



# FNGLA's INDUSTRY AND EXTENSION RESEARCH PRIORITIES

## 1) Improve Environmental and Resource Management

*Defined as: FNGLA encourages and supports research to maximize efficient water use and research designed to react to and identify exotic insects, diseases, and plants that can harm our industry and our environment. FNGLA supports research for control and prevention of such pest introductions.*

- Snail controls in ebb and flood water capture systems
- Nitrogen leaching in turf areas to mulched areas, rock areas vs native.
- Blockchain/Consensus Algorithm for water use – self-replicating database on water use throughout the state to help local governments monitor water consumptions.
- Nitrogen leaching on lawns that only use compost to synthetic fertilizers.
- How nurseries can minimize the water use in the state of Florida

## 2) Improve Pest Management Practices and Strategies

*Defined as: FNGLA supports research to develop new biological and chemical pest management tools that are effective and environmentally safe.*

- Lower re-entry interval controls for pest and disease applications
- Organic controls for thrips and mites in high density young plant production
- Lethal Bronzing
- Glyphosate replacements or alternatives
- Best management practices for treatment and control of scale on Hollies and Magnolias, Downy Mildew, Red headed flea beetles, Boxwood Blight
- Hibiscus Bud Weevil
- Ganoderma on Palms

## 3) Improve Production Systems Practices and Strategies

*Defined as: FNGLA supports research to develop advanced systems of product handling and transportation that will improve safety and efficiency.*

- Scouting and treatments with the uses of drones in the greenhouses
- Multi-level growing systems for foliage plants
- Plant growth regulator trials for foliage
- Best Management practices to control labor cost.
- More biocontrols

#### **4) Genetics & Breeding to Enhance Quantities & Diversity of Plant Material**

*Defined as: FNGLA supports research to improve the quality of plant material to improve ecological and social benefits.*

- Breeding of alternative turfs that have the lethal necrosis of Floritam 'St. Augustine'

#### **5) Enhance Floridians' Quality of Life**

*Defined as: FNGLA supports research that will improve or enhance the quality of life for Floridians.*

- Continued research on the benefits of plants on improving physical and mental health.
- Industry survey/analysis of salary and benefits
- Quantify the ecosystem services for Urban forest, public lands, parks, green spaces, roadways.
- Benefits of vegetable gardens compared to typical landscapes.
- Natives vs Exotic comparisons

#### **6) Developing and Implementing Emerging Technology**

*Defined as: FNGLA supports research on applications of emerging technology related to digital agriculture, artificial intelligence, and robotics and automation.*

- Automation in production systems
- Artificial intelligence-driven technology for improved plant production and protection
- Enhancements of efficient robotics technology

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