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**Southern Gardens Citrus Plants Second Commercial Field Trial
Citrus Trees Resistant to Canker and Greening**

Clewiston, FL, Sept. 21, 2009 – This week Southern Gardens Citrus began its second set of research field trials -- planting a group of citrus trees which have shown resistance to greening in the laboratory. These trees were developed in conjunction with Integrated Plant Genetics, a private research company based in Alachua, Florida."

"This field trial continues our efforts to develop a solution to the current challenging citrus diseases of greening and canker," said Ricke Kress, president.

Kress said that this research project was initiated in 2007 and that the trees have been planted in compliance with the issued field testing permit as received from the United States Department of Agriculture Biotechnology Regulatory Services.

Consistent with the previous planted field trials that are in place within the Southern Gardens Citrus Hendry County groves, "We will continue to follow all issued regulations related to the safety and integrity of the trial, including strict access control", said Rick Kress, president.

Kress said that Southern Gardens Citrus continues to be very proactive in working with all facets of the citrus industry including UF/IFAS, USDA, FDACS, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Cornell University, and independent researchers in an effort to combat and eliminate the HLB/greening disease.

Citrus greening disease or Huanglongbing (HLB) is considered to be the most serious disease of citrus trees in the world. HLB was first identified and confirmed in Florida in September 2005. Today, HLB has spread to all Florida counties with commercial citrus groves.

Southern Gardens Citrus, one of the largest citrus producers in the state, has three groves in southwest Florida, all of which are infected to some extent with HLB.

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