



**INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**  
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**FLORIDA  
COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION SERVICE**

## **PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER**

W. Wardowski, Editor  
AREC  
P. O. Box 1088  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850  
Phone (813) 956-1151

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Key Word Index Electric eyes, Energy, Packers' Corner, Pesticide clearances, Photocells, Sunburst Citrus Hybrid, Tangerines.

### SUNBURST CITRUS HYBRID

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the release of the SUNBURST citrus hybrid February 1, 1979. SUNBURST was developed and tested in the breeding program of the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, Orlando, Florida. Fruit of SUNBURST, a hybrid of Robinson X Osceola, would be marketed from about mid-November through mid-December.

Based on experimental results, the advantages of SUNBURST are as follows:

1. Its fruit ripen after Robinson and before Dancy, a period when there are no Florida tangerines ripening. This is probably the most desirable harvest period because of the lucrative Christmas market.
2. Its fruit are larger and more attractive than those of a Dancy or Robinson.
3. The uniformity of fruit size and maturity results in a higher percentage packout at harvest when compared with Dancy and Robinson.
4. The fruit rind usually is fully colored by the time that the fruit is mature enough to harvest. This reduces or eliminates the need for treatment in a degreening room at the packinghouse. Packing costs are reduced because the fruit are in the packinghouse for a shorter period and there is reduced handling.
5. Postharvest fruit decay losses are less than that of Dancy and Robinson.
6. This hybrid has performed well in tests in the Indian River area where the performance of tangerines is notably poor.
7. The tree is healthy and durable and supports a large fruit crop well.
8. The trees are highly tolerant of the snow scale insect.
9. Initiation of spring growth is usually about 1-2 weeks later than other similar cultivars. This may aid in avoiding injury from late frost.
10. The trees are among the more cold-hardy mandarin cultivars. The fruit can be harvested by early winter which may enable the fruit to evade freeze injury.

11. The trees have field resistance to Alternaria, a relatively new tangerine disease to which Dancy is very susceptible.

12. There is less rind injury from plugging when fruit is snapped, rather than clipped, during harvest when compared with Dancy.

13. The fruit juice has desirable color, taste, and quality (total soluble solids - acid ratio) for use in juice blending as a means of marketing packinghouse rejected fruit.

A limited supply of SUNBURST budwood indexed and found free of psorosis, xyloporosis and exocortis viruses will be available about the end of March. Requests for budwood should be addressed to Dr. C. J. Hearn, U. S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, 2120 Camden Road, Orlando, FL 32803.

Roger Young  
Jack Hearn  
USDA, Orlando

Editor's note: Jack Hearn is expected to be on the Citrus Packinghouse Day Program, Wednesday, September 5, 1979, AREC, Lake Alfred to discuss the Sunburst citrus hybrid.

## **PACKERS' CORNER**

### PHOTOCELLS AND AUTOMATIC SWITCHES

Jim Ellis, General Manager, Lake Garfield Citrus Coop., continues to share his innovations with our readers. Jim is removing dry trash (Packinghouse Newsletter No. 98) so that his rinse water is less polluted. He has now added standard solenoid switches to turn off and conserve the rinse water when the packing line is not running.

Photocells ("electric eyes") have been installed at Lake Garfield near the top of the cannery bins to sound an alarm when a bin is full — if the alarm sounds for ten minutes without a response, the entire packing line will stop.

Finally, controls soon to be installed at key points on the packing line will signal the packinghouse manager if fruit piles up at key points along the line. This can happen when machinery is started up out of sequence, if there is a mechanical breakdown, or if the flow is too fast for the packers to handle.

Jim Ellis is using standard, readily available equipment to multiply the efforts of his employees and operate a citrus packinghouse more efficiently.

Will Wardowski  
Extension Service  
Lake Alfred

ENERGY SURVEY

An energy consumption survey for Florida citrus packinghouses is being distributed to members of the Florida Citrus Packers. Other packers expressing an interest in energy conservation are invited to obtain a copy of the two page questionnaire (just call us or send a postcard) to supply answers for comparison. We hope to be able to identify variations in energy consumption and reasons for high or low use per amount of fruit handled. In this time of high inflation, soaring fuel costs and possible energy shortages, our combined efforts with citrus packers on efficient energy use could help control costs.

Will Wardowski  
Extension Service  
Bill Miller  
AREC, Lake Alfred

PESTICIDE USE INCONSISTENT WITH THE LABEL

Growers, not registrants, are given greater authority with the new Federal Pesticide Law involving "use inconsistent with the label" since a grower can use a pesticide for any pest on a crop if the pesticide is labeled for that crop. However, the registrant, for example a chemical salesman, cannot recommend his pesticide for that particular pest unless it is on the label. The registrants who try to use by air, etc., contrary to what is printed on the label, will be charged with violation of Section 12(a)(1)(B), unlawful claims differing from the label statement used as part of registration..."

Richard Lipsey  
Chemically Speaking  
Florida Cooperative  
Extension Service  
Gainesville  
December 1978

Editor's note: Fungicides on fruit and wood preservatives on pallet boxes are "pesticides" within the meaning of this law.

HOLES IN THIS EDITION

If the system works, you should find three holes neatly punched in this and future Packinghouse Newsletters. Requests for our recent index for the first 100 issues reminded us of the number of subscribers who keep back copies for reference. The holes are for the convenience of those who use a three ring binder for Packinghouse Newsletters.

Editor

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Available from Mr. Ben Abbitt, AREC, P. O. Box 1088, Lake Alfred, FL 33850

"A method for estimating net total loss from losing a citrus tree" by B. Abbitt, R. P. Muraro and T. H. Spreen. Food and Resource Economics Department, Economic Information Report 105. February 1979.

Available from Dr. Irving Eaks, Department of Biochemistry, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521

"The effect of vegetative ground cover and ethylene degreening on 'Valencia' rind pigments" by I. L. Eaks and A. J. Dawson. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 104(1):105-109, 1979.



W. Wardowski, Editor  
Associate Professor-  
Extension Horticulturist

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