



**UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA**

**Cooperative Extension Service**

**Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences**

## **PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER**

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### **NEW PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Will Wardowski, Citrus REC, Lake Alfred

Welcome Dr. Mark Ritenour, the third editor of this Newsletter. The first 23 issues were edited by Bill Grierson, I added 167 to the collection, and we expect Mark to continue the tradition. Mark Ritenour is the postharvest citrus Extension agent at the Indian River Research & Education Center in Ft. Pierce. Watch for innovations and improvements in the near future.

### **CITRUS PACKINGHOUSE DAY PROGRAM**

The following presentations are anticipated Thursday, August 17, 2000 at Citrus Packinghouse Day.

Mr. David Lester, Waverly Regulatory Associates – Water Recycling System  
Mr. Leon Hebb, Citrus Canker Eradication Program – Citrus Canker  
Dr. Mark Ritenour, Indian River REC – Green Ring  
Dr. Steve Pao, Florida Department of Citrus – Sanitation, HACCP  
Mr. Steve Maxwell, Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. – Volume Filling  
Dr. Huating Dou, Florida Department of Citrus – Chilling Injury  
Dr. Bill Miller, Citrus REC – Refrigeration Study  
Dr. Suzanne Thornsby, Indian River REC – International Marketing  
Mr. Mark Thomas, Florida Department of Citrus – Prepeeled Fruit Demonstration

**THANK YOU FLORIDA CITRUS INDUSTRY**

Will Wardowski, Citrus REC, Lake Alfred

Effective June 30 I will retire from the University of Florida. It will be a bittersweet transition after 31 years, 167 Packinghouse Newsletters, 31 Citrus Packinghouse Days and countless phone calls, site visits, and packers' conferences. This Newsletter, Citrus Packinghouse Day and other activities will be directed by capable University of Florida faculty.

I will miss many friends in the citrus industry and the academic community. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work for and with the Florida citrus industry. My wife and I will reside on Longboat Key and will be active in some citrus activities. We will see some of you in the future.

**DR. JIUXU ZHANG**

Monica Lewandowski, Citrus REC, Lake Alfred

CREC extends a warm welcome to Dr. Jiuxu Zhang, plant pathologist with the Florida Department of Citrus. Dr. Zhang arrived in December to fill the position left vacant after the retirement of Dr. Eldon Brown last year.

Dr. Zhang will embark on the study of postharvest diseases of citrus. Among his list of projects:

- ◆ Identification and characterization of natural antimicrobial compounds from microbial antagonists, citrus and citrus relatives, and evaluate the potential of natural products for postharvest decay control.
- ◆ Explore the mechanisms of citrus fruit resistance to postharvest decay pathogens by characterizing possible phytoalexins produced by host fruit.
- ◆ Determination of pathogenesis and virulence factors (cell wall-degrading enzymes) from citrus postharvest pathogens.
- ◆ Elucidate physiological and biochemical mechanisms involved in latent infection fungal pathogens (*Phomopsis citri*, *Diplodia natalensis* and *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*) that become active on mature fruit and ethylene degreened fruit.
- ◆ Evaluation of fungicides for citrus postharvest decay control.
- ◆ Develop biocontrol agents for citrus postharvest decay control.

### From China to Texas

Dr. Zhang, originally from the P. R. China, earned a B.S. in Plant Protection from Northwest Agricultural University in Shaaxi, P.R. China, in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Texas A & M University in 1995.

From 1982-1990, Dr. Zhang conducted research in cotton pathology and disease control at the Cotton Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Henan, first as a Research Fellow, then later as a Research Plant Pathologist.

In 1990, Dr. Zhang moved to the USDA-ARS Southern Crops Research Laboratory in College Station, Texas, where he conducted research on the mechanisms of cotton resistance to wilt pathogens. One and a half years later, Dr. Zhang entered the Ph.D. program at Texas A & M's Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, where he was engaged in research on the biological control of cotton diseases.

### Postdoctoral Experience

Prior to coming to Lake Alfred, Dr. Zhang spent four years as a postdoctoral research scientist at the USDA-ARS South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory in Lane, Oklahoma, where he studied postharvest and soil-borne diseases of cucurbits. Much of his work focused on the characterization of cell-wall degrading enzymes produced by postharvest fungal pathogens of muskmelon.

Dr. Zhang and his wife, JunLing Li, have an 11-year old daughter, Lisa Zhang, and a 5-year old son, Jack Zhang. His laboratory and office are located on the second floor of the Packinghouse building.

## THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CITRUS PACKINGHOUSE DAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2000

CITRUS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

700 EXPERIMENT STATION ROAD

LAKE ALFRED, FL 33850



Registration – 8:30 AM

Program – 9:30 AM



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**Available from Jane Wilson, Citrus REC, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, Florida  
33850**

**Packinghouse Newsletter Index for issues 1-190.**