



2023

**John T. Lesley
Award of Excellence**

John T. Lesley Award

- First presented to John T. Lesley in 1981
- As a special tribute to Mr. Lesley – the award was named in his honor
- It is presented in recognition of an individual/individuals for outstanding leadership and service on behalf of the Florida fresh citrus industry
- It is awarded by peers, which enhances the value and significance.

Slight shift in the format

- The recipient is traditionally a well-kept secret.
 - This year, we are recognizing two-person team
 - It was essential that they be honored together.
 - Because they are out of the country, and will not return until September, they were informed of the award, giving family members, and the current leadership team of the company, to accept the award and recognition on their behalf.
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- Each year, we seek to identify a special presenter for the award. This person has a special relationship, history or special significance.

Please Welcome

Mr. Chuck Allison

for a special recognition of this year's recipients.

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Michel & Veronique Sallin



Their story begins in France, 1951.

A Farmer at Heart:

Born and raised on an apple farm in Normandy, France.



A City Girl:

Raised in the outskirts of Paris, France.



Both attend the prestigious HEC Business School of Paris - the Harvard of Europe.



But only meet after graduation on a trip with a friend in common.

They travel across Africa doing market research for luxury French brands seeking to implant into the South African market.



They marry, and Michel's young career in finance takes them to live in London, Paris and New York.



Along the way, one of their 3 children is born in each city: Melanie, Timothee and Chloe.

They discover the Florida Citrus Industry while doing market research for their family's apple farming and processing business.



They begin as brokers, marketing a modest 10,000 cartons to France in their first year.



Within 7 years, they become the largest export broker of Florida grapefruit with 1.4 million cartons marketed.

Over time, they vertically integrate their citrus business:

1979: Begin export brokerage to France

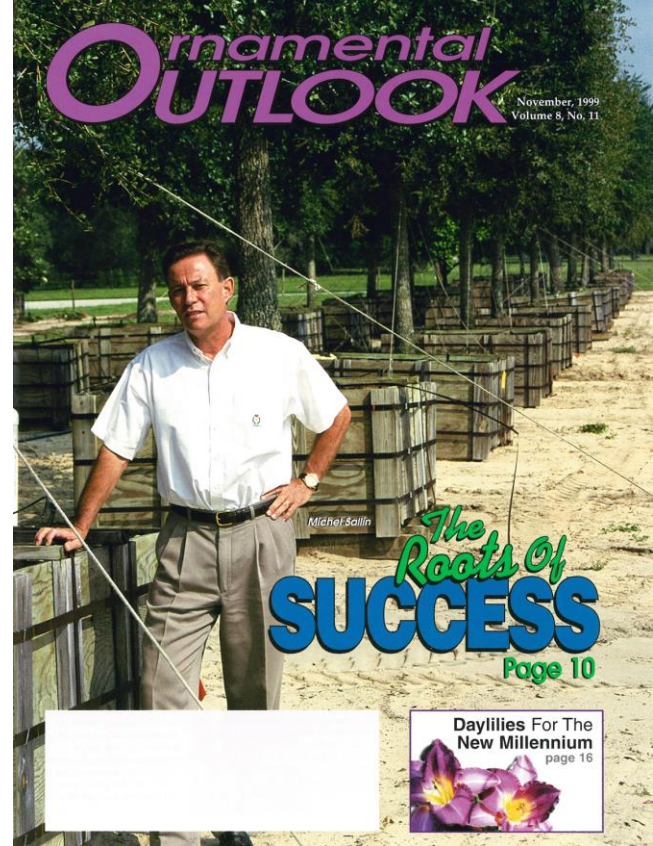
1981: Purchase 1st Citrus Groves in Lake County

1999: Purchase Packinghouse in Vero

2014: Launch a Summer Import program



While also staying diversified by building a leading ornamental tree farm and landscape company.



Their diversification allows them to weather the challenges of the citrus industry, and invest in times of crisis.

BREAKING Patrols added for school bus safety

FEATURED

IMG Citrus acquires Chiquita grove in Charlotte County

Updated May 14, 2022

IMG Citrus Invests \$1.5 million In Their Packinghouse

By SPW Staff - September 18, 2019

IMG Citrus Makes Another Move To Gain More Market Growth

Posted by Paul Rusnak | January 9, 2023



Florida-based IMG Citrus has announced the acquisition of the J&J Fresh Produce assets located

IMG Citrus Acquires Facility and Farmland

JANUARY 9, 2023 / INDUSTRY NEWS RELEASE

IMG Citrus, based in Vero Beach, Florida, has acquired J&J Fresh Produce assets. These assets, all located in Vero Beach, include a new 185,000-square-foot cold storage and packaging facility and 1,000 acres of farmland in the Delta Farms Water Control District.



Dedicated to see the industry grow and thrive, Michel serves the industry with leadership and vision.

Florida Citrus Packers Association (FCPA)
Past President

The Indian River Citrus League (IRCL)
Past Chairman, Past President

American Horticulture Society
Board of Directors



He travels the world to learn from others and bring back new ideas to the Florida Citrus industry

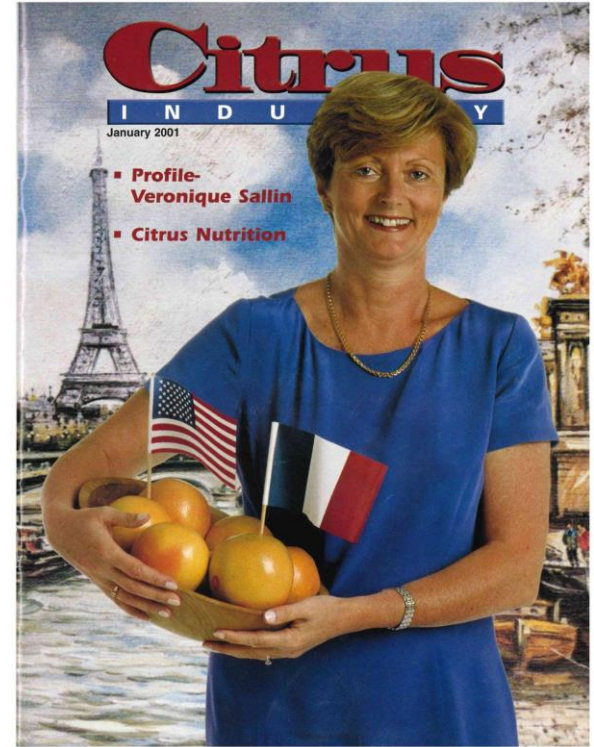
“If it's not broke, then break it and make it better” is his motto.

Strategic Planning and managing with data are his philosophy for helping move both his business and the industry forward.



Veronique works passionately to promote Florida grapefruit world-wide.

She opens shorter distribution channels by selling directly to European retailers, resulting in higher returns to the grower and fresher product on the market.



And she paves the way for women to join the Florida Citrus industry in leadership positions.



Their impact is
recognized as
individuals.

2020 CEOs of the Year: Cherrylake's Michel Sallin plants the seeds for future growth of his agribusiness

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Image: Orlando Business Journal

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recognized as
individuals.**

LIVING | PEOPLE & PLACES

Veronique Sallin Recognized as Woman of the Year in Agriculture

by Kim Hill
April 20, 2021



Veronique Sallin, 2020 Woman of the Year in Agriculture Photo credit: Cherrylake

As the 2020 Woman of the Year in Agriculture, Veronique Sallin feels a sense of responsibility.

"People are looking to me to set an example," she says. Sallin is already the epitome of

Together, they truly shape a vision for future forward agriculture and growing people that is recognized.

- Agriculture Environmental Leadership Award (Florida Department of Agriculture, 2016)
- 12th Best Place to Work in Central Florida (Orlando Business Journal, 2016)
- CARES Award Recipient (Florida Farm Bureau, 2015)
- 3rd Largest Wholesale Ornamental Nursery in the US (Nursery Management Magazine, 2015)
- Top 100 Companies for Working Families (Orlando Sentinel, 2013)
- Employees' Choice Award (Orlando Sentinel, 2013)
- Operation of the Year (Ornamental Outlook, 2000)
- Florida Grower of the Year (International Society of Arborist, 1999)
- Grower of the Year (FNGLA, 1998)



Retired in 2020, their legacy lives on through the 2nd generation of family leadership.



INDUSTRY

Florida agribusiness firm announces new co-CEO restructure



Chloe Gentry (from left), Melanie Ressler and Timothee Salin are now co-CEOs of IMG Enterprises, parent company of IMG Citrus and Cherrylake Inc.

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