

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
TROPICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE OFFERING

**TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION
AND RESEARCH (HOS 5555), 3 credits**

30 June to 8 August, 2008

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan H. Crane, Tropical Fruit Crop Specialist

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web pages at:
<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/crane/TEACHING.HTM>
<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/crane/>
<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu>

**TROPICAL FRUIT PRODUCTION
AND RESEARCH**

The commercial tropical fruit crops industry of Florida is diverse and dynamic. The marine subtropical climate of peninsular Florida allows for the production of subtropical and tropical fruit crops. The numerous environmental stresses encountered in southern Florida (e.g., drought, floods, hurricanes, freezing temperatures) have been challenged successfully by producers and have provided a unique opportunity for University of Florida scientists to conduct applied and basic research on tropical fruit crops.

The Tropical Fruit Production and Research course (HOS 5555) is taught by the Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC), Homestead, Florida, which is the only state supported tropical agricultural research center in the continental U.S.A. The research center

is located on 65 ha and has offices, greenhouses, growth chambers, vegetable fields, and fruit orchards. There are 16 faculty members comprising horticulturists, plant physiologists, entomologists, plant pathologists, an agricultural economist, a hydrologist, and a soil and water scientist involved in research on traditional and tropical vegetable crops, tropical and subtropical fruit crops, and ornamental crops. The station regularly hosts graduate students, post docs, and visiting scientists. The TREC campus and the surrounding agricultural area provide an ideal environment for the study of tropical fruits.

This course offers scientists, graduate students, extension faculty, and other professionals (including experienced producers) an opportunity to increase their knowledge of tropical fruit crop

horticulture, production, and plant physiology.

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course begins 30 June and ends 8 August 2008. Classes will be held Monday through Friday, beginning at 8:30 AM and ending between 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM daily. Typically, class lectures will be held in the mornings and field trips to commercial orchards, nurseries, and educational/ research institutions will be made in the afternoon. In addition, video conferencing and use of the internet will be used to offer speakers and interaction with international faculty and students.

The course will emphasize applied aspects of research, the physiological basis for horticultural practices used, and the practices of commercial tropical fruit crop production in Florida. Crops to be studied from Florida include avocado, mango, carambola, papaya, lychee, longan, mamey sapote, atemoya, sugar apple, pitaya, and guava. Subject matter will include crop adaptation and selection, orchard establishment, environmental stress physiology and applied crop physiology, and modern production methods. Guest lectures from Florida will be offered in tissue culture/biotechnology, insect and disease management, hydrology, agricultural economics and marketing, postharvest handling, and genetics and plant breeding. Several guest lectures will be offered from faculty at other research and educational institutions.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Students must arrange their own transportation to and from Homestead, Florida at the beginning and end of the course. Homestead is about 48 km (30

mi) south of Miami International Airport and ground transportation to Homestead can be arranged by car rental (e.g., National, Budget) or airport limousine (Super Shuttle costs about \$51 one-way).

Vans will be available for picking up students at their local (Homestead) motel and transporting them to TREC daily. Students in need of transportation from their local motel to TREC for the first day of class (June 30th) should contact Dr. Crane at (305) 246-7001 x.290 or (786) 255-5878 by June 29th, so arrangements can be made.

There are many motels in the Homestead area, with a wide range in prices. You may wish to share a room with another student - those arrangements can be made during the first day of class. Please see below for a listing of hotel establishments. *There may be several rooms available at TREC for a nominal fee. However, accommodations are Spartan and availability will be on a first come first serve basis.* Please contact Dr. Crane for details.

Possible accommodations in Homestead for students -

***Everglades International Hostel (305) 248-1122 or 1-800-372-3874 or http://evergladeshostel.com/
A-1 Budget Motel (305) 247-7032
Knights Inn (305) 247-6633
Budget Express (305) 245-4330
Villager Lodge (305) 248-2121
Ramada Inn (305) 247-7020
Travelodge (305) 248-9777
Coral Rock Motel (305) 246-2888
Roadway Inn (305) 248-2741

An arrangement has been made with the Everglades International Hostel in Florida City - not far from TREC. The proprietor will rent rooms at about

\$100/week/student to our students taking the course. Prior arrangement must be made with the hostel – please contact them directly and inform Dr. Crane your intentions to stay at the hostel. The website is at <http://evergladeshostel.com/> and their contact information is:

Everglades International Hostel
20 SW 2nd Ave., Florida City, Florida
33034
Tel: 1-800-372- 3874 or 305-248-1122;
fax.305-245-7622

For other accommodations, please be sure you indicate the date(s) you intend to stay at the hotel as room rates change seasonally. Note, if housing costs are a problem, please contact Dr. J.H. Crane at jhcr@ufl.edu or call 305-246-7001 x.290.

Students are advised that no University health-care services are available in Homestead. Students needing medical care must obtain it from private sources and pay for it themselves or by private insurance.

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS

This course is designed for people with agricultural (e.g., horticulture, agronomy, botany) degrees and/or agricultural experience. All participants need to be competent in English.

Further information on this course may be obtained at my web site (<http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/crane/TEACHING.G.HTM> <http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/crane/>) or contact:

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COURSE FEES AND REGISTRATION

Students currently enrolled in the University of Florida should go through the usual procedures for registration and payment of fees in Gainesville. Students not currently enrolled in the University may register in Homestead at TREC as non-degree students during the first day of class.

Registration fees are: \$934.80 for Florida residents currently UF students; \$934.80 for Florida residents/new UF students; and \$2,825.37 for non-Florida residents. Required textbooks must be purchased at a total cost of about \$220.00 (exact cost to be determined). All fees must be paid in U.S. currency. Please bring separate checks or money orders on the first day of class for registration and book fees. All fees must be paid in U.S. currency.

Academic dishonesty statement - I (the student) understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.

(c://teaching/hos5555/2008/Course information.doc)