

Florida Mango Grower Summit



June 28, 2026



Agenda

- 8:00 AM** **Registration & Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM** **Welcome & Introduction**
 Alex Salazar, Tropical Acres Farms
 Anna Mészáros, University of Florida / IFAS, Palm Beach County Extension
 Ron Rice, University of Florida / IFAS, Palm Beach County Extension
- 8:45 AM** **2026 Freeze damage assessment and reporting**
 Dr. Christa Court, University of Florida / IFAS
- 9:15 AM** **Protecting mango trees: freeze preparedness and post-freeze recovery**
 Dr. Jonathan Crane, Emeritus Tropical Fruit Specialist, University of Florida IFAS
- 9:45 PM** **Considerations for future mango breeding projects for Florida's mango industry**
 Alex Salazar, Tropical Acres Farm
- 10:15 AM** **Horticultural care when establishing new groves**
 Steve Cucura, Fruitscapes, Bokeelia, Florida
- 10:45 AM** **The business of mango farming in 2026**
 Alex Salazar, Tropical Acres Farms
- 11:15 AM** **Suggested Mango cultivars for different regions**
 Chris Wenzel, Truly Tropical, Delray Beach, FL
 Marley Hagerstrom, Naples Fruit Farm, FL
 Matt Reese, Peace River Organics, Punta Gorda, FL
- 12:00 PM** **LUNCH**
- 1:15 PM** **Resources from University of Florida, IFAS: Small farm start-ups school**
 Yvette Goodiel, University of Florida / IFAS, Martin County Extension
 Dr. Malek Hammami, University of Florida / IFAS, Tropical Research & Education Center
- 1:35 PM** **County zoning and Ag classifications**
 Lisa Amara, Palm Beach County Extension Services
- 1:50 PM** **Disease and pest challenges of growing mangos in Florida**
 Dr. Romina Gazis, University of Florida / IFAS, Tropical Research and Education Center
- 2:20 PM** **BREAK**
- 2:30 PM** **Grower panel discussion:**
 Alex Salazar, Steve Cucura, Jonathan Crane, Chris Wenzel, and more
- 4:00 PM** **Social & networking time**
- 5:00 PM** **Adjourn**

UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension
 559 N Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415
 Exhibit Hall A-B