

# Greening Update: New Law Offers Tax Break to Struggling Citrus Growers



## CITRUS

- **New** greening-tolerant rootstocks and varieties now available
- Largest screened commercial citrus nursery in the US
- **DNA tested** true-to-type citrus varieties and rootstocks available
- Now contracting for 2017-2018



## PEACHES

- Licensed grower of low chill peaches on Flordaguard and MP-29 rootstocks
- Low chill varieties ideal for central and south Florida climates
- Licensed for **new** released varieties
- Now contracting for 2017-2018

Citrus growers who must finance to replant are getting a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Uncle Sam is giving struggling citrus growers a much-needed break. As citrus growers battle greening – in the wake of Hurricane Irma last September – it comes at a critical time.

Growers can now deduct the full cost of replanting lost or damaged citrus in the first year, even when they bring in investors to finance replanting. In the past, growers had to depreciate the deduction over 14 years if they didn't pay the full cost themselves.

To be eligible, the grower must own at least 50 percent of the replants.

Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-FL, District 16, a Longboat Key resident avid about tax reform, has been working to gain support for the measure. His Emergency Citrus Disease Response Act was tacked onto the new tax bill passed by Congress just days after the worst



by Phillip Rucks

orange crop in 73 years was predicted.

The January orange forecast of 46 million boxes is down 33 percent from last year.

I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity. Our industry has been battling greening since it was discovered in South Florida in 2005 – and replanting is playing an important role in its survival.

Production has plummeted from more than 13 million tons in 1996-97 to 4 million tons in 2015-16.

Because greening reduces the quality of citrus and eventually kills the trees, replanting with new varieties more likely to survive and produce has been necessary. Growers also have been boosting yields by planting at a higher tree density per acre.

With no guaranteed solutions to Huanglongbing or HLB, replanting is an important strategy to enable growers to hang on until better strategies are developed – or a cure is found.



## EUCALYPTUS WINDBREAKS

- Hardy versatile tree that can grow nearly **40 ft** in three years
- Provides crop protection from wind and disease
- Reduces soil loss, nutrition loss, agricultural chemical drift and irrigation loss
- Now contracting for 2017-2018



## PONGAMIA

- Produce oilseed bearing nuts used for bioenergy and animal feed
- Drought resistant and saline tolerant "**drop-in**" crop
- No known major production related diseases or pests
- Grows on under-productive land

**PHILLIP RUCKS CITRUS NURSERY, INC.**

Phillip Rucks, Owner

**863-635-1948 • info@rucksnursery.com**

P.O. Box 1318 Frostproof, FL 33843 • www.ruckscitrusnursery.com  
www.floridagrownspecialties.com