

# CITRUS CENTER



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WESLACO, TEXAS 78596

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## NEWSLETTER

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### DR. AMADOR STEPS DOWN AS

### CITRUS CENTER DIRECTOR

Dr. Jose Amador, Director of the Research and Extension Center and Center, stepped down January 15, although he retains the title of Center Director until his retirement on August 31 this year. He is now on development leave to strengthen links with Monterrey Tech in Mexico and EARTH University in Costa Rica. Dr. Amador was appointed Director of both Centers in 1991, and strove to improve cooperation between them. Clearly, from the evidence one sees of the many instances of joint programs and collaboration between all the units, he was highly successful, while at the same time ensuring that each maintained its own identity.

Dr. Amador was already at the Center when he was appointed director. He came to Weslaco as first Extension Plant Pathologist and served in this capacity until he was appointed as the Director. He will thus have completed 40 years of service for the University. He was also a USDA Assistant Secretary, appointed by President Clinton.

A search committee appointed to recommend a successor has been appointed. During the period...

From January to August, the Deputy Center Director, Dr. Rod Santa Ana, will be the Interim Center Director.

Staff & students express their appreciation for his leadership and support over the years.

### JOSE AMADOR RECEIVES POTTS AWARD

Dr. Jose Amador, Center Director of the Weslaco Center since 1991, and extension pathologist for 16 years before, became the 51st recipient of the Arthur T. Potts Award at the annual meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society held at the Experiment Station in February, 2005. He is representing the chairman of the Wiedenfeld said that "one has done more for the agricultural industries."

Dr. Amador is a people person. He is a people person more than anything else, has been successful in his career. Dr. Amador's many awards and honors including the A & M Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence and his appointment as Secretary for Science.

Dr. Amador's wife Silvia and other members of his family were present at the award ceremony. In accepting the award, Dr. Amador said "God means a lot to me. I've spent my life here, and they've been happy years. I love this place." He gave thanks to the people who brought me to this dance. I did, not in my name, but in the name of all people who work in this location".



Family members with Dr. Amador include (left to right) his daughter-in-law, Jennifer, wife Silvia, son Denny, and grandson Keller.

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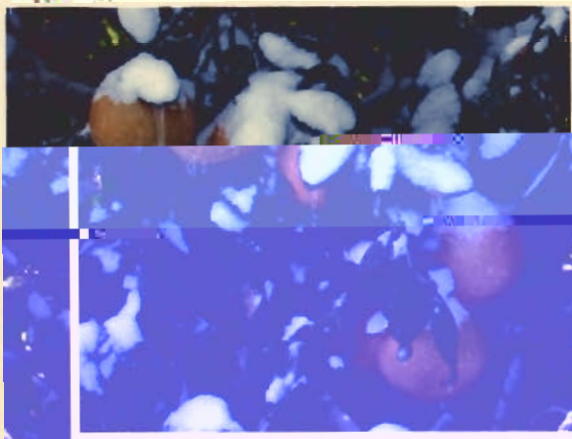
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Christmas Eve, snow fell in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and people woke up to a white Christmas. Although snowflakes have been seen occasionally in the Valley, snow is rare: Brownsville last received it in 1909. It was indeed a surprise to see snow on the trees. It originally melted as it fell, but it appeared that from a mile or so away, it was still falling. The snow was from the tops of young trees, with some internal damage.

The reason why there was not severe damage appears to be because temperatures were not cold enough. Center temperatures were around 31/32°F on Christmas Eve, and only 26-28°F at 7 am.

Quite a lot of subsequent leaf drop has been observed, and closer examination indicates that these leaves were on trees already suffering damage from insect feeding, or some other injury. What effect this may have on fruit size of the existing crop, and next season's bloom and production, remains to be seen.

No snow expected round about 2113!!



J. Victor French & John da Graça

Last month, Dr. John R. Abil, Extension and Fair address at the 59th Annual Valley Horticultural Society in The following is the essence of the response we received from the Society and we were requested to present it to the

lived here for at the Valley for station in the Valley in the past three or agriculture was born 106 years-old) and years-old). The Station (TAES) location and it introduced a quarter of a

century ago. Today, TAES, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas A&M University-Titus Center, and the DAUSI agricultural laboratories provide an important role in the dissemination of new scientific knowledge and service to the agricultural community. Some of the tangible products produced in the Valley are the 'Rio Red' and the 'Star Ruby' grapefruits, the 1015 onion, and the mild jalapeno pepper. It is an unfortunate fact that these products have prejudiced the taste buds of many consumers in Austin and Washington. Also, people like our ex-Congressman, Kika de la Garza and Jose Amador, Center Director, have played key roles in U.S. agricultural policy development in Washington, D.C. This is the history we have, and we are proud of it. However, the future appears to be different and to be equally successful as in the past - the agricultural community (including the producers, scientists, and the policy makers) should be prepared to meet the changes and meet future challenges.

The challenges of the economy, business, construction, and human-health related industries and professions, and 2) the Valley is becoming a rapidly growing metropolitan area. In the past year, the total cost of new construction (residential and commercial) in the Valley was over \$1 billion! The potential value of a traditional citrus orchard in north McAllen would be on par with any upscale residential areas in the country. During my 15 years of experience in the Valley, I have noticed that the current average age of successful citrus growers is in his 60s. There are now a lot of young people who are not interested in



days, in comparison to an Agri-Mek EC + 1.0% Oil standard spray treatment that lost efficacy 10 days post-spray. Envidor 2 SC was shown to be compatible with 0.05-2.5% NR-435 petroleum oil, B-1956 Spray Adjuvant and fungicides like Kocide and GFM. However, residual effectiveness of Envidor 2 SC was not significantly different from tank mixes with petroleum spray oil. M. M. French, through the course of our trials, no phytotoxic effects were observed on foliage or fruit replication of any of the Envidor / tank mix treatments.

Envidor 2 SC will be an important needed addition to the miticides.

and used on Valley citrus. It fits well in the Citrus Integrated Pest Control (IPM) Program and can be associated with other miticides used by growers in their seasonal CRM control program. Trials are on-going to obtain additional data on efficacy of Envidor 2 SC against important phytophagous mite species on Valley citrus. Fall spider mite, Texas citrus mite, and the citrus red mite. These data will be coming in future Citrus Center Newsletters.

M. M. French

J. Victor

Following application of Envidor 2 SC spray, citrus mite populations were reduced much more than with other registered miticides.

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