



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

October 26, 2007

October has been unseasonably warm with little evidence of the occasional cold fronts that normally begin to reach South Florida this time of year. The National Weather Service indicates that it is on track to be one of the hottest on record. Some spray burn has been reported associated with high temps as has stem girdling in newly set pepper. High temperatures ranged in the upper 80's with most places experiencing at least several days in the 90's, night temperatures were in the 60's and 70's.

The rainy season is not over yet and scattered showers and thunderstorms continue to affect the area with most areas receiving significant precipitation. The highest total reported by the FAWN Weather System came from Balm with 4.43 inches and the lowest Homestead with 1.36 inches for the period.

Rain hampered field activities in some areas. Growers continue ship okra from Dade County, and a range of crops are beginning to come to market from central and south Florida locations including beans, cucumbers,

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
10/4 – 10/25/2007	65.03	91.3	4.43	80.05	0.12
Belle Glade					
10/4 – 10/25/2007	66.47	92.35	2.61	81.19	0.12
Ft Lauderdale					
10/4 – 10/25/2007	73.49	90.79	2.60	81.43	0.12
Fort Pierce					
10/4 – 10/25/2007	69.85	90.55	2.58	82.57	0.12
Homestead					
10/4 – 10/25/2007	70.81	90.21	1.36	80.14	0.13
Immokalee					
10/4 – 10/25/2007	67.69	94.48	2.22	80.52	0.13

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eggplant, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomato and specialty items are starting to come on the market.

Around Hillsborough County strawberry planting continues. In general, most reports from around the area indicate that crops look great.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that a stalled front over the east coast will bring a 70 -80% chance of showers today. The chance of rain will diminish over the next few days as the front moves away from the area and will return to a more normal pattern with 30% chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms through next week. For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

Insects

Whiteflies

Around Immokalee, whitefly numbers continue to bounce around but overall numbers appear to be declining to more seasonable levels from the highs reported a few weeks ago perhaps assisted by the recent rains. Scouts are reporting mostly low counts in tomato with a few higher numbers in a few locations. Higher numbers have been reported in squash with some silver leaf starting to appear in scattered locations.

Respondents in Hillsborough and Manatee Co, report that whitefly continue to be pretty heavy but note that numbers have fallen off some with the recent rains.

Respondents in Homestead indicate that whiteflies are present in okra and tomato.

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach County report mostly low numbers of whiteflies.

For current management recommendations – see **Management of Whiteflies, Whitefly-Vectored Plant Virus, and Insecticide Resistance for Vegetable Production in Southern Florida** - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN695>

Worms

Respondents in Homestead report that fall armyworm pressure is increasing as corn acreage goes up. Scouts also report seeing low levels of cutworm, corn borer, and wireworm.

Growers in the EAA report problems with armyworms in corn and leafy greens.

Respondents from the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that worm pressure remains steady with a list of the usual suspects. Reports indicate that leaf rollers are widely present in snap beans.

Around Hillsborough County scouts report some nice populations of bud worm on strawberry plants less than two weeks in field.

Around Immokalee worm pressure ranges from low to moderate for around the area with beet armyworms, southern and fall armyworms, loopers and fruitworms in most crops. In a few locations, reports indicate worm pressure (beet armyworm southern armyworm, loopers, fruitworms, and hornworms) have been high in peppers with continual eggs, moths, and a few survivors) Worm pressure has slowed slightly in sweet corn but continues to be high. Melonworms are also active in cucurbits.

In Palm Beach County growers and scouts report that worm pressure is moderate and appears to be declining in pepper and tomato with beet and southern armyworms predominating. Loopers and melonworms have been heavy in squash and cucumbers.

Leafminer

Reports indicate that leafminers are showing up in a number of East Coast locations and reports indicate that in some places some growers have begun to treat for leafminers.

Around Southwest Florida leafminers numbers are mostly low with some sign appearing on ends and field margins but a few reports indicate numbers are beginning to increase and some fields are approaching threshold levels.

Around Manatee County reports indicate that leafminer is widely present in tomato at levels that warrant treatment in a number of places.

Broad Mites

Around Immokalee, broadmites continue to cause problems in pepper and eggplant.

Respondents in Palm Beach note that broad mites are beginning to show up in pepper.

Broadmites are so small that they are may be hard to see even with a good hand lens. Symptoms of broad mite feeding include distortion of plants growth causing leaves to become thickened and narrow resulting in a “strappy” appearance. Leaves curl downward and may turn coppery or purplish. Internodes shorten and lateral buds break more than normal. Mites tend to crowd into crevices and buds and feed on the growing tips. This new growth may also be stunted or killed which forces out additional shoots. Flowers are distorted and fail to open normally.

Heavy feeding can cause flower abortion and russetting of fruit. Unless controlled, broad mites can destroy the commercial value of infested crops. Their toxic saliva causes twisted, hardened and distorted growth in the terminal of the plant. The effects of their feeding may persist long after the mites have been eradicated.

Chemical control is not difficult. Kelthane or dicofol, micronized sulfur (i.e. Thiolux) and AgriMek have all given good results locally. It should be noted that none of these materials kills eggs or seems to have enough residual to kill all hatching larvae. Therefore, to achieve control it is necessary to make at least two applications about 5 days apart to allow time for eggs to hatch and target emerging larvae.

Oberon has also provided good control. It should be applied twice at 7-day intervals and will provide some ovicidal activity.

Research performed by Dr Dak Seal, TREC indicates that tank mixing 1% Trilogy with half rates of Kelthane or Agrimek provided mite control equivalent to that obtained with full rates of either product alone.

Spider Mites

Scouts around SW Florida report finding a few spider mites in eggplant and melons.

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach also report some spider mite activity mostly on older egg plant.

Pepper Weevils

Around Immokalee, mostly low levels of pepper weevils have been reported in several locations. In one case, scouts report finding juvenile weevils in very small plants almost as soon as they go in the ground.

Many growers have indicated disappointing results in obtaining satisfactory control with Vydate in the field. Some growers have terminated older plantings where weevils had become unmanageable. A number of growers have indicated obtaining good results in controlling weevils with either Capture - bifenthrin or cryolite. Actara – thiomethoxam has also demonstrated good efficacy.

Other materials that have been used with some success by growers include Neemix and fish oil. These products are most effective when used preventatively before weevils become established. Some growers who have applied Admire – imidicloprid on pepper indicate that there may be some activity on weevils and report that Admire has delayed infestations and possibly reduced the overall level of pepper weevil infestation. Many of the currently labeled materials are difficult to work into an IPM program once plantings begin to be harvested due to the 7 day PHI in force for all of them. This is particularly true for hot peppers which are often harvested multiple times during the course of a week.

Thrips

Scouts across the area are beginning to report low levels of flower thrips in pepper and tomato.

Aphids

A few aphids are also beginning to show up around the area.

Diseases

Respondents across the area note a dramatic increase in disease incidence particularly those favored by damp wet conditions.

Bacterial Spot

Around Southwest Florida, growers and scouts report a significant increase in bacterial spot on both tomato and pepper. In some places, infections are present half way up the canopy and in a few cases fruit infections are present.

Around Manatee County, the word is lots of bacteria with both foliar and fruit lesions present. Scouts note that bacterial spot infections increase after every rain episode, and in some cases there is a lot more fruit with spots than one would think from the foliar infection.

Respondents in Palm Beach County report that incidence of bacterial spot ranges from none to high depending on the location and age of the crop.

Growers and scouts in Homestead report low bacterial spot in tomato despite frequent showers.

Phyllis Gilreath notes that she has noticed some obvious differences in tomato plants depending on disease control programs, adding that some growers over apply copper. It is important to remember that copper is a protectant and will not cure bacteria. The idea is to keep the new growth covered and too much copper just makes the plant hard and slows growth. It is not necessary to apply so much copper that the plastic is either blue or brown.

Researchers have identified no fewer than ten different races of *Xanthomonas campestris*. Since no variety incorporates resistance to all known races, it is important that growers use varieties that have resistance to races that occur in their area. No resistant tomato varieties are available commercially.

Commercial pepper varieties resistant to races 1, 2 and 3 have been on the market for several years and over the past year or so a number of newer varieties which incorporate additional resistance to races 4 and 5 have come on the market. Seminis has introduced several varieties of sweet pepper that are resistant to Races 1 through 5 including PS 5776 and PS 8302. Harris Moran has introduced Patriot and Revolution which include Race 1, 2, 3 and 5 resistance. Harris Moran 2641 has resistance to races 1 through 4. All of these have performed well in trials demonstrating dramatically reduced infection rates.

It is important to apply sprays before and during rainy periods. If conditions are favorable, frequent spraying may not be sufficient to maintain bacterial spot below damaging levels.

The traditional recommendation for bacterial spot control consists of copper and maneb or mancozeb. Attention to application techniques is as important as choice of material in achieving adequate control. The effectiveness of copper is limited, because of the widespread occurrence of copper tolerance among strains of *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*.

In the past few years several new products have come on the market that have given good results in research trials when used in rotation or together with traditional controls such as copper. These include Tanos (Dupont) as well as the SAR elicitor Actigard (Syngenta), and Serenade (AgraQuest).

Over the past few years, some growers and researchers have experienced success with the bacteriophage (bacterial virus) AgriPhage (Omnilytics) for the control of bacterial spot. Success with AgriPhage requires a high level of management and sampling to detect and

A number of growers have also reported good results using Oxidate (Biosafe Systems) as a sanitizing agent following cultural operations or weather events favoring the development and spread of the disease.

Growers around Homestead are reporting some minor problems with bacteria on beans following recent heavy rains.

Target Spot

Target spot is being reported on tomatoes from locations around Homestead.

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that target spot has also flared up in several locations on tomato and mature fruit have some infections.

Around Manatee County reports indicate that target spot is present on tomato in a number of locations.

On tomato leaves and stems, the disease first appears as small necrotic lesions with light brown centers and dark margins. Some varieties display a pronounced yellow halo around these leaf spots. Individual lesions often coalesce and cause a general blighting of leaves.

On tomato fruit, lesions are more distinct. Small, brown, slightly sunken flecks are seen initially and may resemble abiotic injury such as sandblasting. As fruits mature the lesions become larger and coalesce resulting in large pitted areas. Advanced symptoms include large deeply sunken lesions, often with visible dark gray to black fungal growth in the center. A zone of wrinkled looking tissue may surround the margins of lesions on mature fruit. Placing suspect fruit in a moist environment for 24 hours will often induce the growth of dark gray mycelia providing telltale diagnostic evidence of target spot infection..

In trials, wounding was essential for reproduction of the fruit symptoms. Wind-blown sand is probably important in outbreaks of target spot on tomato fruit in the field. Target spot symptoms, especially in the early stages, can be readily confused with two other tomato diseases, bacterial spot and early blight.

Currently, target spot is controlled primarily by applications of protectant fungicides. It should be noted that tank-mix sprays of copper fungicides and maneb do not provide acceptable levels of target spot control. Recommended fungicides include various chlorothaliniol formulations (Bravo, Echo, Bravo Ultrex, Bravo Weather Stik and Ridomil Gold/Bravo).

Several outbreaks of target spot of tomato have been correlated with frequent use of copper/maneb tank-mixes for bacterial spot control to the exclusion of other fungicides. This underscores the importance of correct diagnosis in implementing a disease control program in tomato.

Downy Mildew on Basil

Downy Mildew has been reported on downy mildew in at least three locations around south Florida. It has also been confirmed at the plant disease clinic in Immokalee. Downy mildew is a new disease on basil in Florida and may be related to a downy mildew that has been seen in Europe on greenhouse-grown basil in Italy and Switzerland.

The greenhouse industry has also reported that a new downy mildew that affects coleus has recently been discovered in multiple locations around the United States and is causing alarm for both coleus growers and researchers. This new coleus downy mildew disease is caused by a microorganism that may be new to North America.

Tests of coleus downy mildew DNA, however, have indicated that it is a different species — one that has previously been seen in Europe on greenhouse-grown basil in Italy and Switzerland. For now, the coleus pathogen can be referred to as *Peronospora* sp. It is known that it can infect both coleus and basil, but the possibility it can go to additional plant hosts certainly exists.

Growers should be aware that downy mildew can be explosive when the weather is wet and humid. The downy mildew pathogen requires free moisture from condensation or watering on the plant surface to germinate. Reports indicate that some growers have had difficulty achieving satisfactory control.

Downy mildew has the bad habit of changing and becoming resistant to the systemic fungicides. Alternating systemic and protectant materials with different activities will help guard against the development of pesticide resistance in this downy mildew.

Dr Rick Raid, Pathologist EREC in Belle Glades and Dr Pam Roberts, Pathologist SWFREC are currently investigating this disease and are conducting fungicide tests with a number of materials to determine efficacy against this pathogen.

Choanephora Blight

Growers and scouts report that Choanephora blight, caused by the fungus *Choanephora* sp., is widely present on bell pepper and cucumbers, green beans, squash in numerous locations across South Florida including Homestead and the Glades, as well as several locations on the East Coast and Southwest Florida.

Outbreaks of Choanephora blight are associated with extended rainy periods and high temperatures. Leaf area may appear water-soaked and margins and leaf tips blighted. Older lesions appear necrotic and dried out. The dark-gray fungal growth may be apparent on some lesions. Under magnification, a silvery, spine-like

fungal mycelia with a dark head is seen. Symptoms may be confused with Phytophthora blight (*Phytophthora capsici*) when young or spray burn on bean plants with older symptoms.

There are few management techniques available, but fungicidal sprays may reduce disease damage. A good cold front, if we ever get one, will dramatically reduce the incidence and severity of this disease.

TYLCV

Around Southwest Florida, tomato yellow leaf curl virus is present in a number of locations. Overall incidence is low around 1 % in most places but some fields are showing 6 -8% symptomatic plants.

Around Manatee County, tomato yellow leaf curl virus is widely present with incidence in most locations at 10% or less. A few fields displaying of higher incidence, from 15% to as high as 70% percent in the worse case scenario, have been reported.

A few scattered reports of mostly single plants showing TYLCV symptoms are also trickling in from around Palm Beach County.

Very low TYLCV is present in the Homestead area.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach report finding tomato spotted wilt on pepper in a number of locations, mainly on transplants originating in Georgia.

Respondents in Homestead also report low levels of tomato spotted wilt in tomato.

Pythium

Growers and scouts in a number of areas including Homestead West Palm Beach and the Glades report aerial pythium on beans in areas receiving heavy rains. Severity is high in some cases.

Phytophthora

Growers and scouts report that phytophthora is bad in some locations around Palm Beach County mostly on squash and pepper but indicate that it is also present on eggplant and tomato. In the severely affected fields, stand losses have reached 50 % or more.

Southern Blight

Growers and scouts in SW Florida and in Manatee area report finding a few mostly single plants with southern blight which is about normal for this time of year.

Gummy Stem Blight

Growers and scouts Around Manatee County continue to report some problems with gummy steam blight in melons.

Powdery Mildew

Scattered reports of powdery mildew on cucurbits have been received from across the area. Incidence and occurrence remains low.

Downy Mildew

Growers and scouts around South Florida are reporting some scattered problems with downy mildew on cucurbits. Respondents in Manatee County report that downy mildew in cucumber has responded favorably to fungicidal treatments which is a relief compared to problems reported in obtaining control last season.

Alternaria

Alternaria is beginning to be reported on beans and tomatoes from a number of locations around South Florida

Rhizoctonia

Reports from growers and scouts indicate that Rhizoctonia is widely present in beans in a number of locations around South Florida. Problems increased following recent rainy weather but incidence and occurrence remains mostly low.

Botrytis

Problems with botrytis on pepper have been reported around Immokalee and in Manatee County.

Bacterial Wilt

Respondents in both Immokalee and Manatee County report some problems with bacterial wilt in pepper following some short intense rains. Infections tend to be centered in the lower portions of the field.

Although diseased plants can be found scattered in the field, bacterial wilt usually occurs in foci associated with water accumulation in lower areas. In furrow-irrigated crops, it is common to find several adjacent plants in a row to be wilted, due to inoculum spread through the water channel. The initial symptom in mature plants under natural conditions is similar to that observed in tomato or potato. Wilting of leaves, sometimes only few branches of the plant, occurs during hot days followed by recovery throughout the evening and early hours of the morning. The wilted leaves maintain their green color and do not fall as disease progresses. Under favorable conditions complete wilt will occur.

The vascular tissues in the lower stem of wilted plants show a dark brown discoloration. These symptoms are very similar to those of Phytophthora blight, induced by *Phytophthora capsici*. However, an extensive external darkening of the lower stem is observed mostly for Phytophthora blight. Furthermore, a cross section of the stem of a plant with bacterial wilt produces a white, milky strand of bacterial cells in clear water. This sign distinguishes the wilt caused by the bacterium from that caused by fungal pathogens.

Cucurbit Leaf Crumple Virus

Cucurbit leaf crumple virus continues to be reported around Manatee County.

Post Harvest Diseases

As tomato harvest commences around South Florida and in light of the heavy fogs in some fields and spotty rainfall this past week, conditions warrant that growers staying alert to the occurrence of possible postharvest problems.

UF/IFAS is working diligently to understand all the variables which have been contributing to the postharvest problems over the last few seasons. In order to help us do this, we ask that you please

contact your county agent if postharvest problems do show up. Hopefully you will also be able to provide field records including rainfall, time of harvest, cultivar, plant condition (i.e. wet when picked), and any other information you have which may be a factor. Also, if problems show up in one field and not another, it would be very helpful to know what fungicide treatments were applied to the fields prior to harvest, especially if there are differences.

If you have any questions or wish to report problems that may show up, please contact your local vegetable extension agent or Dr. Jerry Bartz in Gainesville. For those who did not receive the special research report "Critical Issues in Tomato Production in Florida". at the Tomato Institute in September, please contact your agent and we will get you a copy. This report addresses rapid fruit breakdown, sour rot, and discusses some of the problems from last season as well as preventative measures.

News You Can Use

LaBelle Man One of 4 to be Inducted into Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame

Hugh English of LaBelle is one of four who will be inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in February 2008.

English worked for A. Duda and Sons Inc., one of Florida's agricultural giants, for 35 years. He started as a citrus grove manager and retired as a corporate vice president at the company, now known as Duda Farm Fresh Foods Inc.

Through his work at Duda in the 1960s, English helped launch the fledgling citrus industry in Southwest Florida. He did pioneering research and helped develop production methods that are commonly used today, including low-volume irrigation.

Born in the small town of Alva in Lee County, where his grandfather settled in 1876, English grew up on the family farm and began working in his family's citrus groves as a boy. He studied animal science at the University of Florida. He went to work at Duda's new citrus grove in Felda in 1965.

Four years after joining Duda he was named manager of the company's groves in LaBelle. When he retired in 2001, he was a corporate vice president in charge of the company's citrus division.

Despite a demanding career, he still found time to give back to the community. He helped organize the Gulf Citrus Growers Association to help encourage the industry's expansion here after devastating freezes in the late 1970s and early 1980s in Central Florida.

This year's other winners are: "Pete" Clemons of Okeechobee; Fritz Stein Jr. of Belle Glade, and Alto Alfred Straughn of Waldo.

They will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 30th annual awards celebration on Feb. 12, 2008, during the Florida State Fair in Tampa. These four inductees will bring the total to 124.

Tickets to the event will be available early next year. For ticket information, contact the Florida Poultry Federation at 813-628 4551.

By Laura Layden, Naples Daily News
October 23, 2007

Gilreaths Inducted into Manatee County Ag Hall of Fame

James and Phyllis Gilreath will be inducted into the Manatee County Agriculture Hall of Fame in November.

Together they came to Manatee County in the early 1980s and will leave as members of the Manatee County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Jim and Phyllis Gilreath, who have contributed to Manatee County agriculture for 25 years, will be honored as hall of famers during the annual Farm City Week's Hall of Fame Luncheon on Nov. 15.

The Gilreaths, who have been married 32 years and plan to move to Jim's childhood home in Greenville in the spring, were surprised when Duette tomato farmer Gary Reeder broke the news this week.

"I thought he was going to ask about a problem in his tomato field when he called at 7 a.m.," said Phyllis, who has been the vegetable agent for the Manatee County Extension Service in Palmetto since 1982. "I was dead quiet. I felt awed and humbled. I don't know that I deserve it."

Jim Gilreath, however, a retired research scientist from the University of Florida's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center whose area of expertise is soilborne diseases and the parasites known as nematodes, was awake enough to flash his well-known sense of humor.

"I asked Gary if it came with any money," Gilreath quipped.

Jay Taylor of Taylor and Fulton observed, "Jim is renowned worldwide for his work on methyl bromide and Phyllis brought a level of expertise and professionalism to the extension office." "She brought the University of Florida to the campus in Palmetto."

Not only is Phyllis Gilreath heading into the Hall of Fame, but she is heading for retirement at the extension service on Dec. 21.

Record May Fall in October Heat - Average Temp of 82.3 Burns 81.7 Mark

It's not just you. It's unusually hot in Southwest Florida.

The Fort Myers area is poised to break the average daily temperature record for October. Typically, the average October temperature at point is 77.5 degrees. This year is 82.3 degrees, on pace with 1985 when October ended at a record 81.7 degrees. A slight cold snap at month's end in 1985 may not happen this year.

"This is probably going to end up in the top three warmest October's ever," said National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Noah. "If we can keep the cold front away it could be the warmest ever." The tropical weather is lasting longer because the cold fronts moving down from the Dakota's are pushing east before they reach this area.

Fort Myers reached 91 degrees Monday, short of the record 93 set in 1990. But it felt like 98 degrees at 4 p.m., the steamiest point of the day, according to the weather service. Last year on Oct. 22 it was 89 degrees, but then two days later plunged to a high of 73 degrees.

Don't expect any such drop this year. Highs will reach the mid-to-high 80s through Monday, according to the weather service.

"The main player that we have been focusing on is the La Niña pattern," said Weather Service meteorologist Brian LaMarre.

La Niña is a cooling of ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. It is expected to contribute to warmer temperatures and decreased rainfall during the winter season. That's bad news for an area already suffering through drought-like conditions.

Lee County is 6 inches below normal rainfall for this time of year.

FAST FACTS

- It hasn't been this warm through October since 1985, when the average daily temperature was 81.7 degrees for the month.
- Fort Myers area is on pace to break that record this October.
- Unfortunately, in 1985 a late season hurricane ripped up the Gulf waters. Hurricane Kate skirted the Fort Myers area but moved through the Gulf before landfall in Northwest Florida as a Category 2 storm on Nov. 22.

By Ryan Lengerich, News Press
October 23, 2007

FAWN News

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) is pleased to announce the release of its new-and-improved Internet site. The site has been completely overhauled with a new user interface, database, and web and data servers. The user interface features a completely new look, streamlined navigation, and access to additional resources. The entire FAWN database has been updated to a new, more standardized and efficient format. All this, operating on new servers monitored 24/7 by UF personnel, will provide the user with faster, more reliable access to FAWN data, tools, and other resources. Several new tools have been added, including an Urban Irrigation Scheduler.

H-2B Extension Passes In Senate

A much-needed one-year extension of the return guest worker exemption for the H-2B program passed in the Senate. The provision extends the H-2B returning worker exemption through Sept. 30, 2008.

The return worker exemption, if enacted into law, would increase the number of immigrant workers from the current 66,000 to the larger numbers possible when this exemption was in place in 2005 and 2006. As part of an appropriations package, the extension provision will now become part of joint House and Senate negotiations, subsequent to adoption by both bodies, and then must be signed by the President. If the H-2B provision is retained in the final legislation, it would be retroactive to Oct. 1, 2007, allowing the Department of Homeland Security to begin approving petitions for returning workers as soon as the President signs the legislation into law.

Now is the time to contact your senators and representative to stress the importance of the H-2B program and the returning-worker exemption to your business.

No-Match Rule Indefinitely Delayed

A federal court in San Francisco indefinitely blocked implementation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) No-Match rule involving Social Security numbers. The court found DHS had not followed correct procedure for issuing the No-Match rule and had overstepped its authority in making statements about discrimination provisions in immigration law. However, the court agreed DHS has authority, under the law, to impose the rule as long as it issues it correctly.

Mahoney Supports WRDA Act

At a rally held on the banks of the Indian River Lagoon last Saturday, Congressman Tim Mahoney called upon President Bush to sign the long-awaited Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA). Bush has vowed to veto WRDA due to its large budget that provides \$1.8 billion dollars for Florida and a total of \$23 billion nationally. However, Congress passed the legislation with a wide enough margin to override the veto.

In addition to authorizing major environmental restoration projects for the east coast and the Big Cypress' Picayune Strand, the bill also includes Lake Okeechobee dike repairs and building a new drinking water treatment plant for the poverty-stricken communities of South Bay, Belle Glade, and Pahokee on the shores of Lake Okeechobee.

At the dockside press conference, Representative Mahoney said, "When I got into office it was very clear to me that in my district, which runs from where we are standing here in Stuart all the way to Punta Gorda, I'm blessed to have not only the St. Lucie, but the Caloosahatchee; I've got the Kissimmee; I've got three-quarters of Lake Okeechobee. There's no politician in the state other than the governor that's got a bigger worry about water quality than Florida's 16th congressional district. It became very clear to me this had to be the very first thing we deal with."

Representative Mahoney told the group of more than 50 environmental, agricultural and water management representatives, "There has not been a single WRDA bill passed in seven years. WRDA, by itself is not the answer, but it is the first step we have to take in order to deliver on the promise that the federal government made to the people of Florida over ten years ago when it said it would clean up and fix the Everglades.

"The president has to make a fateful decision this week. Does he sign the bill into law and start to invest back into our waterways?" said Mahoney. While challenging the president, Mahoney admits the cost, saying "Yes, this bill's expensive, but it's expensive because it has been neglected. This isn't just an environmental issue; we all know this is the basis of our economy."

"One of the things we've been working on, and that was an important part of the Farm Bill, is trying to expand conservation programs, so that we can get the ranchers and farmers working in conjunction with the environmentalists to start reversing this problem," said Mahoney, Florida's only member on the powerful House Agriculture Committee.

Talking about the expense of government purchasing more land, Mahoney believes there simply isn't enough money to buy all the land and that it will be much faster and cheaper if we get agriculture involved in solutions, such as storing water in natural retention areas along the Kissimmee River.

Recognizing the differing interests of his coastal and interior constituents, Mahoney explained, "You're right... we've got to stop discharging in the Caloosahatchee and in the St. Lucie Rivers. On the other hand, we also have to recognize the fact that the poorest communities we have in the state are in that central part."

To help improve the economies of the rural communities, Mahoney has expanded the Farm Bill programs to better encourage environmentally-responsible cellulosic ethanol production from agricultural wastes, such as citrus pulp and sugarcane bagasse.

Unless public pressure changes his mind, President Bush is expected to veto the WRDA bill, leading to an override effort by the House and Senate. Both Florida Senators, Republican Mel Martinez and Democrat Bill Nelson, are on record supporting WRDA.

Pesticide Registrations and Changes

Methyl Bromide Replacement Receives EPA Registration

Arysta LifeScience has announced that EPA has granted commercial registration for one year to Midas (iodomethane) a broad-spectrum soil fumigant that effectively controls a broad range of soilborne diseases, nematodes, weed seeds, and insects that threaten high-value crops including strawberries, tomatoes, and peppers. Midas will be available through select fumigant distributors this month.

The product was developed to help growers with the phase out of methyl bromide under the Montreal Protocol. Worldwide, about 72,000 tons of methyl bromide are used each year, according to EPA data. North America uses about 27,000 tons annually, 85% of which is used for soil fumigation.

Platinum® and Actara® Receive Expanded and New Crop Use Labels in Florida

Platinum® and Actara® from Syngenta Crop Protection, received approval from the Florida Department of Agriculture allowing higher application rates and use on additional vegetables including leafy vegetables and brassicas.

“The label extensions for Platinum and Actara will provide Florida growers with targeted insect control on a broad variety of crops,” said Coby Long, Syngenta brand manager. “With high efficacy, excellent control and favorable environmental safety profiles, these products are extremely successful in integrated pest management (IPM) programs.”

Both Platinum and Actara contain the same active ingredient, thiamethoxam, which provides excellent control of many sucking and chewing pests. Thiamethoxam has unique chemical attributes, including high water solubility and low partition coefficient, which enable it to rapidly penetrate treated leaf surfaces and move throughout the leaf to create a reservoir of active ingredient.

For more information go to www.syngentacropprotection.com

Dow Agrosciences Receives U.S. Registration for Delegate™, Radiant™ Insecticides

Dow AgroSciences announced it has received registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of DELEGATE™ WG and RADIANT™ SC insecticides, two new insect control products containing an innovative, new active ingredient — spinetoram. DELEGATE WG has been labeled for use in tree fruit, grapes and tree nuts, while RADIANT SC is available for use in vegetables.

Spinetoram has shown excellent broad-spectrum insect control in fruit and vegetable crops. One example of the impact spinetoram brings to crop producers is that it provides apple growers with a new mode of action for the control of codling moth, as well as numerous other internal feeding lepidoptera.

Registered under the EPA’s Reduced Risk Pesticide Initiative, spinetoram maintains populations of most key beneficial insects without flaring mites. Spinetoram also is effective at low use rates and is less persistent in the environment compared with older compounds.

Spinetoram also carries many other favorable features for growers, including re-entry and preharvest intervals and minimal personal protective equipment requirements, making it a convenient, easy-to-use tool for growers.”

RADIANT™ — Powerful, Broad-spectrum Insect Control in Vegetables

RADIANT™ SC insecticide is now available in for the control of worms, thrips, leafminers and more in vegetable crops.

Labeled for use in fruiting and leafy vegetables, cole crops, cucurbits and other vegetable crops, RADIANT SC provides fast knockdown and control of a wide variety of vegetable pests, including loopers, armyworms, thrips, leafminers and diamondback moth.

RADIANT™ SC insecticide offers a short re-entry interval, as well as short preharvest intervals and minimal personal protective equipment requirements.

Dow AgroSciences recommends that both RADIANT SC and DELEGATE WG be used for broad-spectrum insect control in their respective labeled crops, with rotation to INTREPID® 2F insecticide when targeting worm pests. Rotation of insecticides is strongly encouraged to maintain the long-term effectiveness of these valuable tools and manage against resistance. For more information go to www.RadiantInsecticide.com

Opportunity

United Phosphorus, Inc. is seeking a Field Development Representative for Florida. Position is responsible for conducting and coordinating plant protection field research and demonstration trials. Candidates will be responsible for the compilation, interpretation and presentation of project data in written and oral format. Advanced degree in Plant Sciences (Entomology, Plant Pathology, or Plant Physiology). Strong inter-personal and communication skills with researchers, regulatory, marketing and sales community. Minimum of 5 years experience working with AgChem products in high value crops.

Submit resume and cover letter to:

Philip W. Robinson
United Phosphorus, Inc.
1480 Woodpond Rdbt.
Carmel, Indiana 46033

Voice: 317.815.9120

Fax: 317.815.9120

E-Mail: <mailto:phil.robinson@uniphos.com>

Up Coming Meetings

Palm Beach County

November 5, 2007

General Standards/Core Training and Test Review 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Clayton Hutchinson Ag Center
559 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida

Contact 561-233-1700 – select option, 1 then option 3

November 7, 2007 **General Standards/Core Training and Test Review** 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Private Applicator Test Review 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Belle Glade Extension Office
2975 State Road 15
Belle Glade, Florida

Call 561-996-1655 for more information.

Southwest Florida

November 13, 2007 **WPS Handler Training** Spanish - 9:00 AM
English – 1:00 PM

UF/IFAS Hendry County Extension Office
PO Box 68
LaBelle, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details

November 6, 2007 **Vegetable Growers Meeting – Begomo and Crini Viruses in Florida and Bayer Crop Science Product Update**

UF/IFAS SW Florida Research and Education Center
SR 29 N
Immokalee, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details

Other Meetings

December 6 -7, 2007 **Florida Ag Expo**

Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
14625 CR 672
Wimauma, Florida

The Florida Ag Expo will offer in-depth education sessions will cover a wide array of timely topics important to growers and their operations. The Expo will also feature extensive indoor and outdoor exhibit areas for "hands-on, in-person" previews of the latest products, equipment and services.

Websites

Online Pesticide CEUs is a new fee-based UF/IFAS website which enables you to earn continuing education credits toward the renewal of your pesticide license from the convenience of your computer. For more information or to earn CEU's, check it out at <http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/onlinepesticideceus/>

Quotable Quotes

I've always followed my father's advice: he told me, first to always keep my word and, second, to never insult anybody unintentionally. If I insult you, you can be goddamn sure I intended to. And, third, he told me not to go around looking for trouble. -John Wayne

Courage is being scared to death - but saddling up anyway. - John Wayne

Talk low, talk slow, and don't talk too much. - John Wayne

Keep five yards from a carriage, ten yards from a horse, and a hundred yards from an elephant; but the distance one should keep from a wicked man cannot be measured. - Indian Proverb

You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was. - Irish Proverb

On the Lighter Side

George Carlin on Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. "How old are you?" "I'm **four and a half!**"

You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead.

"How old are you?" "I'm **gonna** be 16!" You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16!

And then the greatest day of your life . . . you **become** 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony . . . **YOU BECOME 21. . . YESSS!!!**

But then you **turn** 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk. He **TURNED**, we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You **BECOME** 21, you **TURN** 30, then you're **PUSHING** 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you **REACH** 50 . . . and your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You **MAKE** it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you **BECOME** 21, **TURN** 30, **PUSH** 40, **REACH** 50 and **MAKE** it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you **HIT** 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you **HIT** Wednesday!

You **get into** your 80s and every day is a complete cycle; you **HIT** lunch; you **TURN** 4:30; you **REACH** bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; "I **was JUST** 92."

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. "I'm 100 and a half!"

May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.

Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.

Enjoy the simple things.

Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, friends, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is.

Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

Always remember:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Note: The hotline is available by email. Get the latest pest and disease updates and news in a timely fashion -the e-version is automatically sent to you as soon as it is published. If you want to switch over just drop me an email and help save a tree.

Contributors include: Joel Allingham/AgriCare, Inc, Bruce Corbitt/West Coast Tomato Growers, Dr. Phyllis Gilreath/Manatee County Extension, Michael Hare/Drip Tape Solutions, Fred Heald/Farmers Supply, Sarah Hornsby/AgCropCon, Cecil Howell/Taylor &Fulton, Loren Horsman/Glades Crop Care, Bruce Johnson/General Crop Management, Dr. Mary Lamberts/Miami-Dade County Extension, Leon Lucas/Glades Crop Care, Bob Mathews, Glades Crop Care, Mark Mossler/UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Gene McAvoy/Hendry County Extension, Alice McGhee/Thomas Produce, Jimmy Morales/Pro Source One, Dr.Gregg Nuessly/EREC Chuck Obern/C&B Farm, Teresa Olczyk/ Miami-Dade County Extension, Dr. Aaron Palmateer/TREC, Dr. Ken Pernezny/EREC, Dr. Rick Raid/ EREC, Dr Pam Roberts/SWFREC, Dr. Nancy Roe/Farming Systems Research, Wes Roan/6 L's, Dr. Dak Seal/ TREC, Kevin Seitzinger/Gargiulo, Jay Shivler/ C&B Farm, Ken Shuler/Stephen's Produce, Ed Skvarch/St Lucie County Extension, John Stanford/Thomas Produce, Mike Stanford/MED Farms, Dr. Phil Stansly/SWFREC, , Mark Verbeck/GulfCoast Ag, and Alicia Whidden/Hillsborough County Extension.

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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