



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**  
**Lisa F. Lochridge**  
**Director of Public Affairs**  
**321-214-5200**  
**[lisa.lochridge@ffva.com](mailto:lisa.lochridge@ffva.com)**

### **FFVA HONORS DR. FRED GMITTER, CITRUS RESEARCHER**

MAITLAND, Fla. (Sept. 20, 2011) – The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association presented its Researcher of the Year Award to Dr. Fred Gmitter of the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.

In his nomination, John P. Hayes, UF's interim dean for research, said, "Dr. Gmitter's efforts are largely responsible for two of the most important citrus discoveries from the University of Florida in recent years – the assembly of genome sequences for two citrus varieties and the first UF-created citrus variety intended for commercial production."

Gmitter also was the lead scientist in the release of three cultivars of mandarin orange and was a joint developer of the red pomelo, seedless snack mandarin and two sweet oranges.

In letters of support, William L Barber, vice president/general manager of Lykes Bros. Inc., Lykes Citrus Management Division, said, "I have known Fred for many years and know that he is a most capable, enthusiastic and motivated geneticist."

Frank M. Hunt III, president of Hunt Bros. Cooperative, said, "Fred has worked closely with the Florida citrus industry seeking to understand their needs and to provide better varieties to meet those requirements."

Gmitter is especially respected for his work in fighting citrus greening disease.

He holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in horticulture, both from Rutgers University, as well as a doctorate in horticulture from the University of Florida. After spending two years as a research assistant at Rutgers, Gmitter came to UF in 1982 and has been a valuable part of the university since. He became a full professor in 1997 and has been based at the Lake Alfred CREC since 1985.

The award presentation took place during FFVA's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at The Ritz-Carlton in Palm Beach. Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association is an agricultural trade organization representing Florida's producers of fruits, vegetables and other crops.

*Digital photos are available by e-mailing [barbara.wunder@ffva.com](mailto:barbara.wunder@ffva.com).*