

# IMPROVING FLORIDA'S



## TROPICAL FRUIT INDUSTRY

### Florida growers face a host of complex issues, including

- rising land prices
- unpredictable weather/climate variability
- labor concerns
- competition from foreign markets
- new food safety regulations
- a steady stream of new pests and diseases

**UF/IFAS Extension provides research and science-based educational programs to tropical fruit growers, grove managers, and industry representatives in South Florida to help increase the industry's sustainability, profitability, and competitiveness.**

### Battling Pests and Diseases

**11,000+**

avocado trees have been killed or removed in the past 5 years as a result of LAUREL WILT DISEASE. UF/IFAS educators and researchers offer training and services that have **significantly reduced the spread** of this disease.

### Florida's Tropical Fruit Growers

**25**

different fruit crops are grown in South Florida, including avocados, mango, lychee, and longans

**1,600**

commercial tropical fruit growers

**\$1.8 billion**

value to the state



### UF/IFAS Extension Tropical Fruit Program

**67%**

of growers work with tropical fruit only part-time or have limited horticultural backgrounds.

**437**

tropical fruit growers in Miami-Dade County attended 16 UF/IFAS Extension workshops on horticultural practices and tropical fruit production in 2015.

**77%**

reported practice changes, including improved pruning and planting techniques, choosing better cultivars, and better grafting practices.

**\$2,300**

reported average income gain - a potential gain of \$775,000 for all attendees.

**\$4.1 million**

in tropical fruit losses due to ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY in 2015-2016. Quick and decisive action by UF/IFAS, USDA and FDACS contained the outbreak, potentially **saving growers a further \$19 million** in losses.