



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture

“Solutions to Desert Agriculture’s Pressing Problems” Quarterly Update | Summer 2017

We are obtaining grant funding and other resources to leverage supporting partners’ donations; over \$600,000 received to date! Our latest grant awards include:

\$50,000 for Fusarium Wilt Research

YCEDA stakeholders identified Fusarium wilt of lettuce as a high-priority issue, and additional funding from the AZ Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program will enable us to continue our efforts to mitigate this serious problem. Two years of expanded field trials will be conducted with the new grant. To date, we have obtained over \$150,000 for Fusarium wilt research to find solutions to this pressing issue.

\$240,000 for Irrigation & Salinity Management Research

Various public and private sources contributed approximately \$420,000 throughout the past year in support of YCEDA irrigation and salinity management research projects addressing produce, grain, and other cropping systems in the lower Colorado River Basin. Here are the most recent developments:

> \$80,000 from AZ Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program will allow us to measure water applied, evapotranspiration, and soil salinity levels in spinach crops in order to help spinach producers decide on timing and quantity of irrigation necessary for crop needs and salinity management.

> \$160,000 for new equipment to augment irrigation and salinity management research projects. Three new Eddy Covariance (ECV) systems were purchased thanks to a \$110,000 grant from the UA's Shared Equipment Enhancement Fund. Additionally, the UA's Ag Experiment Station Strategic Research Investment Fund awarded YCEDA \$50,000 to purchase one Large Aperture Scintillometry (LAS) system and procure data management support.



Fusarium research in the greenhouse



USDA's Dr. French adjusts an ECV sensor



Co-locating seven ECV systems for calibration

Upcoming Event

The Center of Excellence Seminar Series:

Soil Pathogen Gene Sequencing Tools to Assess Fusarium Pressure

August 8th

1:30 pm

The Yuma Ag Center

Do you have areas of a field that are losing productivity?
YCEDA & Western Growers hope this highly informative presentation will help you make critical planting decisions to maximize your yield & improve your bottom line.



Photo Credit: Tom Karst

Vic Smith addresses the audience



VP & Dean Shane Burgess congratulates Mark Smith



UA students prepare to test the drone pollination design prototype

A FEW MORE HIGHLIGHTS....

- YCEDA collaborated on a winning UA senior engineering project to test a drone date pollen release mechanism. The design, developed by a team of senior engineering students, took top honors, receiving the Raytheon Award for Best Overall Design at the UA's Engineering Design Day in May!
- It was a full house at the Yuma Ag Center for the April 12 Center of Excellence Seminar Series presentation, Advancing Management of Fusarium Wilt of Lettuce. Dr. Barry Pryor and Dr. Mike Matheron presented updates, insights, challenges and advances from YCEDA-sponsored Fusarium wilt of lettuce research. Trial results from the 2016 field trials on varietal resistance and product efficacy are posted on DesertAgSolutions.org under Projects & Events.

Connect with us!

Website: DesertAgSolutions.org

Twitter: @YCEDA_DesertAg

Facebook: @YCEDA

YouTube: Yceda



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**Yuma Center of Excellence
for Desert Agriculture**

Advisory Council Members Honored

YCEDA supporting partners are passionate innovators and transformational leaders! Two members of our Advisory Council were recently recognized for their contributions to agriculture. Dr. Shane C. Burgess, UA Vice President for Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), presented Mark Smith with the Eugene G. Sander Lifetime Achievement Award at the UA CALs Spring Awards Dinner for outstanding accomplishments and activities directly affecting Arizona agriculture. During the 2017 Forbes AgTech Summit, Vic Smith received the Forbes Impact Award for his commitment to innovation. Congratulations, Mark and Vic!

Lettuce Disease Webpages

A series of webpages with informative videos and reports focusing on desert lettuce diseases will be added to our recently revamped website thanks to grant funding from the Arizona Iceberg Lettuce Research Council. The new LEARN tab, which will house these webpages, is currently under construction. Stay tuned for the big reveal later this year!



Dr. Matheron & Dr. Pryor discuss Fusarium wilt research