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Two hosts are better than one? Combined plantings of Orange Jasmine and Curry Tree produces more parasitoid wasps (*Tamarixia radiata* Waterston [Hymenoptera: Eulophidae])

Austin Fife, Michael Murphy, Emily Kraus and Eric Rohrig, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL

The tiny parasitoid wasp *Tamarixia radiata* Waterston (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) is a very effective natural enemy of the Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama (Hemiptera: Liviidae). This psyllid is the vector for the bacteria *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus, the causal agent of Citrus Greening or Huanglongbing. Huanglongbing/Greening is the most damaging disease of citrus worldwide. To combat this psyllid, FDACS-DPI raises millions of *T. radiata* as part of the *Tamarixia* Release Program. Parasitoids such as *T. radiata* are primarily relied upon for sites of limited pesticide usage, such as organic citrus groves, abandoned groves, dooryard citrus, and plantings of alternate host plants from the family Rutaceae. The Dundee Biological Control Laboratory serves to mass-rear *T. radiata* for their release, and also acts as center for research on biological control of pests of Florida citrus. Preliminary observations revealed that combining Orange Jasmine (*Murraya paniculata)* and Curry Tree (*M. sect. Bergera koenigii*) in production cages increased the number of *T. radiata* collected. Research into the tritrophic effects of psyllid host plant on their parasitoids is recommended.

Preferred Presentation Format:

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