UF IFAS
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FBGA Research Priorities Committee

2024 FBGA Fall Meeting

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

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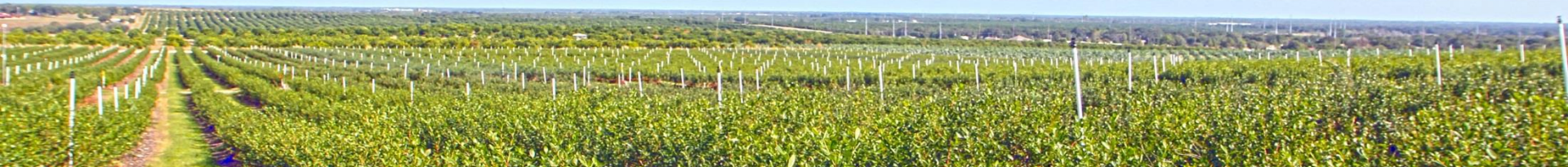
FBGA Research Priorities

- Committee of FBGA Board Members
  - Charge is to formalize a list of prioritized research needs for the Florida Blueberry Industry
  - A draft list of topics has been put together with Board of Directors' input
  - We'd like to get your input!
  - What are the most important research needs for your farm?
- Result of this effort will be a research priorities publication, outlining prioritized needs

FBGA Research Priorities

- Breeding-Cultivar development, improvement
- Horticulture
- Pest and Disease Management
  - Entomology-insect pests
  - Nematology-replant disorder
  - Pathology-diseases
  - Weeds
- Pollination
- Biological control/organic options



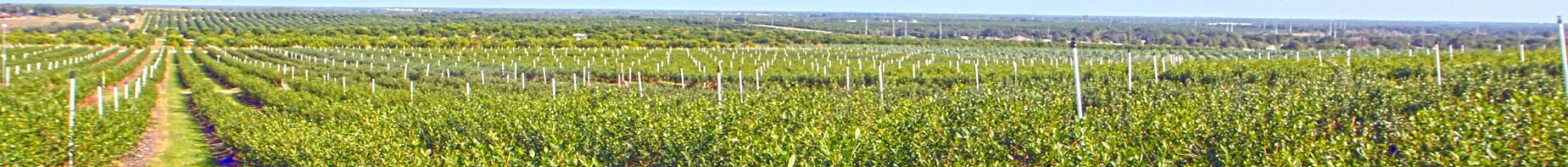
FBGA Research Priorities

- Breeding-Cultivar development, improvement
  - Increase yield, firmness, pest and disease resistance, flavor, machine harvestability
- Entomology-Control measure development for:
  - Chili thrips, mites, gall midge, diaprepes
  - Rankings of varieties for tolerance to pests
  - Spray timing, rotations, rates, economic returns
- Nematology-investigate replant disorder
  - Survey, fumigation work
- Weeds-Additional control options for:
  - Sedge, perennial grasses, QuinStar safety for FL
  - Plant safety, specifically when carrying fruit
  - Evaluate combinations, reduce PHI's for glufosinate, organic options
- Pathology-Control options for:
  - Rust, root rot, stem blight, anthracnose, bacterial wilt
  - Refine effectiveness ratings, economic return studies
  - Overhead vs drip irrigation impacts on disease
  - Methods to limit spread of pathogns to limit risk, sanitation efforts
  - Root girdling, sucker removal, stem blight

FBGA Research Priorities

Continued

- Horticultural practices-
  - Variety specific pruning practice effects on yield for machine harvesting
  - Renewal pruning practices vs renovation, economic thresholds for evergreen and deciduous
  - Plant spacing and density multi-year multi variety research
  - Precocious varieties recommendations to maximize yr1 yield, crop insurance implications
  - Phosphorous and other nutrient management impact on fruit quality and yield
  - Nitrogen needs for crop production leading to and through harvest, crop load impacts, slow release tech
  - Fruit drop, red cap, pollination, fert impacts on fruit abortion (Sentinel, Meadowlark, Optimus)
  - Mechanization, fruit toughening practices, new harvest tech
  - Pine bark alternatives, coco,
  - Low temp impact and damage studies at different floral and fruit development stages (water conservation)
- Pollination
  - Flower visitation studies with yield prediction by AI to promote market stability
  - Cross pollination partners, interplant density requirements
- Biological control
  - Development and evaluation of biological control products/solutions



Continued effort
Annual survey (2024)

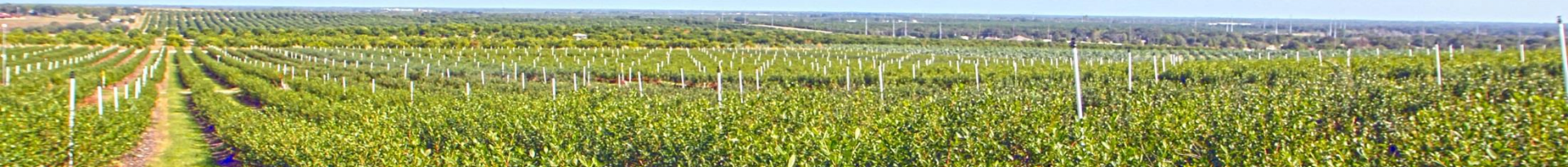
Most Prob. Disease	Mentions	Top 5 Mentions	
leaf rust	15	leaf rust	22
algal stem blotch	7	algal stem blotch	13
anthracnose fruit rot	5	phyt. root rot	12
Phytophthora root rot	4	anthracnose fruit rot	11
Ralstonia bacterial wilt	4	stem blight	7
stem blight	2	ralstonia bac. Wilt	6
cercospora leaf spot	1	target spot	4
target spot	1	cercospora leaf spot	1

Prices will vary

- Example calendar spray (rust) evergreen

15-Oct	Bravo ($15 to $20/acre)
29-Oct	Indar ($17/acre)
12-Nov	Bravo ($15 to $20/acre)
26-Nov	Tilt ($6/acre)
10-Dec	Bravo ($15 to $20/acre)
24-Dec	Proline ($30/acre)
7-Jan	Quilt Xcel ($19/acre)
21-Jan	Aprovia ($60/acre)
4-Feb	Quash ($25/acre)
18-Feb	Proline ($30/acre)
3-Mar	Abound ($9/acre)+Captan ($7.50)

only lowbush!



Feedback

- Critical research needs
  - What did we miss?
  - What is most important to you?

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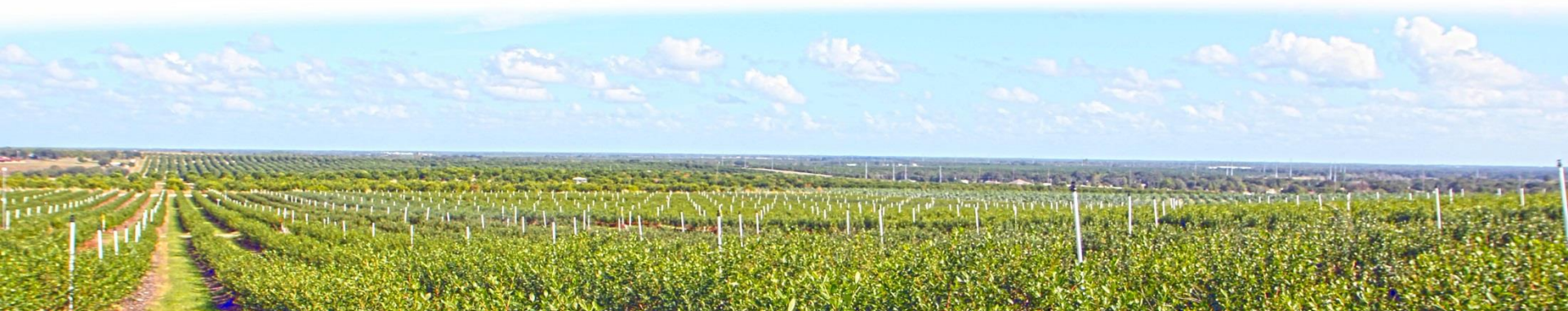

Any Questions?

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