



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON**  
*President*

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**State Budget Includes Historic Funding to Make Citrus Great Again**  
*More than \$320 million over two years to invigorate Florida's legacy citrus industry*

**Tallahassee**—The Florida Senate today passed House Bill (HB 5001E), the General Appropriations Act, a balanced budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The budget includes \$196 million in key funding for Florida's heritage citrus industry, a priority of Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula). This level of funding brings the two-year total investment in President Albritton's Make Citrus Great Again agenda to more than \$320 million for research, field trials, infrastructure, and other support, a generational investment in the long-term sustainability of Florida's iconic citrus industry.

"Research and new technologies offer renewed hope for the future of Florida citrus, and with this key funding, our state will lead the way in pursuing these opportunities. We're on the edge of something special," **said President Albritton**. "Groundbreaking research has led to treatments that mitigate greening symptoms, new studies have produced disease-tolerant and disease-resistant varieties, and innovative therapies are helping to prevent fruit drop and increase fruit size. Florida citrus is making a comeback, one tree at a time. This heritage industry is not only vital to our state's economy, but it is truly a part of our DNA. Mark my words, Florida citrus is not going down on my watch. Citrus matters, and I am running to this fight."

"This historic level of funding will help sustain and expand our iconic citrus industry for the long-term, which is key to Florida's overall economy as citrus production, harvesting, packing and shipping create steady, good-paying jobs in rural, heritage communities across Florida's Heartland," **said President Pro Tempore Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford)**, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. "Previous investments in research have already yielded significant results. Growers today have a better understanding of how to fight greening, bringing hope to the entire industry. We will leave no stone unturned. With the information gathered from the field trials made possible by this funding, growers will have better outcomes, and we can save Florida's signature crop."

**Large Scale Field Trials**

The budget includes \$160 million for large scale field trials that demonstrate the impact of utilizing a combination of grove management, therapeutic tools, and disease resistant varieties for new plantings and the rehabilitation of existing trees, including, but not limited to, grove

design, planting preparation, pest management, disease management, pest and disease exclusion structures, and post planting production practices that promote increased production of citrus.

### **Acquisition of Trees**

Of the \$160 million, a minimum of \$112 million will be made available to cover costs directly associated with the acquisition of trees. Initially, 60% of the funds will be made available to growers with citrus groves of at least five acres but less than 2,500 acres. After the initial solicitation period, remaining funds will be available to all growers.

### **Cost Share for Rehabbing and Purchasing Citrus Packing Equipment**

The budget includes \$20 million for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide 70% cost-share funding to commercial citrus nurseries and packinghouses that process citrus varieties for purchase or refurbishment of equipment or for related infrastructure repairs to such facilities. To be eligible, a nursery or packinghouse must be in operation, located in Florida, and provide a 30% cost-share. From the funds provided, 45% is allocated to commercial citrus nurseries and 55% to citrus packinghouses.

### **Statewide Public Meetings and Reporting on Citrus Research**

Utilizing funds made available in HB 5001E, the Citrus Research and Development Foundation will continue to hold quarterly public meetings at locations that best represent all geographic regions of the state, with an emphasis on citrus production. The public meetings will include in-depth reporting on the results of completed non-confidential research projects, current research, and planned research projects on citrus disease, including, but not limited to, citrus canker and citrus greening. Scientists, growers, industry representatives, and Citrus Research and Development Foundation administrators will be represented, and meetings will include the opportunity for public input, questions, and comments.

Senate Bill 2500, the General Appropriations Act for the current fiscal year (2025-2026), funded \$125 million for President Albritton's Make Citrus Great Again agenda, including \$100 million for field trials and \$10 million for equipment.

HB 5001E is a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that reduces state spending, lowers per capita spending, and pays down state debt. The budget maintains historic reserves for emergencies and keeps taxes low, preserving the permanent, meaningful, broad-based tax relief that families and businesses plan for and count on.

For more information, please visit [www.FLSenate.gov](http://www.FLSenate.gov).

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