

sunn hemp, sorghum-sudangrass and a no-treatment control. Timing cover crop production, mowing and incorporation of biomass, particularly those of legumes, to provide nutrients when most beneficial to citrus production is not well known but is currently being examined in field trials.

Most commonly used cover crops are seasonal. To keep cover crop biomass in a citrus grove, different cover crops need to be planted throughout the year. Typically, summer cover crops (Figure 2) are planted during the rainy season (June–September). A winter/spring mix is planted in January/February. It is critical to choose cover crop varieties that are adapted for these seasons, particularly the winter crop as precipitation will be limited (Table 1, page 19).

The establishment time for cover crop varieties should also be considered. While perennial peanut has been examined for use in citrus and can grow well in Florida soils, it can take a long time to become established. Other peanut varieties may establish more quickly and may be more suitable for planting in citrus groves.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

To prepare citrus row middles for planting cover crops, the current vegetation should be mowed, and herbicide may be applied to reduce germination

competition. Ideally, cover crops require minimal inputs, but germination and early stand establishment are substantially improved if rainfall or irrigation occurs soon after planting. The frequency for mowing the cover crops will depend on planting timing and growth rate. Standard mowing practices will keep the biomass within the row middles, providing additional soil C and nutrient inputs for that portion of the grove.


Management for insect and mite pests is likely to be influenced by the addition of cover crops in groves. Including flowering plants like buckwheat and peanut in cover crop mixes in both agronomic row crops and other perennial fruit orchards in other regions has resulted in increased abundance and diversity of predatory arthropods. These help to reduce the number of pest insects like aphids, scales and mites.

It is also possible that some plant species in cover crop mixes can attract other pests which may not be currently problematic in citrus groves. We anticipate that insect management practices will require different considerations than our current traditional production systems.

## CITRUS CHALLENGES

Cover crops are well studied in annual crops, but we don't know as much about their influence on soil health and root growth in perennial

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**Table 1.** These cover crop varieties are known to grow well in Florida. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are capable of nitrogen fixation. Some of these cover crops are currently being tested in mixes in University of Florida field trials in commercial citrus groves.

Summer Cover Crops	Winter/Spring Cover Crops	Perennial Cover Crops
<p><b>Buckwheat</b> (<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>)</p> <p><b>Browntop millet</b> (<i>Urochloa ramosa</i>)</p> <p><b>Sunflower</b> (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)</p> <p><b>*Sunn hemp</b> (<i>Crotalaria juncea</i> L.)</p> <p><b>*Sesbania</b> (<i>Sesbania exaltata</i> Raf.)</p> <p><b>Hairy indigo/vetch</b> (<i>Vicia villosa</i> Roth)</p>	<p><b>Daikon radish</b> (<i>Raphanus sativus</i> var. Longipinnatus)</p> <p><b>Winter rye</b> (<i>Secale cereale</i> L.)</p> <p><b>*Alyceclover</b> (<i>Alysicarpus vaginalis</i> L.)</p>	<p><b>*Pinto perennial peanut</b> (<i>Arachis pintoii</i>)</p> <p><b>Bahiagrass</b> (<i>Paspalum notatum</i>)</p>

crops, including citrus. There are many questions about the best mixes of cover crop species and the timing of planting, as well as how these combinations may impact soil nutrient cycling and water storage. The appropriate cover crop mix will largely depend on grove needs (e.g., increase SOM or weed management) and location (e.g., soil characteristics or weather).

It is not clear what amount of nutrients are released into the soil from cover crops planted in a citrus grove, particularly those that increase N fixation. The possibility of interference of cover crops with citrus either by competing for nutrients or for moisture in dry weather conditions has not been fully examined.

Little is also known about the

economic benefits of cover crop adoption for citrus in Florida. Some considerations to keep in mind are capital investments in a planter (e.g., no-till planter), seed costs, labor and time needed to learn effective management of this system. We are currently working on field trials with commercial growers to address these questions. Based on preliminary data and conversations with growers who are already planting cover crops, it appears that cover crops may be extremely beneficial to Florida citrus production by improving soil quality and ecological sustainability. 🌱

*Sarah Strauss, Ramdas Kanissery and Tara Wade are assistant professors at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. Davie Kadyampakeni and Lauren Diepenbrock are assistant professors at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. Juanita Popenoe is a UF/IFAS Extension agent in commercial fruit production for Lake, Orange, and Marion counties.*



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