



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

October 16, 2011

A low pressure system off the coast last weekend brought several days of rain to most of South Florida with local totals ranging from just over one inch in some parts of southwest Florida to a whopping 16 inches recorded in Fort Pierce. This storm brought much need rain to areas north of Lake Okeechobee.

Saturday, October 8, was the wettest single day in the upper and lower Kissimmee basins combined in nearly 100 years. In that one day, the storm dropped an average of 6.05 inches of rain in the two basins spanning approximately 3,000 square miles, with local maximums up to 14.09 inches. The second wettest day was recorded in 1933.

The front which interacted with this system also brought some cooler temps with several days seeing lows in the mid 60's and high reaching only into the mid 80's.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
9/17 – 10/16/11	53.71	93.72	4.97	81	0.13
Belle Glade					
9/17 – 10/16/11	62.13	93.74	6.61	87	0.14
Clewiston					
9/17 – 10/16/11	60.64	91.94	5.41	85	0.13
Ft Lauderdale					
9/17 – 10/16/11	67.59	95.00	8.35	80	0.13
Fort Pierce					
9/17 – 10/16/11	61.16	92.73	16.66	84	0.13
Homestead					
9/17 – 10/16/11	65.98	92.46	11.9	86	0.12
Immokalee					
9/17 – 10/16/11	58.93	96.46	2.69	84	0.13

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Fall planting and land preparation continues across south Florida with some delays due to rainy weather last weekend. Strawberry planting has begun in Hillsborough County and corn and bean planting is picking up in Homestead and Belle Glade. Growers have also started planting leafy greens in the Glades. Crops are generally looking good although growers in some areas reported significant bloom drop following last week's wind and rain.

The National Weather Service forecast for the coming week indicates that strong high pressure over the southeast United States along with lowering pressure over the Caribbean will lead to increasing easterly winds and moisture across south Florida through the early part of the week. A frontal boundary over the Florida straits will also move north across the local area through this period. This could lead to heavy rainfall across south Florida... especially in Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier counties. Widespread rainfall amounts of 3 to 5 inches are expected with locally heavier amounts through Tuesday across Miami-Dade, Collier, and Broward counties. Two to 4 inches of rain is possible across the rest of the region.

A strong cold front is expected to move through south Florida on Wednesday and rainfall will come to an end by Wednesday evening. Much cooler and drier air is then expected through the end of the week. Overnight lows Wednesday night are expected to be in the upper 50s across the interior Lake Okeechobee region...with 60s across the rest of the region. Highs on Thursday may stay in the 70s across south Florida. Lows Friday morning may be in the low 50s to the low 60s for much of the interior and the mid to upper 60s along the east coast metro areas.

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 around South Florida indicate worm pressure is the heaviest it has been in years.

Grower and scouts in SW Florida report intense worm pressure with unbelievably high numbers of beet armyworm, fall armyworm, southern armyworm, hornworms, fruitworms and some loopers. In addition, melonworms are common on cucurbits. Scouts report finding worm eggs in almost every sample and some with 2-3 masses per sample and note that pressure has been high for most of the last month!

Respondents in the Glades report that warm temperatures and new food sources have resulted in worms being a constant battle in the sweet corn and in lettuce. Scouts report that fall armyworms are the major problem in both crops.

Around Homestead, a mixed bag of worms (fall armyworm, beet armyworm, loopers, hornworms and diamondback moth) are causing problems in a variety of crops including beans, corn, tomatoes and specialty items. Some scouts are reporting 70-80% sweet corn plants had fall armyworm infestations.

In the Palmetto/Ruskin area, respondents note that worms of all sorts except pinworm remain active and are present in high numbers in many crops.

Around Palm Beach County, reports indicate that worm pressure has dropped some but remains moderate. Scouts note that in some instances, worms were present in ditch bank weeds when transplants were set and moved into fields causing heavy defoliation before the first spray.

Armyworm ID

The fall armyworm, (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), may be the most damaging Florida armyworm. It may be light tan to shades of gray or green. The head capsule is usually shiny black or brown, with a prominent yellow or white inverted Y marking on the front. The body has many black tubercles, or round, mole like structures. When fully grown, the caterpillar reaches 1 1/2".

The beet armyworm, (*Spodoptera exigua*), is about 1 1/4" long when mature. The body is usually some shade of green but can vary, with prominent dark lateral bands running its full length. There is a single prominent black spot behind the head, about halfway up the side of the body and right above the second pair of true legs. Beet armyworms are often the most difficult to control.

The southern armyworm, (*Spodoptera eridania*) is one of the more robust armyworms and is often called a "climbing cutworm." The mature larva can exceed 1 1/2" in length and can be either gray or pinkish. It strongly resembles the yellowstriped armyworm. The head of the southern armyworm is usually yellow to light orange. The lateral stripe on the side of the body is interrupted by a large dark patch at the beginning of the abdomen.

The yellowstriped armyworm, (*Spodoptera ornithogalli*), has a brownish head with a pale yellow inverted V on the upper front. It has distinct bright yellow lines on the top of the sides of the body. The yellowstriped armyworm occurs with both overall pale and dark colored bodies. It has two rows of black triangle shaped markings running the length of the body. Each row is offset from the center of the back. A thin white line runs lengthwise through each series of dark triangles. The yellowstriped armyworm is more common in north Florida.

Broad mites

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach report that broad mites are common on pepper and eggplant that have reached bloom stage and in some cases much earlier. They note that in some instances broad mites seem to be coming on pepper transplants being shipped from greenhouses. In fields where growers did not clean up properly and left peppers over summer, growers are now reporting problems with broad mites.

Around Immokalee, broad mites are starting to show up in peppers and eggplants.

Reports from Homestead indicate that broad mite numbers are high on beans and cucurbits in some locations.

Broad mite feeding distorts plant tissue, causing leaves to become hardened, thickened and narrow, giving them a "strappy" appearance. The blooms abort and plant growth is stunted when heavy pressure is present.

Mites are usually seen on the newest leaves and small fruit. Leaves turn downward and turn coppery or purplish. Internodes shorten and the lateral buds break more than normal.

Malformed terminal buds and stunted growth is often a telltale sign that broad mites are present. Broad mites are extremely tiny and are difficult to see without a 10X or stronger hand lens. The mites may crowd into crevices and buds. Mites prefer the shaded side of fruit and the underside of leaves, which usually faces the plant, so scouts must be diligent and carefully inspect affected plants to detect these tiny creatures.

Whiteflies

Growers and scouts in the Homestead area report that whiteflies are showing up in tomatoes in actionable amounts. They are also present in bean and cucumbers with 2-3 adults/plant being reported in some places.

Around SW Florida, reports indicate that silverleaf whitefly numbers seem to go up and down with the weather, noting that adult activity is often down behind rains but often jump back up a day or two afterwards. Numbers are beginning to increase in some fields where scouts are finding up to 3-5 adults per plant. In some of the earlier plantings are scouts are beginning to see eggs as well as a few nymphs develop.

Respondents on the East Coast, report that whitefly adults pressure has been variable with pretty high numbers of adults blowing in from surrounding fields in some places while they are remain quite low in other areas. Whiteflies are also present in cabbage and squash where scouts report finding up to 20 adults per 6 leaves in some areas.

Insecticidal Control Practices for Whiteflies.

1. Delay resistance to neonicotinoid and other insecticides by using a proper whitefly insecticide program. Follow the label!

- a. On transplants in the production facility, do not use a neonicotinoid insecticide if biotype Q is present. If biotype B is present, apply a neonicotinoid one time 7-10 days before shipping. Use products in other chemical classes, including Fulfill, soap, etc. before this time.
- b. Use neonicotinoids in the field only during the first six weeks of the crop, thus leaving a neonicotinoid-free period at the end of the crop.
- c. As control of whitefly nymphs diminishes following soil drenches of the neonicotinoid insecticide or after more than six weeks following transplanting, use rotations of insecticides of other chemical classes including insecticides effective against biotype Q. Consult the Cooperative Extension Service for the latest recommendations.
- d. Use selective rather than broad-spectrum control products where possible to conserve natural enemies and enhance biological control.
- e. Do not apply insecticides on weeds on field perimeters. These could kill whitefly natural enemies and, thus, interfere with biological control, as well as select for biotype Q, if present, which is more resistant to many insecticides than biotype B.

2. Soil applications of neonicotinoid insecticides for whitefly control.

- a. For best control, use a neonicotinoid as a soil drench at transplanting, preferably in the transplant water.
- b. Soil applications of neonicotinoids through the drip irrigation system are inefficient and not recommended.
- c. Do not use split applications of soil drenches of neonicotinoid insecticides (i.e. do not apply at transplanting and then again later).

3. Foliar applications of neonicotinoid insecticides for whitefly control.

a. Foliar applications, if used instead of or in addition to soil drenches at transplanting, should be restricted to the first 6 weeks after transplanting. Do not exceed the maximum active ingredient per season according to the label.

b. Follow scouting recommendations when using a foliar neonicotinoid insecticide program. Rotate to non-neonicotinoid insecticide classes after the first 6 weeks and do not use any neonicotinoid class insecticides for the remaining cropping period.

For more information, see Management of Whiteflies, Whitefly-Vectored Plant Virus, and Insecticide Resistance for Vegetable Production in Southern Florida at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in695>

Leafminers

Respondents on the East Coast report a few early leafminers showing up in young eggplant.

Leafminers numbers are on the rise on tomatoes in the Manatee Ruskin area but still remain below threshold levels in most places.

Around Homestead leafminers remain low in most crops being most common in beans.

Reports from SW Florida indicate that there are a few leafminers around but parasites are common and most populations are well below treatment levels.

Spidermites

A few two-spotted mites are present on tomatoes and eggplants around South Florida although some hotspots have been noted in couple of eggplant fields.

In some cases significant populations are have been seen on broad leaf weeds growing on field borders.

Corn silk Fly

Respondents in Homestead report problems with corn silkfly in some early plantings where scouts were finding 2 - 5 adults/plant and up to 80 - 90% of ears had silkfly larvae. Dak Seal notes that in trials Asana in rotation with Requiem (2.0 qt/acre) applied two times a week showed significant reduction of CSF larvae/ear.

Thrips

Thrips remain low in most areas.

Aphids

Growers and scouts in south Florida report that aphids remain low in most areas.

Respondents in Homestead report that bean aphid colonies are starting to form along the field edges of beans. Green peach aphids have also been reported in some eggplant as well.

High numbers of green peach aphids are present in some specialty greens around SW Florida.

Diseases

Growers and scouts have noted an increase in disease pressure as the season progresses and following last week's rains.

Bacterial Spot

Growers and scouts around SW Florida report that most bacterial spot in early planting was looking dry and plants were "out-growing" it before last week's rains. Since then a number of new infections have been reported and how serious they become may depend on how much wind and rain we get this week. So far, nearly all of the bacterial spot is on tomatoes, although some low level infections have been reported on some specialty peppers.

Respondents in the Manatee Ruskin area report that bacterial spot remains the big disease issue in tomato and note they are finding some infections on fruit in some places but less than one would expect for level of disease pressure. Reports indicate that some varieties and blocks are worse than others depending on how much rain fell and whether or not transplants were infected on receipt.

Around Palm Beach, bacterial spot occurrence ranges from none to severe on pepper where it came in on transplants. Scouts also report finding some new infections on young tomato following recent rains.

Bacterial spot is caused by several species of *Xanthomonas* spp. Four species have been identified on tomato: *X. euvesicatoria*, *X. vesicatoria*, *X. perforans*, and *X. gardneri*. In Florida, the major species encountered is *X. perforans*.

Symptoms of bacterial spot appear as small, water-soaked, greasy spots on infected leaflets. On tomatoes, distinct spots with or without yellowing occur. Individual leaf spots may coalesce with each other, resulting in the browning of entire leaflets. Fruit spots often begin as dark specks with or without a white halo. As spots enlarge, they become raised and scab-like.

An integrated approach is needed to manage this disease.

Exclusion is the best means of managing bacterial spot on tomato. Unfortunately, even the best bactericidal treatment offers only limited protection when environmental conditions are favorable for rapid disease development, especially during periods of heavy, wind-driven rains.

Since water movement spreads the bacteria from diseased to healthy plants, workers and farm equipment should be kept out of fields when fields are wet because the disease will spread readily under wet conditions.

No resistant tomato varieties are available commercially. In pepper, a number of commercial varieties with varying levels of resistance to races 1 – 6 are available and resistant varieties have performed very well in the field.

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 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 *Xanthomonas*.

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), Regalia (Maronne Bioinnovations) and Serenade and Sonata (AgraQuest).

Over the past few years, a number of 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 new strains of bacteria and submit the samples to Omnilytics for reformulation.

Some 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.

Southern Blight

In the Manatee Ruskin area, southern blight has been causing some problems in fields which were hard hit by rains in September – some growers in the Palmetto area report receiving 28 inches since crops went in the ground.

Around SW Florida, southern blight is around but occurrence is patchy in tomato with small areas reaching 5-10% but most areas below 1%.

Southern blight caused by the fungus *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc.) is a serious fungal disease and may become more of a problem in vegetable production with the phase out of methyl bromide and the adoption of organic and other low-input production strategies.

Early symptoms of southern blight begin with a discrete light brown, water-soaked lesion at the crown of the plant near the soil line. Depending on environmental conditions, white mycelia may be seen on the soil surface surrounding the ground at the base of the plant, especially if plants are grown on plastic mulch.

However, the disease is often not recognized in the field until the plant begins to wilt. Often the wilting is diurnal, with plants recovering at night. Under favorable conditions, however, the wilting can progress rapidly, become irreversible, and lead to death

Successful management of *S. rolfsii* in the absence of methyl bromide relies on the integrated use of several tactics. As with all diseases, growers should begin with healthy transplants. Avoid vegetable production in areas with infested plant debris or with a history of *S. rolfsii*. Once introduced into a field, *S. rolfsii* can be difficult to control, especially when environmental conditions favor disease development. Cultural practices, such as crop rotation, burial of inoculum through deep plowing, and the management of soil fertility, can help reduce disease development in problematic areas. Several fungicides and biopesticides are available for disease management, but should be used in concert with cultural practices to minimize the buildup of sclerotia in the soil. Several biopesticides are commercially available for use in organic vegetable production.

Gummy Stem Blight

Gummy stem blight is present in watermelon in a number of areas including the Manatee Ruskin area and SW Florida. In some places, last week's rains flared low level infections which were present in the fields.

Around Pam Beach County in organic cukes

Infection and symptoms may occur on all plant parts and at any stage of development from seedlings to maturity. Symptoms appear as light to dark brown circular spots on leaves or as brown to black, lesions on

stems. Wilting, followed by death of young plants may occur. Stem lesions enlarge and slowly girdle the main stem resulting in a red-brown-black canker that cracks and may exude a red to amber gummy substance. Vine wilting is usually a late symptom.

Use of a hand lens will reveal small, clear white (when young) to black (when older), pycnidia embedded in older diseased tissue.

Because other plant disorders can cause exudation of a gummy substance, “gummy-ness” should not be relied upon for diagnosis of gummy stem blight.

Gummy stem blight typically progresses from the central stem of the plant to growing tips. Leaf spots are variable in shape, red-brown in color and initial infections are generally seen on leaf margins and veins.

Growers often comment on this disease occurring “overnight.” What they are actually seeing are the results of secondary spread, which is more difficult to control than primary spread simply because of increased spore numbers with increased diseased tissue.

Temperatures and moisture conditions are often ideal for development during watermelon season in Florida. Gummy stem blight is most severe in wet years since moisture is necessary for spore germination. After a spore germinates on a susceptible host, the fungus penetrates the plant tissue and symptoms can appear in 7 to 12 days.

Gummy stem blight can be successfully managed using a combination of control strategies. Control of primary sources of inoculum is important. Growers should purchase clean seed and avoid transplants that have gummy stem blight or other diseases.

Multiple applications of fungicides are necessary to control gummy stem blight. It is important to begin a fungicide program prior to the first sign of gummy stem blight. In south Florida, the spray program should be initiated soon after emergence. In other areas of the state, fungicide spray programs can be initiated when the vines begin to “run.” When vines are small, band applications of fungicide over the crown area are effective and help reduce application costs. Fungicides like mancozeb or Bravo in rotation will provide good protection before disease is established in the field

In recent years, strains resistant to the strobilurin fungicides have been detected throughout the Southeast, so it is important that growers practice resistance management and avoid repeated applications of these and all fungicides. Materials such as Folicur (Tebuconazole), Pristine (BASF) a mixture of boscalid and pyraclostrobin, and Topsin (thiophanate methyl) have shown good efficacy against resistant strains of the disease.

Downy Mildew

Downy mildew is widely present in cucurbits around South Florida.

Respondents in the Manatee/Ruskin area reports that downy mildew is taking off in cucurbits and is really bad in some places.

Around SW Florida respondents report that downy mildew is starting up in cucumbers as well as in a few watermelon fields.

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report downy mildew is present at moderate to high levels in the oldest squash and cucumber plantings.

Leaf symptoms can be used to diagnose downy mildew in the field in some cases. On cucurbits other than watermelon, small yellowish spots occur on the upper leaf surface initially away from the leaf margin. Later, a more brilliant yellow coloration occurs with the internal part of the lesion turning brown. Lesions are usually angular as leaf veins restrict their expansion. When the leaves are moist, a downy grayish fungal growth may be seen on the underside of lesions.

On watermelons, yellow leaf spots may or may not be angular and later turn brown to black in color. On watermelons an exaggerated upward leaf curling occurs that growers sometimes liken to a dead man's hand.

If cucurbits are planted close to established fields infected with downy mildew, a spray program should be initiated as soon as the first true leaves are present.

Spray programs for downy mildew are most effective when initiated prior to the first sign of disease since once a planting becomes infected; it becomes more and more difficult for fungicides to control downy mildew.

A range of fungicides is available for the control of downy mildew depending on the crop. Use of Bravo should be avoided on watermelon after fruit set as it may increase the risk of sunburn. Consult UF/IFAS recommendations for currently labeled fungicides for downy mildew control in Florida.

Basil Downy Mildew

Basil downy mildew has been very severe around South Florida given the warm, moist conditions of the last couple of weeks. Dr. Richard Raid, Plant Pathologist at UF/IFAS EREC recommends a preventative program using a good phosphite fungicide, alternated or tank-mixed with azoxystrobin.

Under favorable conditions for disease development, sprays must be at least weekly, perhaps even more frequently. Since there is abundant inoculum all over south Florida, growers should not wait until the disease shows up. Dr. Raid writes that we are still working on gaining more registrations through IR-4.

Pythium damping off and seedling blight

Pythium damping off and seedling blight continues to be a problem in beans around south Florida, particularly in low lying areas. This disease is also favored by high temperatures and wet soil conditions. The pathogen may be observed as a white cottony mass on young seedlings, particularly when viewed in the morning hours, before the canopy has a chance to dry. Fungicides that contain metalaxyl or mefenoxam are good if applied as a directed spray in the furrow, and there are a number of biological fungicides available for organic growers.

Southern corn leaf blight

Southern corn leaf blight (*Maydis bipolaris*) has been the most prevalent foliar disease fall-planted sweet corn, favored by the warm, moist conditions. This can be controlled by alternating sprays of a broad spectrum protectant, such as mancozeb or chlorothalonil, with a strobilurin or triazole fungicide. Pre-mixtures that contain a strobilurin and a triazole are particularly effective.

Powdery Mildew

Respondents around South Florida report some problems with powdery mildew on squash. Some increase has been noted especially in older plantings.

Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus

Growers in the Manatee Ruskin area continue to reporting mostly low levels of TYLCV infections in tomato.

Around SW Florida, TYLCV remains mostly low with a few isolated hotspots where incidence is reaching 5%.

In Pam Beach and Homestead, respondents indicate that TYLCV remains low with a few plants showing up here and there.

Groundnut Ringspot Virus

A few GRSV infected tomato plants have been reported from fields around Homestead, Palm Beach and SW Florida. These are mostly one plant here and there and incidence remains less than 1%.

Groundnut Ringspot Virus in Florida was recently published and can be found on-line at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp282>

Target Spot

Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicates that low levels of target spot are present in a few older tomato plantings with some fruit infections present in a couple of places.

Low levels of target spot have also been reported in scattered location in some East Coast and SW Florida tomato fields.

News You Can Use

Heavy South Florida Rains Will Ease Water Shortage

MIAMI -- The heavy rain that fell over South and central Florida the last several days will go a long way toward erasing the region's water deficit.

The South Florida Water Management District told The Miami Herald (<http://bit.ly/nNk1h7>) that the Kissimmee River Basin got about a foot of rain in many spots and up to 16 inches in some.

That water will flow into Lake Okeechobee over the next week, raising its levels by one to two feet. Right now the lake is at 11.2 feet above sea level and officials would like it to reach 14 feet before the dry season. More rain is predicted this week and should further ease the situation.

The lake is the primary water source for 5 million people.

South Florida Water Managers Take Steps to Increase Water Storage

Dispersed water projects provide a cost-effective method of keeping water on the landscape.

West Palm Beach, FL — The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board this week approved eight cost-effective projects to increase water storage on ranches north of Lake Okeechobee while improving water quality for the Everglades as well as for the lake and coastal estuaries.

“The future of water storage north of Lake Okeechobee relies on innovative public-private partnerships and marks a milestone in our collective efforts to preserve both the Northern Everglades and our working landscapes for future generations,” said Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam. “This program is a progressive way of achieving our shared goals of environmental restoration and a healthy and sustainable agricultural economy.”

With a \$7 million investment over 10 years, the eight contracts will provide 4,800 acre-feet of water retention in the Northern Everglades to assist with meeting the storage and water quality improvement goals for the watershed. Within six months, all of the projects will be fully operational and demonstrating these cost-effective water retention services.

Benefits:

- Reduces excess water flowing into Lake Okeechobee during the wet season
- Reduces the amount of water discharged to the coastal estuaries for flood protection
- Provides valuable groundwater recharge for water supply
- Improves water quality and rehydration of drained systems
- Enhances plant and wildlife habitat
- Helps sustain the local economy

By the numbers:

- Through a combination of public and private projects, 131,500 acre-feet of water retention/storage has been made available to date
- To date, the District has collaborated with more than 100 participating landowners
- The ultimate goal for the program is to provide 450,000 acre-feet of retention/storage throughout the Northern Everglades watershed
- 450,000 acre-feet of additional storage equates to approximately 1 foot of water off of Lake Okeechobee

“It is imperative that we work to get the water right in South Florida, which includes both ensuring an adequate water supply and improving water quality,” said Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. “The projects approved by the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will allow the district to collaborate with property owners to retain excess water on public, private and tribal lands to ensure a more reliable water supply for Florida’s future generations.”

The projects in Okeechobee, Highlands and Polk counties, along with the amount of water able to be retained, include:

- Alderman-Deloney Ranch: 147 acre-feet
- Buck Island Ranch: 1,573 acre-feet
- Dixie Ranch: 856 acre-feet
- Dixie West: 315 acre-feet
- Lightsey Cattle Company: 887 acre-feet
- Lost Oak Ranch: 374 acre-feet
- Triple A Ranch: 397 acre-feet
- Willaway Cattle & Sod: 229 acre-feet

Dispersed Water Management Program

Since the start of its Dispersed Water Management Program in 2005, the District has collaborated with a coalition of agencies, environmental organizations, ranchers and researchers to enhance opportunities for storing excess surface water on private, public and tribal lands. In addition to utilizing regional public projects, the program encourages property owners to retain water on their land rather than drain it and to accept and detain regional runoff.

“Storing large volumes of water north and south of Lake Okeechobee is one of the most significant water management challenges facing South Florida,” said SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker. “Assembling a collection of shallow, on-site retention projects — that work in conjunction with planned regional reservoirs — sustains local economies and helps to meet the State’s Everglades restoration goals.”

To expand the effort following the pilot Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP), the District issued a solicitation in January 2011 aimed at ranch owners in the Northern Everglades region. A total of 14 proposals were evaluated and ranked in response to the competitive solicitation. The eight approved projects were determined through a Governing Board-approved negotiation process.

The selected ranchers will receive financial assistance in making the best use of existing infrastructure and/or developing new, simple infrastructure that will increase water and nutrient retention capabilities. All projects will be monitored under an agreement with the World Wildlife Fund to document that the contracts, known as Payment for Environmental Services (PES), are meeting the water retention goals.

“The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Florida, a supporter and contributor to the Northern Everglades – Payment for Environmental Services (NE-PES) initiative from the beginning, is excited and proud to be a part of one of the nation’s largest market-based payment for environmental services programs,” said Carlos Suarez, state conservationist for the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). “We anticipate that the NE-PES program will contribute toward sustaining cattle ranching as an important industry throughout the region, maintaining important wildlife habitats, improving wetlands and keeping working lands working.”

The Dispersed Water Management Program Northern Everglades – Payment for Environmental Services is being implemented in coordination with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the NRCS, World Wildlife Fund and UF/IFAS.

Florida Ag Expo

There is still plenty of time to register for the 2011 Florida Ag Expo featuring Ag Commissioner Adam Putnam and Hillsborough County Commissioner Al Higginbotham as guest speakers. Hosted by the Univ. of Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Center in Balm on Wednesday November 9th, the program includes educational sessions, grower panel, and a variety of field tours highlighting strawberries, tomatoes, caladiums, greenhouse studies, and plant diagnostic lab. The agenda is full and we are expecting a large crowd, so register today!

To register visit <http://www.floridaagexpo.com> The program is also available for your review at <http://www.floridaagexpo.com/program>

Up Coming Meetings

October 17 – 19, 2011 Restricted Use Pesticide Applicators Training and Testing

October 17 – Core/Private

October 18 – Natural Area/Aquatic

October 19 – Row Crop/Rights of Way

Hendry County Extension Office
1085 Pratt Boulevard
LaBelle, Florida

Call or email Debra at 863-674-4092 or dcabrera@ufl.edu for more information

October 31, 2011 Sustainable Nutrient and Pest Management Workshop

Worden Farm
Bermont Road
Punta Gorda, Florida

For more information and to register: <http://www.foginfo.org/scbgworkshops.php>

November 9, 2011 Florida Ag Expo

UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Center
Balm, Florida

For more information and to register visit <http://www.floridaagexpo.com>

Nov. 30 - Dec 1, 2011 3rd International Phytophthora capsici Conference

Hawks Cay
Duck Island, Florida Keys.

For more information go to: <http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/pcap/>

February 26 -27, 2012 Florida Weed Science Society Annual Meeting

Florida FFA Leadership Training Center
5000 Firetower Road
Haines City, FL 33844

Online registration for the meeting will be at www.floridaweedsciencesociety.com Check this website often for updates!

Opportunities

Farm Land for Lease

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

Farm Land for lease on Babcock Ranch, Hwy 31, Charlotte County. Rotational fields or permanent locations, phone 941-639-3958

Websites

ReadyAG: Disaster and Defense Preparedness for Production Agriculture - Farm disasters such as disease, feed contamination, fires and floods can come without warning. It's important to make sure crop, livestock or poultry operations are safe and biosecure. A team of Extension professionals from across the United States developed an educational tool to assist farm and ranch managers become better prepared for any disaster excellent self-assessment checklist to help you evaluate your operation. You can find it at <http://bit.ly/nZ6zZL>

Florida Tomato Scouting Guide App for Android - The Florida Tomato Scouting Guide with Insect and Disease Identification Keys is an electronic version of IFAS Publication No. SP-22.

The purpose of the Guide is to assist scouts in identifying insects and diseases commonly encountered in monitoring tomato fields in Florida.

You can download it at: <http://www.appsgeyser.com/getwidget/Florida+Tomato+Scouting+Guide> or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



Note: This is my first venture into this new technology – I am hoping to put together more of these in the near future. I created this on Oct 13 and have already had 65 downloads since then! – GM.

Soil Fumigant Toolbox - EPA also has an on-line Soil Fumigant Toolbox which provides training, outreach, and other resource materials for applicators and handlers, communities, state and local agencies, and others interested in understanding and implementing the current requirements for safe use of soil fumigants. Fumigant Management Templates and sample FMPs for each fumigant are available.

It can be found at http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil_fumigants/

Quotable Quotes

Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble.

All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come. - Victor Hugo

Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we've been ignorant of their value. - Buckminster Fuller

And the wildest dreams of Kew are the facts in Kathmandu. – Rudyard Kipling

The best place to look for a helping hand is at the end of your arm.

Laugh when you can, apologize when you should, and let go of what you can't change.
Life's too short to be anything... but happy. Enjoy Life - it has an Expiration Date.

On the Lighter Side

Pastors Wife

A pastor's wife was expecting a baby, so he stood before the congregation and asked for a raise. After much discussion, they passed a rule that whenever the pastor's family expanded; so would his paycheck.

After 6 children, this started to get expensive and the congregation decided to hold another meeting to discuss the pastor's expanding salary....A great deal of yelling and inner bickering ensued, as to how much the pastor's additional children were costing the church, and how much more it could potentially cost.

After listening to them for about an hour, the pastor rose from his chair and spoke, "Children are a gift from God, and we will take as many gifts as He gives us." Silence fell over the congregation.

In the back pew, a little old lady struggled to stand, and finally said in her frail voice, "Rain is also a gift from God, but when we get too much of it, we wear rubbers."

EMPLOYEE NOTICE!

Due to the current financial situation caused by the slowdown in the economy, Congress has decided to implement a scheme to put workers of 50 years of age and above on early, mandatory retirement, thus creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

This scheme will be known as R.A.P.E. (Retire Aged People Early).

Persons selected to be R.A.P.E.D. can apply to Congress to be considered for the S.H.A.F.T. (Special Help After Forced Termination).

Persons who have been R.A.P.E.D. and S.H.A.F.T.E.D. will be reviewed under the S.C.R.E.W. program (System Covering Retired-Early Workers). A person may be R.A.P.E.D. once, S.H.A.F.T.E.D. twice and S.C.R.E.W.E.D. as many times as Congress deems appropriate.

Persons who have been R.A.P.E.D. could get A.I.D.S. (Additional Income for Dependents & Spouse) or H.E.R.P.E.S. (Half Earnings for Retired Personnel Early Severance). Obviously persons who have A.I.D.S. or H.E.R.P.E.S. will not be S.H.A.F.T.E.D. or S.C.R.E.W.E.D. any further by Congress.

Persons who are not R.A.P.E.D. and are staying on will receive as much S.H.I.T. (Special High Intensity Training) as possible. Congress has always prided themselves on the amount of S.H.I.T. they give our citizens.

Should you feel that you do not receive enough S.H.I.T., please bring this to the attention of your Congressman, who has been trained to give you all the S.H.I.T. you are entitled to,.

Sincerely,

The Committee for Economic Value of Individual Lives (E.V.I.L.)

PS - Due to recent budget cuts and the rising cost of electricity, gas and oil, as well as current market conditions, the Light at the End of the Tunnel has been turned off.

Ole and Sven

Ole and Sven die in a snowmobiling accident, drunker than skunks, and go to Hell.

The Devil observes that they are really enjoying themselves. He says to them 'Doesn't the heat and smoke bother you?

Ole replies, 'Vell, ya know, ve're from norderm Minnesoota, da land of snow an ice, an ve're yust happy fer a chance ta varm up a little bit, ya know.'

The devil decides that these two aren't miserable enough and turns up the heat even more. When he returns to the room of the two guys from Minnesota, the devil finds them in light jackets and hats, grilling Walleye and drinking beer.

The devil is astonished and exclaims, 'Everyone down here is in wretched misery, and you two seem to be enjoying yourselves?'

Sven replies, 'Vell, ya know, ve don't git too much varm veather up dere at da Falls, so ve've yust got ta haff a fish fry vhen da veather's dis nice.'

The devil is absolutely furious. He can hardly see straight. Finally he comes up with the answer. The two guys love the heat because they have been cold all their lives. The devil decides to turn all the heat off in Hell. The next morning, the temperature is 60 below zero, icicles are hanging everywhere, and people are shivering so bad that they are unable to wail, moan or gnash their teeth.

The devil smiles and heads for the room with Ole and Sven. He gets there and finds them back in their parkas, bomber hats, and mittens. They are jumping up and down, cheering, yelling and screaming like mad men. The devil is dumbfounded, 'I don't understand, when I turn up the heat you're happy. Now it's freezing cold and you're still happy. What is wrong with you two?'

They both look at the devil in surprise and say, 'Vell, don't ya know, if hell iss froze over, dat must mean da Vikings von da Super Bowl'

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.

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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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