Growing Pomegranates at Water Conserv II

Mickey Page
Mid-Florida Citrus Foundation
Research Farm Manager

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/pomegranates/
Location

- Mid-Florida Citrus Foundation
- Located at Water Conserv II
- Winter Garden, Florida
- Alternative crops section
History

• Pomegranate program started in summer of 2010 with 40 plants.
• Second planting in April 2011.
  • Organic supplement vs. no supplement.
Horticultural Practices

• Use of general horticultural practices surrounding crops limit some practices.
• Only use pesticides labeled for pomegranates in Florida at this time.
• New planting site at Conserv II.
Fertilizer Program

• N-P-K
  • February
    • 50# N/A dry
    • 10-2-13-2 mg
  • April-August
    • 35# N/A
    • 8-0-10 liquid
    • Applied via microsprinkler system
• Total N/A/yr = 85#
Fertilizer Program

• Minor and Trace Elements
  • Important to get both leaf and soil analysis.
  • Deficient at Conserv II.
  • Most applied foliar.

• pH
  • Runs upper 6s to mid 7s.
  • Add sulphates to liquid fertilizer.
Insects

• Leaf-footed plant bug.
• Flea beetle.
• Mites.
• Sap beetle (probably secondary).
• Fire ants.
Insecticides

- Azadirect
- Lannate
- Knack
- Extinguish (ants)
- Sulfur
- Trilogy (also fungicide)
- Delegate
Fruit and Foliage Diseases

- *Cercospora*
- *Botrytis*
- *Botryosphaeria*

*Cercospora* Leaf Spot

- *Cercospora punicae*
- *Botryosphaeria spp*
- *Botrytis cinerea*
Fungicides

- Regalia
- Scholar
Weed Control

- AIM
- Chateau
- Glyphosate
- Prowl H₂O
- Fusilade
- Poast
- Surflan
Other Thoughts

- Single trunk vs. Multitrunk
- Windowing and topping
- Twig die back
  - Maybe soil disease
  - Reduced root zone = reduced canopy
- Ornamental varieties
Need for More Research

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fertilizer levels
- Site selection
- Plant breeding