



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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Hendry County Extension

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

January 25, 2010

The South Florida vegetable industry shivered through the longest stretch of cold weather in over 60 years earlier in the month with some areas seeing frost on 5 -8 consecutive nights and temperatures struggling to get into the 50's. The crushing blow in many areas came on Sunday night/Monday morning January 11, 2010, when temps fell as low as 24 degrees in some places and stayed below freezing for over 8 hours in many places. Most of the warm season winter crops were virtually wiped out around SW Florida and the Glades and were severely damaged in Homestead. West Palm Beach reported some crop damage but fared relatively well compared to other production areas.

Damage estimates in SW Florida to vegetable alone could surpass \$200 million dollars and most packinghouses around Immokalee are closed and do not expect to open for weeks.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
1/09 – 1/27/10	23.97	82.38	2.90	79	0.05
Belle Glade					
1/09 – 1/27/10	29.71	85.42	0.90	80	0.06
Clewiston					
1/09 – 1/27/10	24.21	84.7	1.03	80	0.06
Ft Lauderdale					
1/09 – 1/27/10	33.61	85.32	1.04	77	0.06
Fort Pierce					
1/09 – 1/27/10	30.05	83.37	0.73	79	0.06
Homestead					
1/09 – 1/27/10	31.03	84.36	0.79	80	0.06
Immokalee					
1/09 – 1/27/10	24.69	84.16	1.68	78	0.06

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In some places where crops were damaged but survived the freeze, damaged plants are showing new growth. In other areas where growers held the water high for too long, young plants may have survived the cold but now the salts and pythium are killing them. Some growers around Manatee Ruskin have started planting spring tomatoes.

Strawberry growers in Hillsborough County endured 8 nights of freeze over an 11 day period. Growers irrigated to protect plants and pumped the aquifer down around 60 ft over the period causing numerous sinkholes to open up. Some growers report they applied something like 15 inches of water via overhead for freeze protection.

Cabbage, escarole, herb, lettuce, oriental greens, radishes and strawberries are coming to market as well as light volumes of green beans, eggplant, pepper, tomato, and sweet corn.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that high pressure behind the front that passed through on Monday will build into the southeast United States into Wednesday night from the central plain states. This will keep the weather dry over the area during this time along with northerly winds. Highs will be in the 70s Wednesday. There could be some patchy frost over Glades...Hendry...and inland Collier County north of I-75 late Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

Insects

Leafminers

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that it didn't take long for leafminer activity to rebound with lots of adults and stippling showing up in some places.

Respondents on the East Coast report leafminers are picking back up.

Reports from Homestead indicate that leaf miner remain a problem on surviving crops.

Aphids

Around Palm Beach County, aphids did not mind the weather and are still active on a variety of crops including the bok choy and other crucifers. Reports indicate organic growers are having a difficult time gaining control in some areas.

Respondents around Southwest Florida report aphids are still here and have become more active as populations are searching for the few remaining green leaves within the fields and moving into greener areas.

Whiteflies

Around SW Florida, cold weather knocked back whiteflies pretty good.

Reports from Palm Beach indicate many whiteflies survived cold and resumed activity in peppers, tomatoes, eggplants and cucurbits as the weather warmed.

Worms

Around Southwest Florida, a few worms are starting to show up.

On the East Coast, reports indicate that armyworms are becoming more active and note that cut worms stayed active even during the cold days, cutting down newly planted cabbages, eggplants, peppers and tomatoes at the base.

Strawberry growers in Hillsborough County indicate a few worms are coming back.

Spider mites

Around Plant City, a few mites are present in strawberries.

Pepper Weevils

Around Palm Beach County pepper weevils are reportedly bad in some locations. Reports indicate they are bad in some places and low in others.

In Southwest Florida, pepper weevils survived the cold and they are searching for new food sources.

Thrips

Around Palm Beach County, thrips populations are back a bit at 5-11 adults per flower, most of them are FL native species and WFT count 0-4 adults per flower depending on the location. January going into February is the time for growers to beef up their WFT monitoring, as the warmer season is not too far away, and there are always some warm-day stretches even before the warm season arrives.

In other areas thrips remain very low.

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that bacterial spot is increasing in recent warmer days with morning fogs, while the old diseased leaves still show the dried/fried look. There is heavy pressure along the 441 Corridor and peppers and tomatoes are suffering. Pepper varieties that are race 1, 2, 3 resistant are proving to be no match to this level of disease pressure.

Around Immokalee bacterial spot is a problem in pepper and tomato survivors.

Reports indicate that bacteria is also coming on hard in strawberries that were irrigated every night for almost two weeks for freeze protection

TYLCV

Around SW Florida, TYLCV was pretty high before the freeze and remains a serious threat with all of the old damaged fields around that had some virus present before the freeze as they have a few live leaves in the field for the emerging SLW to feed on before they migrate into a younger field.

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach report that TYLCV has reached 2-5% infection rate on tomato plants in some fields.

TYLCV is also low around Homestead with only a few scattered plants here and there.

Late Blight

Late blight that was reported in Hendry County perished with the crop that it was found on.

No new disease development was reported from Homestead.

Target Spot

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that target spot is widely present on tomato.

Powdery mildew

Powdery mildew is present on eggplant and to a lesser extent on peppers around Palm Beach County.

Around Homestead powdery mildew is on the rebound on surviving squash.

Phytophthora

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that problems with Phytophthora are increasing in areas where growers held a prolonged high water table to battling the cold. In places 1 - 5% peppers and eggplants are blighted and going down.

Pythium

Pythium is also taking out young plants around SW Florida where water tables were held high.

News You Can Use

Stinger Labeled in Florida

Stinger (Clopyralid) has received labeling in Florida for use in cabbage, Chinese cabbage (bok choy, napa), and Chinese mustard cabbage (gai choy).

Stinger may be applied post emergence on these crops for the control of several broadleaf weeds including clover, ragweed and smart weed. One to 2 broadcast applications may be made at 1/4 to 1/2 pint per acre, not to exceed 1/2 pint per acre per year. A preharvest interval of 30 days is in effect.

Growers must have the supplemental label in hand at application. Check the full label for plant-back restrictions.

By: William M. Stall, Professor Emeritus
Horticultural Sciences Department, Gainesville, Florida

New Third-Party Labels for Dual Magnum

Transplanted Head and Stem Brassica Subgroup 5-A

Dual magnum provides preemergent weed control. The transplanted cabbage label has been expanded to include the head and stem subgroup including cabbage, Chinese cabbage (napa), broccoli, Chinese broccoli,

Brussels sprouts, Chinese mustard, cauliflower, cavalo broccoli and kohlrabi. Applications of 0.67 to 2.0 pints per acre may be made to transplants that are 5 weeks old or grown in 1" diameter cells or larger. Use the lower rates on course-textured soils and the higher rates on soils high in organic matter.

The Chinese varieties are more sensitive to injury and application should be at the lower rate.

Eggplant

Eggplant has been added to the Third-party pepper label.

A pre-transplant application may be made to the soil surface of pre-formed beds at 0.67 to 1.0 pint per acre prior to laying plastic.

A post-transplant application may be made as directed, shielded spray to row middles between plastic rows at 1 pint per acre. A preharvest interval of 60 days is in effect. These labels must be in possession of the grower at the time of application.

To obtain the labeling or for more information on the 24(c) registration contact: Third Party Registrations, Inc., Maitland, Florida, or call (321) 214-5200.

By: William M. Stall, Professor Emeritus
Horticultural Sciences Department, Gainesville, Florida

Registrants to Lose Inert Ingredients Exemption

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced before Christmas that it plans to require pesticide manufacturers to disclose to the public the inert ingredients in their products. An inert ingredient is anything added to a pesticide that does not kill or control a pest. Nearly 4,000 inerts - including several hundred that are considered hazardous under other federal rules - are used in agricultural and residential pesticides.

The EPA's announcement that it will initiate the rulemaking comes 11 years after it had first been petitioned by activist groups and state officials seeking public disclosure of the ingredients. In 2001, the agency denied those petitions filed by ten state attorney generals and an activist coalition, and its decision was upheld by a federal judge in 2004.

Now, under a new administration, the EPA has decided that drafting a new regulation will "increase transparency" and help protect public health. "EPA believes disclosure of inert ingredients on product labels is important to consumers who want to be aware of all potentially toxic chemicals, both active and inert ingredients, in pesticide products," according to the agency's website.

Formaldehyde, bisphenol A, sulfuric acid, toluene, benzene and styrene are among the ingredients that are allowed in pesticides but are not identified on labels. Some are carcinogens, while some may cause reproductive or respiratory problems if people are exposed. Other inerts seem benign, such as coffee grounds, sunflower oil and licorice extract. One goal of the planned rule is that pesticide companies would be more likely to replace toxic chemicals if they must identify all ingredients on their labels. "By embarking on such rulemaking, EPA intends to effect a sea change in how inert ingredient information is made available to the public," Debra Edwards, the EPA's director of pesticide programs, said in a September letter to the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and other petitioners.

Edwards wrote that the EPA will seek “a significant amount of input” from stakeholders as they craft the new rule “because of the magnitude of the change and the difficult issues facing the agency” Under current law, pesticide companies already disclose all ingredients to the EPA. The new rule would make them public. Jay Vroom, chief executive officer of CropLife America, which represents pesticide manufacturers, said that the registrants are concerned they will be revealing confidential business information, or trade secrets, about their formulas. Vroom said it was “just baffling” that EPA will draft a rule when the pesticide products already undergo risk assessments and are approved for use. He said EPA officials are using “unbridled rhetoric” when addressing the issue of inerts.

“We believe these products already have been regulated to protect public health,” he said. “What is confusing is why the agency has been out talking about these products as hazardous inert ingredients. To me, that’s an oxymoron.” Vroom said the industry will work with the EPA but that no timetable for stakeholder meetings has emerged yet. Options the EPA said it will consider include disclosure of all inert ingredients regardless of hazard or only those that are considered potentially hazardous. Some of the requirements may be voluntary. (Environmental Health News, 12/23/09).

Freeze brings Florida packinghouses to a halt

Many Florida vegetable packinghouses remained at a standstill Jan. 21 as Florida grower-shippers recover from nearly two weeks of freezing temperatures that devastated their crops.

State agricultural officials say produce shipments have declined significantly and Florida’s growers will likely sustain hundreds of millions of dollars in losses.

Packings have ground to a halt in Immokalee — the principal winter tomato and bell pepper growing region — and in Homestead and Belle Glade where growers grow and pack other vegetables such as green beans, sweet corn and squash.

Fred Moore, a salesman for Five Bros. Produce Inc., Homestead, said no one has been running green beans, which suffered up to 95% damage. He said the Miami-Dade County production region also suffered up to 70% losses on yellow and zucchini squash.

Five Bros. tried to run a crop of beans on Jan. 20 but because of the load having too much frozen and dehydrated damage, the packer after an hour had to stop and dump all the beans into the cull shoot, he said. “It is absolutely devastating what we have suffered here,” Moore said Jan. 21.

Growers in Homestead, along with Belle Glade and Immokalee, which also sustained heavy freeze damage, grows beans through late April and early May.

Spring bean plantings, however, remain unscathed and should start on-time as normal in early March, Moore said.

On Jan. 21, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported light supplies of green beans, with bushel cartons at \$45, compared to the market high of \$11 at the same time last year. The freeze is affecting markets of Mexican green beans, with 30-pound cartons up to \$32.95, more than twice the f.o.b. at the same time last year. Squash and cucumber supplies were too light to establish a market, the USDA reported on Jan. 21.

On tomatoes, the USDA on Jan. 20 reported 25-pound cartons of loose mature greens 85% No. 1 or better from south Florida selling for \$17.95 for 5x6s, 6x6s and 6x7s before handling charges, down from the \$23.95 for 5x6s and \$21.95 for 6x6s and 6x7s it had quoted Jan. 14.

On Jan. 20, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson toured production areas in Homestead, Belle Glade and Immokalee.

“It will be pretty bad,” Bronson said. “This week, we are at about 40% of where we were in shipments this time of the year last year, so we know how much damage that has caused us. The question is how much more will manifest itself when we get to the end of it as warm weather will show more damage.”

Bronson said his agency isn’t able to release a final damage figure yet, but said his office is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies and grower groups to determine a final estimate that the state can take to Washington, D.C., when it requests disaster assistance.

Bronson visited an 800-acre mature-green and roma tomato field north of Immokalee that sustained 100% loss, said D.C. McClure, vice president, farm manager and company owner of West Coast Tomato Inc., Palmetto. “I have been doing this since the mid-1970s and have never seen a freeze worse than this one,” he said. “This is as complete a kill as I have ever seen.”

Reggie Brown, executive vice president of the Maitland-based Florida Tomato Exchange, said some Immokalee-area plants and vines that growers had covered escaped serious damage.

“We are not totally gone,” he said Jan. 21. “Homestead and the East Coast are still there.”

Brown said an early estimate puts freeze damage on Immokalee-area tomatoes up to 70%.

Bronson said the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, won’t receive final citrus damage numbers until early- to mid-February.

After a Jan. 19 conference call with south Florida’s potato growers, Ken Wiles, general manager of River Packaging Inc., a division of Mack Farms Inc., Lake Wales, said the industry expects the state to suffer a 25% overall yield loss.

“Losses will probably come more in yield reductions early in the season, during the February and March potatoes,” Wiles said Jan. 21. “As we get toward the end of March, from then on, it looks like it will be more of a normal crop.” Doug Ohlemeier, The Packer 1/22/10

DOL Wage and Hour Contractor List now on-line

On Friday, January 15, 2010 a list of current registered farm labor contractors was posted on the web at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/statutes/FLCLList.htm>

This list can be found on WHD’s home page (<http://www.dol.gov/whd/>) and look for “Agricultural Employment”.

The list contains the names of all current FLC’s, their certificate number, their address, DA/HA/TA and expiration date. This list will be updated quarterly. They are working on improving the list by the next posting to include: the issue date of the certificate, a search feature and a freeze pane feature (downloadable worksheet only).

They are also working on posting a farm labor contractor employee list as well and hope to have this list posted on the web shortly.

Proposed Rulemaking for Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida's Lakes and Flowing Waters

EPA is proposing numeric nutrient water quality criteria to protect aquatic life in lakes and flowing waters, including canals, within the State of Florida and proposing regulations to establish a framework for Florida to

develop “restoration standards” for impaired waters. EPA is issuing this proposed rule pursuant to a determination that EPA made on January 14, 2009, under section 303(c)(4)(B) of the Clean Water Act. The determination states that numeric nutrient water quality criteria for lakes and flowing waters and for estuaries and coastal waters are necessary for the State of Florida to meet the requirements of Clean Water Act section 303(c). EPA intends to sign the proposed rule addressing lakes and flowing waters on January 14, 2010, per the terms of a consent decree. This proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register.

Stakeholder Input on Proposed Rulemaking - EPA is holding three public hearings in Florida during the public comment period for the proposed rule. The public comment period will begin on the day the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register, and will last for 60 days. The public hearings will afford an opportunity for the public to provide comments on EPA’s proposed rule. Brief oral comments and written comments will be accepted at the hearings. Due to the large number of expected commenters, EPA expects to limit each oral comment to five minutes or less in order to give everyone an opportunity to speak. You do not have to be present at the hearings in order to provide written comments on the proposed rule (the proposed rule will contain information on how you can submit written comments). The dates and locations of the hearings are as follows:

February 16, 2010: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol East, 1355 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32301

February 17, 2010: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal, 7800 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

February 18, 2010: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Palm Beach Airport, 1301 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Pesticide Potpourri

- The SLN registration FL-990007 ([Dual Magnum® (s-metolachlor) use in pepper] has been amended to include eggplant as well as pepper for preemergence weed control in rows and between rows of plastic-mulched production. (FDACS letter, 12/22/09).
- Based on a request by Valent U.S.A. Corp. and IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the seed treatment and foliar insecticide clothianidin (Poncho®/Arena®). Tolerances of importance in Florida include cotton, brassica vegetable (group 3), cucurbit vegetable (group 9), fruiting vegetable (group 8), leafy brassica (group 5), leafy vegetable, except brassica (group 4), root vegetable except sugar beet (group 1B), and tuberous and corm vegetable (group 1C). Inadvertent residues were also obtained for animal feed grasses and non-grasses. (Federal Register, 12/9/09).
- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the miticide hexythiazox (Savey®). Tolerances of importance in Florida include potatoes. (Federal Register, 12/2/09).
- Based on a request by IR-4 and United Phosphorous, the EPA has approved tolerances for inadvertent residues of the aquatic herbicide endothal and its related metabolites (Aquathol®). Tolerances cover all commodities potentially irrigated with treated canal water. (Federal Register, 12/18/09).
- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide dinotefuran (Venom®). Tolerances of importance in Florida include turnips greens and leafy brassica greens (subgroup 5B). (Federal Register, 12/18/09).

- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide novaluron (Rimon®). Tolerances of importance in Florida include brassica leafy greens (group 5B), blueberry, turnip greens, and tuberous and corm vegetable (group 1C). (Federal Register, 12/9/09).
- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the herbicide prometryn. Tolerances of importance in Florida include cilantro, coriander, okra, parsley, and leafy petiole vegetable (subgroup 4B - which includes celery). (Federal Register, 12/18/09).

South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline – if you get the hotline second hand from another source you may be missing the Quotable Quotes and The Lighter Side – to subscribe direct – email gmcavoy@ufl.edu

Up Coming Meetings

January 24-27, 2010 **US Composting Council 18th Annual Conference and Trade Show**
Wyndham Resort, Orlando, Florida

February 6, 2010 **Hendry County City Farm Tour**

Call Debra for details – 863-674-4092

Annual Conference and Exhibition is the most widely attended composting and organics recycling show in North America. For more information, go to <http://www.compostingcouncil.org/conference/>

Opportunities

Commercial Development Representatives - Valent USA is seeking a two Commercial Development Reps (West Coast & East Coast) to work on biorational products.

Valent USA is seeking two hands-on leaders to spearhead a greater emphasis on biorational products. This individual will serve as a critical liaison between university extension agriculture experts, Valent's agriculture product distributors, and Valent customers in the field and distributors' locations. This includes coordinating internal staff and resources with external partners and customers. This person will be essential in providing guidance to sales representatives. As an individual contributor, it is critical that this person be a self-starter.

The following responsibilities will fall under his/her control:

- Initiate, direct and execute scientific research and/or development strategies for biorational products through research staff or individual studies.
- Investigate the feasibility of applying a wide variety of scientific principles and concepts to potential opportunities, products or problems.
- Plan and execute field research for biorational products.
- Manage the technical development of the sales group and interface with various departments.

The CDR must possess an in-depth understanding of the biological pesticides and develop a proficiency to explain the biorational product line and train Sales colleagues in their use. Since he/she will regularly interact with the Field Market Developers (FMDs), it is of utmost importance to foster an effective working relationship with them. A key ingredient for success in this role is the ability to work with others and demonstrate strong personal skills with people throughout the agriculture industry.

The selected individual will travel up to 40%. The West coast position will be based in the candidate's home office, ideally in Central California, the Fresno area and/or Washington State. The East Coast position will be

located in the State of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York or Pennsylvania. There may be a significant amount of car travel as well.

The ideal candidate will have:

- A B.S. degree in an agricultural or biological science such as plant physiology or agricultural science. An advanced degree such as an M.S., Ph.D. or MBA in business agriculture, entomology, plant physiology, agriculture sciences, plant science, horticulture or a biological science a plus.
- A minimum of five years relevant industry experience, preferably with ten or more years experience in field development.
- Extensive knowledge of agricultural practices and work experience with Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) is preferred, and Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) experience is ideal.
- A record of successful product development and commercialization.

In addition to a salary, this position is eligible for a significant annual cash bonus, which is tied to sales and job performance goals.

Contact Joanne Yawitz, President, Bay View Resource Group, on a proprietary and confidential basis.

Telephone: 415-441-351 E-mail: jyawitzbvr@gmail.com

Website: www.bayviewresourcegroup.com

Farm Land for Lease

Farm Land for lease in LaBelle area – contact Clyde Lavender at 863-673-2338

Quality agricultural land with easy access to SR 710 and SR 76. 1000+/- acres, available in Martin County for lease, or possible joint venture production of vegetable crops, bio-fuels, etc. Call John Merritt at 863-699-6090.

Websites

The UF/IFAS Vegetable Production Handbook for Florida 2010- 2011 is now available on-line at <http://www.hos.ufl.edu/vegetarian/10/Jan/Vegetable%20Production%20Handbook%202010-2011.html>

Hendry Glades Farm Bureau - check out the website at <http://hendrygladesfarmbureau.weebly.com/>

Western Pam Beach Farm Bureau - check out their Facebook site at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Palm-Beach-County-Farm-Bureau/165971222136>

Quotable Quotes

Life is something that everyone should try at least once. - Henry J. Tillman

Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome. - Isaac Asimov

Life is a long lesson in humility. - James M. Barrie

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. - Mark Twain

Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live. - Mark Twain

Education: that which reveals to the wise, and conceals from the stupid, the vast limits of their knowledge. - Mark Twain

Facts are stubborn things, but statistics are more pliable. - Mark Twain

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. - Corinthians 13:4-7

On the Lighter Side

Out of the Mouth of Babes

A California Congressman was seated next to a little girl on the airplane leaving from Mobile, AL when he turned to her and said, 'Let's talk. I've heard that flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger.'

The little girl, who had just opened her book, closed it slowly and said to the total stranger, 'What would you like to talk about?'

'Oh, I don't know,' said the Congressman. 'How about global warming or universal health care', and he smiles smugly.

OK, ' she said. 'Those could be interesting topics. But let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps of dried grass. Why do you suppose that is?'

The legislator, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, 'Hmmm, I really have absolutely no idea.'

To which the little girl replies, "Well then.....Do you really feel qualified to discuss issues such as global warming or universal health care when you don't know shit?"

She quietly went about reading her book and was not bothered again!

Aunt Karen

The teacher gave her fifth-grade class an assignment: get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it.

The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories.

Ashley said, "My father's a farmer, and we have a lot of egg-laying hens. One time we were taking our eggs to market in a basket on the front seat of the car when we hit a big bump in the road and all the eggs went flying and broke and made a mess."

"What's the moral of the story?" asked the teacher.

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket!"

"Very good," said the teacher.

Next little Sarah raised her hand and said, "Our family are farmers too. But we raise chickens for the meat market. We had a dozen eggs one time, but when they hatched we only got ten live chicks, and the moral to this story is, 'Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.'"

"That was a fine story, Sarah. Michael, do you have a story to share?"

"Yes, my daddy told me this story about my Aunt Karen. Aunt Karen was a flight engineer in the Gulf War and her plane was hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory, and all she had was a bottle of whiskey, a machine gun, and a machete. She drank the whiskey on the way down so it wouldn't break and then she landed right in the middle of a

hundred enemy troops. She killed seventy of them with the machine gun until she ran out of bullets. Then she killed twenty more with the machete until the blade broke. Then she killed the last ten with her bare hands."

"Good heavens," said the horrified teacher, "what kind of moral did your daddy tell you from that horrible story?"

"Stay away from Aunt Karen when she's been drinking!"

Note: State and local budgets cuts are threatening to further reduce our funding – if you are receiving currently receiving the hotline by mail and would like to switch over to electronic delivery – just drop me an email. It is much quicker and you will get the hotline within minutes of my completing it and help conserve dwindling resources at the same time. Thanks to those that have already made the switch.

Contributors include: Joel Allingham/AgriCare, Inc, Jeff Beethel/Syngenta Flowers, Bruce Corbitt/West Coast Tomato Growers, Fred Heald/Farmers Supply, Sarah Hornsby/AgCropCon, Cecil Howell/H & R Farms, Loren Horsman/Glades Crop Care, Bruce Johnson/General Crop Management, Barry Kostyk/SWFREC, Dr. Mary Lamberts/Miami-Dade County Extension, Leon Lucas/Glades Crop Care, Mark Mossler/UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Gene McAvoy/Hendry County Extension, Alice McGhee/Thomas Produce, Dr. Gregg Nuessly/EREC Chuck Obern/C&B Farm, Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton/SWFREC, Dr. Ken Pernezny/EREC, Dr. Rick Raid/EREC, Dr Ron Rice/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr Pam Roberts/SWFREC, Dr. Nancy Roe/Farming Systems Research, Wes Roan/6 L's, Dr. Dak Seal/ TREC, Kevin Seitzinger/Gargiulo, Ken Shuler/Stephen's Produce, Crystal Snodgrass/Manatee County Extension, John Stanford/Thomas Produce, Mike Stanford/MED Farms, Dr. Phil Stansly/SWFREC, Dr David Sui/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr Gary Vallad/GCREC , Mark Verbeck/GulfCoast Ag, Alicia Whidden/Hillsborough County Extension, Dr Henry Yonce/KAC Ag Research and Dr. Shouan Zhang/TREC.

The **South Florida Pest and Disease Hotline** is compiled by **Gene McAvoy** and is issued on a biweekly basis by the **Hendry County Cooperative Extension Office** as a service to the vegetable industry.

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