BIO of Bruce Templeton and Anna Coco

Bruce Templeton is a third generation citrus grove owner with groves in the Lake Wales and Alturas, Florida region. He oversees the daily management of the groves and is a “hands-on” grove owner. Anna Coco is a former commercial lender, with 17 years of commercial lending experience. Her area of expertise was focused on small to mid-size businesses in every industry. Anna has managed the financial side of the grove operation. Bruce and Anna have been married for 16 years. They have four children – Bruce’s three grown children in their 20s and one together that is 6.

Like all farmers, Bruce and Anna have been actively looking for alternative sources of income to diversify their crops. In the fall of 2009, they attended the first Small Farms conference and met Dr. Santos and his staff. Over that period of time, Bruce and Anna have worked with IFAS with two research projects – one with strawberries and the other with peppers. The study involved using different substrates to grow these specialty crops in protected culture environment – greenhouse and hoophouse. They were introduced to the Botanicoir cocopeat products in 2009. After using the coir fiber products in both studies, they liked the product so much that worked with Botanicoir to become a distributor, working under the name Doublethumb Growing Solutions.

Doublethumb distributes quality coir products including grow bags, open-top containers, briquettes, discs and pellets. Other products include a three tier garden grow stand and a double row grow stand with drip line irrigation. Doublethumb’s grow stand can be fitted with a timer and fertilizer mechanism and Doublethumb coir fiber grow bags for a fully functional garden. Even the most novice gardener can grow herbs, fruits, vegetables and flowers. Especially good for compact spaces including patios and back yards.

The main specialty crops that Doublethumb Farms is growing for the fall are heirloom tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, lettuce, spinach and herbs. Mariana, Bruce and Anna’s young daughter, always says “My daddy has two green thumbs”….and the name Doublethumb came into creation.