Minimizing Salinity Stresses in Crop Production

Last year, vegetable and fruit growers suffered from economic loss caused by salinity problems in Florida. Blueberry bushes were seriously injured or killed. Vegetable yields were reduced up to 50% in some production fields in the Hastings area. For example, the average potato tuber yield loss was approximately $900 per acre of farm gate value. To minimize any further economic loss, five specialists including Dr. Stephen Grattan from UC-Davis shared their expertise in alleviating salinity problems in an In-service Training last week.

Some of you were interested but missed it due to time conflicts. The training video is available at http://hos.ufl.edu/faculty/gdliu/service-training#IST30688

The instructors and topics in the IST training included:

- Dr. Jeff Ullman – Soil Salinity in Agricultural Systems: The Basics
- Dr. Mark Clark – Sources of Salinity in Irrigation Water and Strategies to Minimize
- Dr. Lincoln Zotarelli – Fertilizer as a Source of Salinity on Potato Production
- Dr. Stephan Grattan (UC-Davis) – Strategies to Minimize Crop Loss under Saline Conditions
- Dr. Brian Boman – Managing Salinity in Florida Citrus

After the IST training, Dr. Grattan gave a presentation in the Horticultural Sciences Department: Crop Salt Tolerance: How to Balance Science and Policy. The seminar video is available at http://hos.ufl.edu/faculty/gdliu/dr-guodong-david-liu