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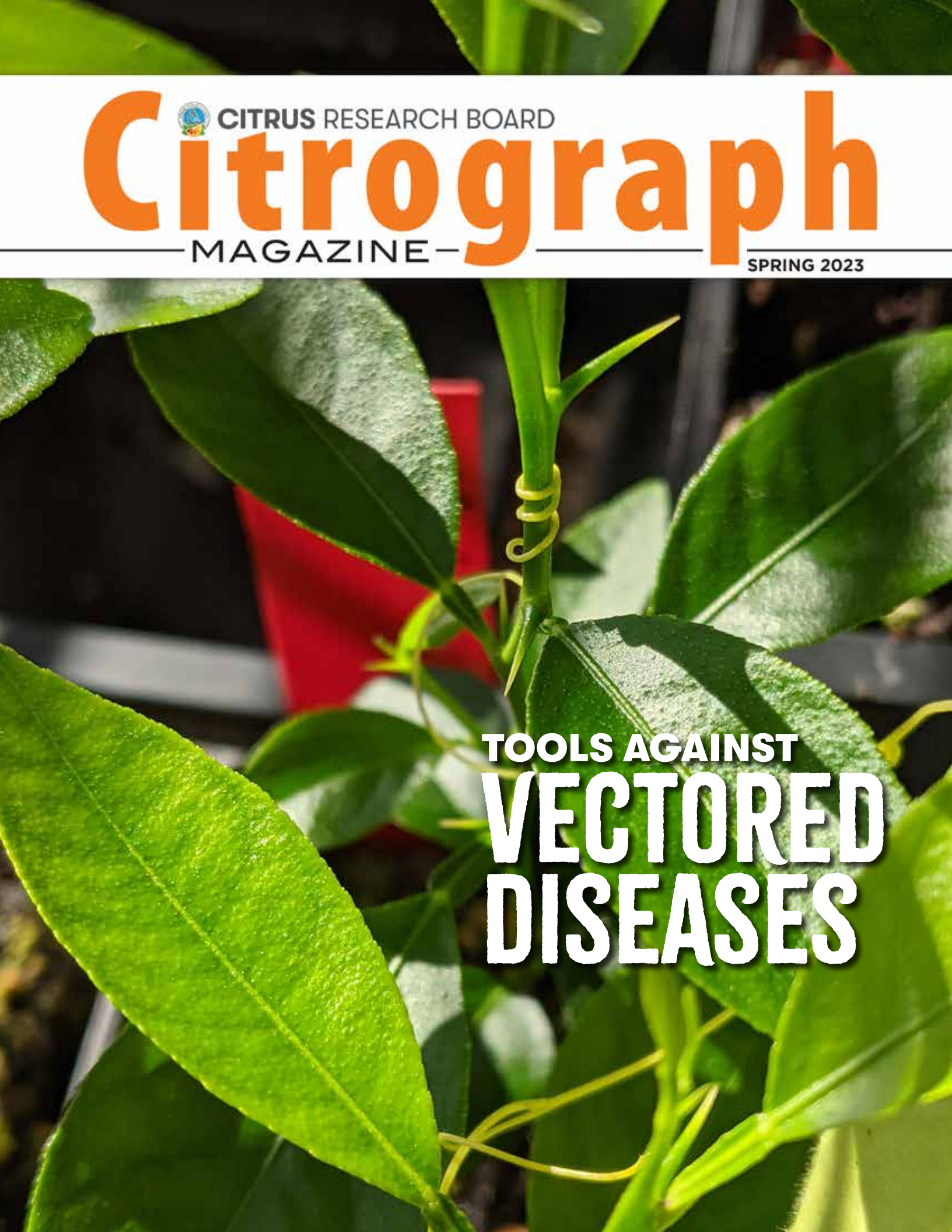

## TOOLS AGAINST VECTORED DISEASES

# INDUSTRY VIEWS: VECTORED DISEASES

McCall Machado

*This edition of* Citrograph *is focused on vectored diseases. With increasing Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) finds and rising inflation affecting citrus production, we recently asked citrus industry members for their insight on these current issues in California.*

## LOGAN HENDERSON

**AgriCare Inc.**
**Strathmore, California**

**Have the increasing ACP finds in the San Joaquin Valley this past summer/fall and or finds of *'Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' (CLas)-infected psyllids in some southern California groves affected your approach to psyllid management? Do you have a plan should huanglongbing (HLB) be found in commercial groves near your ranch?**

We closely participate in local eradication efforts when ACP finds increase in a given geographical region. These coordinated area-wide treatments have proven to be effective in both Kern and Tulare counties over the last six to seven years, suppressing the population back to near non-detectable levels. The plan as an industry for if/when HLB is found should be quick and decisive action. We intend to be proactive on any tree removals, sprays or necessary actions that are needed to effectively combat the spread of the disease and its vector.

**How has inflation affected your grove management plans, especially for pest management or ACP control?**

Inflation has caused an expected response by and large. Budget cutbacks in all areas have been observed, which translates to a decrease in the ability to fight all arthropod pests, ACP included. Insecticidal control is mostly limited to when it fits other pest, IPM timings and required regulatory applications.

**Would you rather see researchers spend more effort on developing new technologies for citrus or providing better information on how to use the tools/ technologies that are already available?**

I would like to see effective new technologies for citrus from the pest control standpoint, as this an area that is sorely lacking. Regulatory hurdles can make it difficult to combat pests in new and creative ways on the pesticide front, so technology will continue to be a vital tool in the fight against ACP/HLB.

## LINDEN ANDERSON

**President/Ranch Manager**
**HMS Agricultural Corporation**
**Coachella Valley, California**

**Have the increasing ACP finds in the San Joaquin Valley this past summer/fall and or finds of CLas-infected psyllid in some southern California groves affected your approach to psyllid management? Do you have a plan should HLB be found in commercial groves near your ranch?**

The continuing finds are a reminder of the importance of being diligent with our efforts to keep ACP populations low in order to reduce the chances of infection and spread of HLB. Fortunately, here in Coachella Valley, we have had great grower cooperation utilizing coordinated area-wide treatments to achieve that goal. That, along with extreme heat days in the summer—who knew that 120º days actually are a blessing—have allowed us to maintain low populations of psyllids.

Currently, there is a significant time gap between infection and detection of HLB. If a neighboring grove is found to be infected with HLB, there is a high probability that we would also have infected trees. Without the advent of something that can be used to inoculate existing trees to prevent or control HLB bacteria, we will have to determine if the economics of continuing to keep the infected grove in production is feasible. Proximity to other groves, age of trees, productivity, market outlook, future water availability and alternate crops or uses for the land all will be factors in the decision.

**How has inflation affected your grove management plans, especially for pest management or ACP control?**

There is no denying that inflation impacts us; however, it really doesn't change our current pest management plans and what we do for ACP control. These operations are necessary to grow a quality crop; and as always, the goal is to get the best long-term control in the most economic manner. As much as possible, we piggyback our foliar nutrient applications with pest management sprays to reduce application costs; and when possible, we use practices that maintain beneficial insects, thus reducing the number of treatments needed.

**Would you rather see researchers spend more effort on developing new technologies for citrus or providing better information on how to use the tools/technologies that are already available?**

It is important to utilize the best tools and techniques to prevent the spread of HLB. However, it is my belief that the long-term solution is the development of resistant rootstock or treatments that prevent or control HLB. That is where I would recommend research be concentrated.

***McCall Machado is the communications and event coordinator for the Citrus Research Board. For more information, please contact*** **mccall@citrusresearch.org**