



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

October 31, 2008

Most of South Florida saw record low temperatures this past week as the mercury plummeted into the low 40's and even into the 30's in a number of places. As they say sunshine is the world's best fungicide and the cool dry air that filtered down across the peninsula this week behind the front was no exception in helping check bacterial spot and other diseases which were flared up by the past weekend rains.

Just as things were beginning to dry out a bit many places saw a good bit of rain last week with a number of locations in south central Florida reporting from 1 -2 inches of total precipitation over the weekend preceding the passage of the cold front.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
10/2 – 10/16/08	34.92	89.44	0.73	69	0.09
Belle Glade					
10/2 – 10/16/08	38.13	89.4	0.97	79	0.09
Clewiston					
10/2 – 10/16/08	42.17	88.63	1.25	73	0.10
Ft Lauderdale					
10/2 – 10/16/08	49.17	89.17	3.00	76	0.09
Fort Pierce					
10/2 – 10/16/08	44.71	87.58	1.30	75	0.10
Homestead					
10/2 – 10/16/08	41.29	87.87	1.16	79	0.09
Immokalee					
10/2 – 10/16/08	39.4	89.92	0.70	79	0.09

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Over all most crops are looking good with tomato harvest beginning in the Manatee Ruskin area and light volumes of other crops including cucumbers, eggplants, okra, squash and specialty crops including basil are starting to come into the market around South Florida.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami calls a continued moderation of the temperatures. Southwest winds will build over the Atlantic and move across the area on Friday causing low level moisture to increase which could allow for a better chance of showers in the 30% range...focused along the SE Atlantic coast. This pattern will continue through the weekend. Next week it looks like low pressure will develop off the SE US coast next week which should keep most of the unsettled weather east of our area. For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

Insects

Worms

Reports from the Glades indicate that fall armyworm pressure has been higher this fall than it has been in many years. Respondents report that it seems that multiple waves of adults have been hitting the fields for weeks at a time forcing growers to treat more than usual.

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that worm pressure remains persistent at moderate to high levels but note that there seems to be a slight decrease in egg deposition lately. Scouts report they are still seeing hatches of beet and southern armyworm but note they are also finding more fruitworms and fall armyworms over the past week with greater potential for fruit injury. Pickleworms are still active in squash and other cucurbits.

East Coast respondents report that worm pressure has decreased over the past two weeks with growers finding mostly low numbers of armyworm, loopers and melon worms in cucurbits.

Around Manatee County reports indicate that there is still a lot of armyworms around Central Florida.

Whiteflies

Around Palm Beach reports indicate that whitefly numbers are mostly low with a few adults moving around. Whiteflies are building in squash in some locations.

Reports from Manatee County indicate that whiteflies remain fairly low but some increase in numbers had been noted before the cool down. Growers have been actively suppressing immatures as Admire and other systemic products wear off.

Around SW Florida, whitefly pressure has been about normal for this time of year and remains fairly low in most places. Higher counts have been noted in some locations especially in older tomatoes where neonicotinoid treatments are running out. In these areas some nymphal development is being detected.

Broad mites

Around Manatee County respondents indicate that broad mites are continuing to increase and scouts report seeing more broad mites in melons than any recent season.

Broad mites remain widely present in Palm Beach County primarily on basil, pepper and eggplant.

Broad mites continue to be a problem around southwest Florida in pepper and eggplant and are widely present and increasing in a number of locations.

Leafminers

Reports from the East Coast indicate that leafminers remain low.

Around Homestead leafminer has been a problem mainly on beans but numbers are beginning to increase in eggplant and tomato.

Leafminers are increasing up around Southwest Florida but remain at below threshold levels in most places with a few growers beginning to treat.

Growers and scouts in Manatee County report that leafminer are widely present but pressure is mostly low but note most farms are beginning to treat for leaf miner.

At least 14 species of hymenopterous (wasp) parasites attack *Liriomyza* spp. leafminers on nonsprayed tomatoes in Florida. Four parasite species predominate: *Diglyphus intermedius*, *D. begini*, *Neochrysocharis* (= *Chrysonotomyia*) *punctiventris* and *Opius dissitus*.

Up to 90% parasitism in nonsprayed tomatoes has been observed in Florida. In commercial tomatoes using selective insecticides to kill leafminers and conserve parasites, parasitism can reach 100%.

To determine whether leafminer larvae are dead or alive, leaflets are removed from the plant, held up to the sun and examined with a hand lens. Living larvae are a pale yellow and flush with the end of the mine. The back and forth feeding movements of the mouth hooks is readily visible, although movement may cease momentarily when larvae are disturbed or may cease for an extended time when larvae are molting. Dead larvae do not show mouth hook movement and are usually discolored and removed from the ends of mines.

The relative toxicity of selected pesticides to parasites of leafminers should be considered. Some pesticides like methomyl are highly toxic to all life stages of all natural enemies evaluated while others, like methamidophos, are highly toxic to some life stages of natural enemies but not all. Some insecticides like azadirachtin were moderately toxic to some life stages and relatively non-toxic to most others while others like *Bacillus thuringiensis* and cyromazine were relatively non-toxic to all life stages of all natural enemies evaluated. Therefore, it is important that the scouting program include not only an assessment of the pests present but also the natural enemies, including the specific life stage(s). If these guidelines are followed, conservation of natural enemies through the use of timed applications of selective insecticides for the above pests can not only be feasible but can be a reality.

Pepper weevils

Scouts report a few pepper weevil adults are beginning to show up in few locations around Southwest Florida. They note that after initial appearance 3-4 weeks ago they became rather scarce and are now reappearing suggesting that they may have completed a lifecycle in pepper.

Thrips

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County are reporting a mix of thrips species in pepper and eggs and note that pirate bugs are present in many places.

Elsewhere only Florida flower thrips have been reported and remain at very low levels over all.

Aphids

Respondents in all areas note a few aphids are beginning to showing up on a variety of crops including peppers and squash. Numbers remain low but appear to be increasing slightly. Some colony formation has been reported in organic crops.

Corn Silk Fly

Corn silk flies have already been observed in many corn fields in the Belle Glade area before tassel push. In past years, they used to be mostly a late winter through spring problem, but the last several years it seems they are pests in corn year round.

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot

Reports from Manatee County indicate that bacterial leaf spot is around but is hit or miss depending on rainfall and appears to be drying up in most places with the change in weather.

Respondents on the east Coast report bacterial spot is slowing up in most places but remains bad in some peppers which have had experienced high rainfall totals.

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that bacterial spot varies from low to high. Reports indicate that more fields fall into the moderate to high range than low and spot is down right horrible in a number of places hitting pepper hard and bottoms of older tomatoes gone in some fields. Some pepper fields have been seriously defoliated, but the cooler drier weather may allow them to rebound as plant vigor is good and they seem to be growing faster than the disease is advancing.

Around Homestead bacterial spot is mostly low.

In the Glades, bacterial leaf spot, caused by *Pseudomonas cicchorii*, has been severe on certain escarole varieties. This pathogen causes round, target-like leaf spots on infected plants. Spots may range from 1/8" to more than 1" in diameter. Copper and maneb tank-mixtures may be of limited assistance in managing this disease. It is promoted by warm, rainy weather and typically subsides during the cooler months.

Rick Raid, Pathologist at EREC reports that bacterial leaf blight has also been quite high on sweet corn this fall. It is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *avenae* (Syn. *Pseudomonas avenae*). The disease affects the plant when it is in the mature whorl stage, being aggravated by rainy conditions. Insect feeding damage inflicted by armyworms may also increase the severity, opening up wounds for bacterial entry. Varietal resistance has been reported, with certain varieties being more susceptible than others. Once the corn plant has fully expanded, there is little advancement of the disease. Although the disease is seldom of economic importance, growers can help to manage the disease by planting into fields free of corn debris or grassy weeds. These serve as a source of inoculum.

Phytophthora

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach report increasing problem with *Phytophthora* over the past few weeks in eggplant, pepper and squash particularly in fields with a history of the disease.

Pythium

Some losses from pythium are being reported in all areas and it has been a serious problem in number of fields, mostly in pepper but also in tomatoes, eggplant and beans, particularly in areas receiving highest rainfall over the past few weeks.

In the Glades and surrounding areas pythium stalk rot has been observed on sweet corn planted both in the muck and on sand. This disease usually occurs just above the first node, causing a collapse and twisting of the stalk. It is promoted by the warm, moist conditions and placement of soil up along the stalk. It is seldom economic, occurring on less than 1% of the population.

Growers in Homestead are reporting some problems with pythium damping off on green beans.

TYLCV

Growers around Manatee County continue to report only low levels of tomato yellow leaf curl virus on tomato. Occurrence is spotty and incidence is low to absent in most places with highest infection rates reported pushing 3-5 %.

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach and in Southwest Florida report finding only a few isolated TYLCV infected plants – incidence remains mostly one or two per field or lower.

DPI plant inspectors report finding and ordering destruction of TYLCV infected tomato transplants in retail stores around Naples.

Target Spot

Around Immokalee, target spot has flared up very quickly in some older tomatoes following this past weekend's wet, cloudy weather. It mostly starts on the lower inner foliage and flares up inside the plant. Mature fruit seem to be very susceptible to target spot and growers report some fruit issues emerging.

Scouts around Manatee County report some target spot is present on tomatoes but that the situation is mostly stable.

Target spot is frequently misdiagnosed as in its early stages as leaf lesions are difficult to recognize and may be mistaken for bacterial spot

The name derives from the bull's eye appearance that is often displayed in lesions caused by the disease. Since concentric rings are not always visible and not all lesions with concentric rings are target spot, it is recommended that a laboratory diagnosis be obtained to ensure that a correct diagnosis is made.

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.

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 chlorothalnil formulations (Bravo, Echo, Bravo Ultrex, Bravo Weather Stik and Ridomil Gold/Bravo).

Early Blight

A few reports of Alternaria on tomato are starting to come in from several locations around south Florida.

Downy Mildew

Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report that downy mildew is present moderate levels on squash and cucumbers.

Around Manatee County respondents are reporting “plenty” of downy mildew present in cucurbits.

On the east Coast downy mildew remains low in cucurbits with most problems being reported on organic production.

Downy mildew has been observed on basil, both in the greenhouse and in the field. This disease can be of great economic significance and an entire crop can be lost without adequate management. All Florida growers should be on a preventative program with this disease.

Around Palm Beach scouts report that occurrence is sporadic with the biggest problems in areas with a high concentration of basil and multiple plantings present.

Unless growing for the organic market, preventative sprays should be initiated soon after emergence with a phosphonic of demonstrated efficacy. Stay on a strict fungicide program (1-2 sprays/wk), rotating in registered fungicides of dissimilar chemistry during alternate weeks.

A variety trial is being initiated to examine varieties and basil types for potential resistance. We will try to keep you posted as results are accumulated. Also, work is being initiated with IR-4 for the registration of additional fungicides for both greenhouse and field use, along with research on fungicide seed treatments. This disease is highly suspected as being seed-borne, which has resulted in its rapid spread over great distances.

Since its original observation in Florida in 2007, it has now been observed in NJ, NY, NC, MO and Canada. For the organic market, preventing any form of leaf wetness is your best management hope. Since this is a new disease for many, if you have questions on managing this disease, call Dr. Richard Raid at 561-993-1564.

Powdery Mildew

Growers and scouts in all areas of South Florida are beginning to report problems with powdery mildew on squash and other cucurbits.

Gummy Stem Blight

Around Southwest Florida, gummy stem blight has really flared up on watermelons following recent rains.

Reports from Manatee County indicate that some gummy mildew is present in melons as well, but remains fairly sporadic.

Around Homestead respondents report some problems with gummy stem blight on squash.

Cucurbit Viruses

Reports from around Manatee County indicate a number of cucurbit viruses are present including Cucurbit Yellow Stunting Disorder Virus (CYSDV), squash vein yellowing virus (SqVYV), cucurbit leaf crumple and papaya ring spot in cantaloupes, watermelons and pumpkin.

Vine decline in watermelons caused by the squash vein yellowing virus is being reported from locations in Hardee, Hendry and Manatee Counties.

Southern Blight

Low levels southern blight on tomato is being reported from scattered locations around Manatee County mostly in wetter blocks. Incidence has increased over the past two weeks.

Low levels of southern blight are also present on tomato and eggplants on the east Coast.

Fusarium Crown Rot

Some fusarium crown rot continues to being reported on tomato from scattered locations around Manatee County again mostly in wetter fields/blocks.

Tomato Spotted Wilt

Some tomato spotted wilt continues to be reported on pepper transplants in Palm Beach County and Hendry County. It is suspected that the virus came on infected transplants from Georgia.

Scouts in Palm Beach are reporting what they suspect is secondary spread as symptoms are appearing on older plants in fields where infected transplants were present long beyond the time that transplant infection would have manifest itself.

Tomato Little Leaf

Growers and scout around southwest Florida and on the east Coast report scattered occurrence of little leaf in tomato following recent wet conditions. It is said to be rampant in some field around Immokalee.

Tomato little leaf is a non-parasitic disease of tomatoes that causes virus-like symptoms in tomato. A similar disorder affects other crops and has been referred to as frenching in tobacco. Symptoms of this condition are characterized by unusual growth consisting of interveinal chlorosis in young leaves. Subsequent growth becomes severely distorted with leaflets along the mid-rib failing to expand properly resulting in a “little leaf” appearance. Leaflets are twisted and distorted. In addition, failure of blooms to set fruit and fruit distortion consisting of radial cracks extending from the calyx to the blossom scar is often seen. Overall the appearance is reminiscent of viral or phenoxy herbicide symptoms.

The problem typically occurs on wet soils and is apparently caused by the release of amino acid analogs by soil microorganisms under wet conditions.

The current hypothesis is that one or more amino acid analogs are synthesized by certain soil microorganisms and released into the rhizosphere. These compounds are structurally similar to the amino acid leucine. They are taken up by the plant and can cause morphological changes and stunting in susceptible plants at very low concentrations.

Currently, three soil microorganisms have been implicated as the causal agent. The first organism is the bacterium *Bacillus cereus*. In experiments, symptoms of frenching have been obtained from diffusion of a compound produced by *B. cereus* into small tobacco plants. *B. cereus* is a ubiquitous soil inhabitant and has been observed in large numbers in the root zone of tobacco plants with frenching symptoms. Another organism that has been implicated is the fungus *Aspergillus wentii*. This organism has been shown to produce a compound, which is a potent antagonist of leucine. In the lab minute quantities can produce symptoms similar to frenching and can also affect the growth of other crops such as bean, tomato, sunflower and chrysanthemum.

Control consists largely of managing soil moisture to avoid water logging. Maintaining soil pH below 6.3 or less can also reduce development of the problem however changing soil pH should be approached carefully to avoid problems that might accompany reduced lime utilization in tomato. Affected plants generally resume normal growth once soil moisture levels become more favorable.

News You Can Use

Rainy Season comes to an end over South Florida...

Continental high pressure centered over the eastern United States during the past week has ushered in drier and slightly milder air across South Florida since the middle part of last week. This subtle but important change in the weather over our region indicates that the five-month long wet season has come to an end.

The 2008 rainy season began on May 22 over southeast Florida and on May 30 over interior and western south Florida, and ended over the entire area on Tuesday, October 14. The duration of the rainy season was 146 days over southeast Florida and 138 days over interior and western south Florida. This is slightly shorter than the normal duration of 153 days.

Rainfall totals for the 2008 rainy season averaged around 40 inches over metro southeast Florida, which is about 5 inches above normal. However, large variations in rainfall totals were observed over southeast Florida. For example, Fort Lauderdale International Airport received only 33 inches of rain while the Redland in southwest Miami Dade County received almost 56 inches of rain. These large variations are relatively common due to the mostly random nature of summer rainfall patterns.

Similar large variations were observed over interior and western sections of south Florida. Naples Regional Airport received 37.66 inches of rain, almost three inches above the normal for the rainy season time period. Areas around Lake Okeechobee received much higher amounts, with Moore Haven on the west side of the Lake receiving a whopping 53.37 inches, almost 25 inches above the normal.

One of the main factors, in the wetter than normal 2008 rainy season, was the influence of Tropical Storm Fay in late August. Fay dumped as much as 15 inches of rain in the Moore haven area, and amounts in the 8 to 10 inch range were common over interior and western areas as well as over portions of Palm Beach County. Another key factor was the lack of extended dry periods during the summer which allowed for the rainfall distribution to be evenly spread throughout the season, as well as contributing to locally high rainfall amounts on many days where the rainfall patterns were dominated by sea breeze influences rather than large-scale systems such as tropical cyclones or strong and dry high pressure areas.

The most significant effect of the wetter than normal rainy season was to dramatically increase the level of Lake Okeechobee. The level of the lake rose from 9.3 feet in mid-June to just over 15 feet by early September. Most of the increase occurred from mid-August to early September when the lake rose about 4 feet, mostly due to copious rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay near and north of the lake. As a result, the drought conditions that lingered across south Florida since 2007 came to an end by August.

The onset of the dry season means that the near daily rainfall patterns characteristic of the summer months come to an end, with most of the rainfall during these drier months coming by way of frontal systems which begin to affect the area on a fairly regular basis between now and April.

National Weather Service
Miami, Florida
October 20, 2008

Dry Season 2008-2009 Outlook... drier than normal winter and spring possible over south Florida.

The National Weather Service in Miami's long range outlook for south Florida for the upcoming winter and spring seasons of 2008-2009 is for an increased likelihood of below normal rainfall and near normal temperatures. Several factors go into the determination of expected long range precipitation and temperature trends. One key factor is the El Niño/southern oscillation, or ENSO, which is a combination of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and atmospheric influences which affect large scale weather systems worldwide. The warm water phase of this phenomenon is referred to as El Niño, while the cold water phase is known as la Niña. The current ENSO phase is neutral, which means that the equatorial Pacific sea surface temperatures are near normal. The forecast ENSO phase for the upcoming winter and spring seasons is for a continuation of near normal to possibly a weak cool, or la Niña, event in early 2009.

If present trends hold, there is an increased likelihood that south Florida will experience below normal rainfall during the dry season which extends from now into May. It should be noted that seasonal forecasts of precipitation are subject to large errors; therefore this information should be used and interpreted with caution. Long term outlooks from NOAA's climate prediction center indicate equal chances of above or below normal precipitation through February, with a shift towards drier than normal conditions during the spring months. Local analysis of previous neutral to weak la Niña events suggests that the likelihood of a drier winter and spring is higher during these events than in years when the ENSO phase is warm. Typically, a dry winter and spring would be a concern from a water management perspective, as lack of rainfall and evaporation of surface water leads to a significant drop in water levels, particularly during the warmer spring months. However, the above normal rainfall observed over most areas during the recently concluded rainy seasons may partially offset the impacts of any significant reduction in water levels over the next several months. The current level of Lake Okeechobee is at 14.80 feet, which is near normal for this time of year. At this time last year, the Lake level was at just slightly above 10 feet.

Temperatures signals during neutral to weak la Niña winters and springs are not as well defined as the precipitation signals. Previous dry seasons with similar ENSO values have shown fairly significant variability in temperatures during the winter months, with alternating warm and cold periods lasting from a few weeks to as long as month or more. For example, the winter seasons of 1960-1961 and 1980-1981 produced significant cold spells and freezing temperatures over many parts of south Florida. Other years such as 1996-1997 were quite warm with brief but intense cold outbreaks. As a result, there is a higher than normal likelihood of a freeze over parts of south Florida this winter, even if overall winter temperatures end up near or even slightly warmer than normal.

National Weather Service
Miami, Florida
October 30, 2008

Irrigation Permit Renewal Period – Lake Okeechobee Basin

The renewal of all Individual and Major General Water Use Irrigation Permits for the Lake Okeechobee Basin within the South Florida Water Management District will begin in October 2008. All Individual and Major

Irrigation permits in the Lake Okeechobee Basin will expire in 2009, and there is no exception for long-time permit holders.

The Lake Okeechobee Basin application date begins Oct. 30, 2008 and ends Feb. 28, 2009.

Projects that utilize surface water from Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee River, the St. Lucie River/Canal or integrated conveyance systems that are hydraulically connected to any of these sources will need to renew their permit. The regulation schedule for Lake Okeechobee is being modified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain lower water levels, which will limit the amount of available surface water from the Lake and hydraulically connected water bodies. In addition, the District is currently in rule development for the Lake Okeechobee water availability rule. These actions will result in competition for the limited surface water supply and the only potentially permissible water supply source is groundwater.

A water right for surface water withdrawals may be unattainable by those permit holders that fail to renew their permits or unpermitted users that do not obtain a permit during the renewal time period.

Applications for permit renewals will be accepted four months prior to the permit expiration date.

An Individual Water Use Irrigation Permit is issued for projects exceeding 15 million gallons per month, and a Major General Water Use Irrigation Permit is issued for projects using between 3 million gallons per month and 15 million gallons per month. The same application form is used for both permits. The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board must approve Individual permits and District staff can approve Major General permits. Renewal fees are based on the permit holder's water allocation. A permit modification is required if there has been a change in water source, land use, water allocation or acreage.

Renewal notifications will be mailed to all irrigation permit holders at least 30 days before the District begins accepting renewal applications.

Applications for permit renewals will be accepted at the District beginning four months prior to the permit's expiration date. Applicants are encouraged to submit renewal forms no later than three months prior to the permit's expiration date.

Once a renewal application is received, the existing permit will remain in force until the District takes final action on the application. The Lake Okeechobee Basin application date is Oct. 30, 2008. The expiration date is Feb. 28, 2009.

For more information go to:

http://www.sfwmd.gov/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PG_GRP_SFWMD_WATERSUPPLY/PORTLET%20-%20RENEWALS/TAB19868189/OKEECHOBEE SPLASH SHEET.PDF

How To Save Money on Fertilizer Without Skimping

Despite soaring input costs, farmers should not give in to the temptation to skimp on fertilizer, said a University of Missouri Extension specialist.

"The truth is that farmers can't afford not to adequately fertilize their soils," said Travis Harper, MU Extension West Central Region agronomy specialist. "Most farmers know this but still look for ways to cut corners to save on their fertilizer bills."

Harper said cutting corners on fertilizer could be risky, but there are a few simple things farmers can do to effectively limit fertilizer expenses:

-Know what your crop needs. All crops need the same nutrients, but they need different levels of these nutrients at different times in the growing season.

-Test your soil. Many farmers apply the same amount of nutrient every year without testing their soil. This may result in farmers applying too much of a particular nutrient.

"Many farmers do not worry about this small excess, but it can quickly add up," Harper said. "For example, let's say you apply 50 pounds of phosphorus per acre every year on your crop. A soil test might reveal that you only need 45 pounds of phosphorus. It doesn't seem like much, but if you do this on 500 acres, you have just unnecessarily spent an extra \$2,500."

-Consider alternative fertilizer sources. Animal wastes, especially poultry litter, are regaining popularity. While poultry litter can be an effective alternative fertilizer, it is important to use and manage it properly.

"Poultry litter should only be used on soils that are deficient in phosphorus and potassium," Harper said. **"When poultry litter is used primarily as a nitrogen source, excessive levels of phosphorus may appear in the soil, causing a number of problems.** For this reason, and others, poultry litter should not be used year after year, even on soils that need phosphorus and potassium."

Operation Cleansweep

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are again joining forces to collect and safely dispose of cancelled, suspended or unusable commercial pesticides for the 9th annual Operation Cleansweep.

Operation Cleansweep is a convenient, cost-effective public-private partnership to dispose of unwanted or outdated pesticides, providing free collection and disposal for Florida's pesticide consumers.

To participate in Operation Cleansweep, commercial pesticide applicators can call FDACS at (877) 851-5285 or download the sign up form at www.flaes.org/pdf/Flyer2006.pdf. For more information, visit DEP's website at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides.

Opportunities

Processing Tomato

McCall Farms is a tomato processor looking for 3000 tons of Roma tomatoes for winter production in Florida. May be willing to consider salvage behind fresh market production.

Contact:

Jim 765-714-2170

Jerry Lee 843-687-3985

Farm Land for Lease

Farm Land for lease in LaBelle area – contact Greg Jones at 863-675-0545

Syngenta Crop Protection Seeks Students for Florida-based Summer Internship

Syngenta Crop Protection today announced the company is beginning recruitment for its 2009 Florida internship program.

The summer-long internship will allow students to be involved in sales, marketing and field activities as well as building customer relationships through work with growers, retailers and manufacturers. In addition, students will learn about Syngenta brands such as Agri-Mek® and Ridomil Gold®.

“These internships represent outstanding opportunities for the right candidates,” said John Taylor, technical support representative for Syngenta Crop Protection. “In addition to the sales and marketing experience gained, the candidates will have excellent opportunities to demonstrate their abilities to the most influential organizations in the Florida agriculture industry today.”

Providing internship opportunities is just one way that Syngenta shows its commitment to youth and the future of the agriculture industry. Syngenta is also proud to sponsor several scholarships, including the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association scholarship, which provides \$2,000 to a student with financial need interested in pursuing a career in agriculture.

Syngenta currently recruits sophomores and juniors in college, though seniors will be considered. The candidate should have a background in agriculture and an interest in pursuing a career in the agricultural industries after college. Interns will be responsible for a variety of field activities, including scouting, soil sampling and collecting and analyzing agricultural data. Qualified applicants should be willing to work outdoors and must have basic familiarity with pest, disease and weed control.

At this time, six intern positions are available, and Syngenta plans to interview candidates through February 2009. Interns will be placed across various regions of Florida and must be willing to relocate if necessary.

Interested candidates should fax their resumes to John Taylor at 561-694-7939 or e-mail them to john.taylor@syngenta.com.

Up Coming Meetings

Southwest Florida

December 11, 2008 **Fall Vegetable Field Day 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

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

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details

Other Meetings

November 5, 2008 **Ag Expo – Florida’s Premier Vegetable Show**

UF/IFAS GulfCoast Research and Education Center
Balm, Florida

For details and registration go to <http://flagexpo.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Websites

South Florida Vegetable List Serve – want to find something in the archives – go to <http://lists.ifas.ufl.edu/wa.exe?A0=SFLVEG-L&X=2C5D153551160BFE40>

Quotable Quotes

Elections are a good deal like marriages. There's no accounting for anyone's taste. Every time we see a bridegroom we wonder why she ever picked him, and it's the same with public officials. – Will Rogers

If you ever injected truth into politics you'd have no politics. – Will Rogers

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. – Will Rogers

The United States investigates everything-usually after its dead. – Will Rogers

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today. – Will Rogers

Try to live your life so that you wouldn't be afraid to sell the family parrot to the town gossip." – Will Rogers

We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by. – Will Rogers

There is two types of larceny, Petty and Grand. They are supposed to be the same in the eyes of the law, but judges always put a little extra on you for Petty, which is kind of a fine for stupidity. – Will Rogers

Nothing makes a man, or a body of men, as mad as the truth. If there is no truth in it, they laugh it off. – Will Rogers

Rumor travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as truth. – Will Rogers

We are all here for a spell; get all the good laughs you can. – Will Rogers

On the Lighter Side

Bubba's Buddies

Bubba died in a fire and his body was burned pretty badly.

The morgue needed someone to identify the body, so they sent for his two best friends Cooter and Gomer. The three men had always done everything together.

Cooter arrived first, and when the mortician pulled back the sheet, Cooter said, 'Yup, his face sure is burned up pretty bad. You better roll him over.' The mortician rolled him over and Cooter said, 'Nope, ain't Bubba.'

The mortician thought this was rather strange. So he brought Gomer in to confirm the identity of the body.

Gomer looked at the body and said, 'Yup, he's pretty well burnt up. Roll him over.' The mortician rolled him over and Gomer said, 'No, it ain't Bubba.'

The mortician asked, 'How can you tell?' Gomer said, 'Well, Bubba had two assholes.'

'What? He had two assholes?' asked the mortician. 'Yup, we never seen 'em, but everybody used to say, 'There's Bubba with them two assholes.'

The Pastor's Donkey

The pastor entered his donkey in a race and it won. The pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in another race, and it won again. The local paper read: PASTOR'S ASS OUT FRONT.

The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the pastor not to enter the donkey in another race. The next day, the local paper headline read: BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR'S ASS.

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the pastor to get rid of the donkey. The pastor decided to give it to a nun in a nearby convent. The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day: NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN.

The bishop fainted. He informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10. The next day the paper read: NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10.

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild. The next day the headlines read: NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE.

The bishop was buried the next day.

The moral of the story is . . . being concerned about public opinion can bring you much grief and misery .. even shorten your life. So be yourself and enjoy life.

Stop worrying about everyone else's ass and you'll be a lot happier and live longer!

Without agriculture, we would be hungry and naked!

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