



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Hendry County Extension

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

November 16, 2008

**Mostly cool dry conditions prevailed over South Florida over the past few weeks with a brief warming spell and some unsettled weather and some widely scattered showers the past few days as the cold front now blanketing the peninsula pushed south on Friday and Saturday.**

**Most areas reported less than an inch of rain for the period but foggy mornings and heavy dew falls helped keep disease active in places.** Nighttime lows were mostly in the 50's with daytime highs in the low to mid 80's.

### FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	40.9	89.53	0.35	76	0.08
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	47.01	87.06	0.17	82	0.08
<b>Clewiston</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	47.25	87.98	0.00	76	0.09
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	57.99	85.08	0.22	80	0.09
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	44.71	87.58	0.80	81	0.09
<b>Homestead</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	56.34	84.38	0.38	82	0.08
<b>Immokalee</b>					
10/16 – 11/15/08	46.17	90.39	0.00	80	0.08

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**Over all most crops are looking good with tomato harvest in full swing in the Manatee Ruskin area and light volumes of tomatoes and pepper coming to market in Immokalee.** Other crops coming to market include beans, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and specialty crops including basil with volumes beginning to increase seasonally around South Florida.

**The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that the strong cold front that has been digging south for the last several days has moved through south Florida early Sunday morning bringing much cooler and drier air into the region.** Northwest winds will continue over the area into Monday as the mid to upper level trough of low pressure will remain over the eastern United States. This will continue to allow for the cooler and drier weather to continue working into the area from the north. Another cold front located over the upper Midwest will also move south and through South Florida on Tuesday. This will reinforce the cooler and drier weather over south Florida for mid week. Temperatures will be unseasonably cool with highs in the low to mid 70's and lows in the 30's and 40's for most of the week. 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 continue to indicate that fall armyworm pressure has been extremely high in sweet corn and populations have been higher this fall than in recent memory.** Southern armyworms are also present and both are causing problems in other crops as well.

**Around Southwest Florida, growers and scouts report that worm pressure has slowed some what.** Scouts report melonworms are still active in squash and other cucurbits.

**Respondents in Palm Beach report that worm pressure is moderate with lots of moths flying and note that fall armyworm is causing some problems with pepper fruit.**

**Reports from around Manatee County reports indicate that worm pressure has slacked off and is low in many places.**

### **Whiteflies**

**Reports from Manatee County indicate that whitefly pressure remains light especially in fields treated with Coragen.**

**Around Palm Beach reports indicate that whitefly numbers are picking up in some older tomato.**

**Around SW Florida, whitefly pressure remains fairly low in most places with some exceptions being noted.**

### **Leafminers**

**Reports from Palm Beach and the East Coast indicate that leafminer pressure took off around November 1<sup>st</sup> and are now widely present with mines appearing on transplants only a week in the ground.**

**Around Homestead leafminer is present on beans, eggplant and tomato.**

**Leafminers remain low around Southwest Florida but are increasing in a number of places.**

**Growers and scouts in Manatee County report that leafminer are widely present and note most farms are now treating 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 non-sprayed 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.

### **Broad mites**

**Around Southwest Florida, broadmites continue to flare up sporadically here and there in pepper and eggplant.**

**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.**

### **Pepper weevils**

**Scouts report a few pepper weevil adults are present in few locations around Southwest Florida.**

**Reports from the East Coast indicate a few weevils are now starting to show up there as well.**

### **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**

**Scouts around Palm Beach indicate more winged aphids are showing up in a variety of crops.**

**Respondents in other areas note a few more 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.

### **Cucumber Beetle**

**Respondents indicate that 12 spotted cucumber beetles are causing some problems on corn around the Glades and in the Devils Garden area.**

### **Stink Bug**

**A few problems with stink bugs primarily on organic production have been noted around Immokalee.**

**Diseases – the cool dry weather of the past few weeks has helped with nearly all disease problems around the area.**

### **Bacterial leaf spot**

**Reports from around SW Florida indicate that bacterial spot activity has really slowed in most locations but note many fields have been hurt, especially pepper.** Foggy mornings have kept the disease active in some places.

**Reports from Manatee County indicate that bacterial leaf spot has dried up in most places but again foggy mornings are keeping it going in places.**

**Respondents on the east Coast report bacterial spot continues to creep around in tomato and pepper encouraged by foggy mornings**

### **Bacterial Blotch**

**In the Glades and around Devils Garden some low level problems with bacterial blotch have been reported on beans.**

### **Phytophthora**

**Growers and scouts around Palm Beach continue to report some problems with *Phytophthora* in squash particularly in fields with a history of the disease.**

### **Target Spot**

**Around Immokalee, target spot incidence has increased in a number of older tomatoes working on the lower inner foliage and up inside the canopy.**

**Scouts around Manatee County report some target spot has become a problem on tomatoes with some fruit issues being reported.**

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

### **TYLCV**

**Growers around Manatee County continue to report mostly low levels of tomato yellow leaf curl virus on tomato with a few hotspots being reported around the area.**

**Around Southwest Florida TYLCV remains mostly low, with most fields less than 1% with some hotspots reaching 4 - 5% infection rate.**

**On the East Coast, tomato yellow leaf curl virus remains low in most places.**

### **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 continues to work on cucumbers and squash.**

**Around Manatee County respondents report that downy mildew problems have increased in melons and other 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.**

### **Resistance Management Tips for powdery and downy mildew**

Margaret McGrath, an associate professor in plant pathology at Cornell University, and Andy Wyenandt, Extension specialist in vegetable pathology with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station suggest growers do the following to reduce resistance problems this growing season for powdery and downy mildew control.

- For powdery mildew, grow resistant varieties;
- Scout regularly;
- Initiate fungicide applications at disease onset or before;
- Alternate and tank mix fungicides at risk for resistance on a regular seven-day schedule; and Rate control achieved based on powdery mildew severity on lower leaf surfaces.

A similar strategy can be used for downy mildew control:

- Start applications before disease onset;
- Scout fields on a regular basis; and
- Frequently check the downy mildew forecasting Web site: [www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/curcurbit](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/curcurbit).

### **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.**

### **Bacterial wilt**

**East Coast growers are reporting some scattered problems with bacterial wilt on tomato.**

### **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.**

**Around Immokalee, fusarium crown rot is starting to show in several tomato fields as they reach maturity.**

## **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. Reports indicate infection rates of up to 40% in some fields.

**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.**

## **Cercospora Leaf Spot**

**A few scattered problems with cercospora leaf spot have been noted on beans in Devils Garden and around the Glades.** Some organic fields have been hit hard.

**Cercospora leaf spot and blotch of beans caused by the fungus *Cercospora canescens* occurs widely in Latin America and the southern United States.** Cercospora leaf spot can affect all aerial parts of the plant and rarely can cause serious defoliation and yield loss.

**Infected foliage especially more mature leaves display brown or rust colored lesions that may vary in size and shape from angular to circular.** Lesions may exhibit a gray center with slightly reddened margins.

**In severe cases leaves may become chlorotic and lesions may coalesce.** As the lesions dry, infected portions of the leaf may fall out giving the leaf a ragged appearance. Lesions and blemishes may also occur on branches, stem and pods.

**The lifecycle of the fungus is not well understood.** Cercospora can be seed-borne and survives on crop debris as well. Vigorously growing leaves resist infection to some extent and some resistance has been noted in some land race cultivars from Latin America.

**Chemical sprays with a copper and Bravo work well if initiated early.** Strobilurin fungicides are particularly effective against the disease. Rotation with non-host crops such as corn may reduce disease pressure by reducing initial inoculum.

**Tillage to hasten rapid decay of infested residue may also help prevent a build-up of the pathogen and potential for greater infection.**

## **News You Can Use**

### **South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline Reaches 10 Year Milestone**

The South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this month having been in continuous publication since November 1998. The biweekly newsletter is compiled by Gene McAvoy, Regional Specialized Vegetable Agent IV, based in Hendry County, providing growers with updated information on pest and diseases affecting vegetables in South Florida. The hotline has proven a successful communication tool for the vegetable industry and currently reaches over 1500 individuals and businesses and covers over 120,000 acres representing all major South Florida vegetable production areas. It is presently sent out by email, snail mail and via list-serve and is widely copied and distributed by others in and out of IFAS.

The need for the hotline became apparent at a meeting of the SW Florida Vegetable Advisory Committee in October 1998 at which growers and others indicated a need for information on the incidence and occurrence of pests and diseases affecting vegetables in Southwest Florida. The concept was quite simple: pests and diseases

are a constant dynamic threat to vegetable producers and timely and relevant information is required by growers to aid management efforts.

The hotline was an immediate success with growers and other vegetable industry representatives who recognized value in the information being provided. Initially the hotline targeted Southwest Florida primarily but demand from industry initiated expansion of coverage to all South Florida vegetable production areas.

The hotline is a collaborative effort, which relies on a network of informants including growers, scouts, extension agents and specialists and others. The information gleaned from this network is compiled along with personal observations of the author as well as information from other sources to keep growers and others abreast of what's happening in the field.

In addition to updates on pest and diseases affecting area crops, the South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline emphasizes an IPM approach providing information on identification, life cycles and control tips as well as other relevant information such as weather, label changes, current research and other news of interest.

Industry values of the hotline and the list of sponsors which have come forward to help underwrite publication includes many of the major players in the vegetable industry – including Thomas Produce, Gargiulo, Syngenta, Dow, DuPont, Glades Crop Care, Agricultural Crop Consulting, and many many others.

The hotline is currently recognized as the premier vegetable pest and disease newsletter in Florida and has achieved national recognition being noted in the Environmental Protection Agencies web-based listing of US Integrated Pest Management Newsletters. As one subscriber to the hotline indicated that, "Accurate and current information is the best defense against insects and disease."

Another noted, "The hotline helps me see the big picture and not just what's happening in my fields."

The formula for the success of the hotline has been simple - listen to clients, identify perceived needs and want, and provide a product that meets a need. Teamwork makes it possible and evaluation helps keep it relevant.

Contributions or comments and suggestions are always welcome and appreciated. Become a contributor - let us know what you are seeing or what you think. It is as simple as quick e-mail. If you would like to be added to the distribution lists - contact Gene McAvoy and indicate your delivery preference.

### **Vegetable Growers to Benefit from Farm Bill**

By now, the fact that the Farm Bill passed both the House and the Senate, and that lawmakers appear to have enough votes to override the recent veto by President Bush, is old news. What some may not know are the details on how the new Farm Bill will benefit vegetable growers. Here are some of the highlights as detailed in the Specialty Crop Farm Bill conference report.

- \$1.02 billion: Expands the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Snack Program to all 50 states. The nationwide expansion of the Snack Program will develop healthy eating habits for children by providing fresh fruits and vegetables in schools.
- \$466 million: Enhances funding for “Specialty Crop Block Grants” that focus on local efforts to enhance producers’ ability to compete in the marketplace and provide consumers with safe, abundant food.
- \$377 million: Creates a new Pest and Disease Program that will target invasive pests and disease. This program will be a joint collaborative effort between the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and state departments of agriculture.
- \$250 million: Provides the Department of Defense Fresh Program (partnering with USDA) a unique program

to purchase and deliver fresh fruits and vegetable to schools.

- \$230 million: Establishes the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to develop and disseminate science-based tools to address the needs of specific crops and their regions. Research priorities include food safety, mechanization, genetics, plant breeding, and pests and diseases.
- \$59 million: Enhances critical trade assistance and market promotion tools that will grow international markets for specialty crops.

Rosemary Gordon, AVG

### **Highlands County renames Sebring Agri-Civic Center the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center**

On Thursday November 13, 2008, Highlands County commissioners renamed the Sebring Agri-Civic Center the Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center. Inside, a plaque was unveiled naming the O.S. Sam Polston Auditorium. A ceremony was held at 11 a.m., and an invitation-only dinner was scheduled later Thursday at 4509 George Blvd.

Commissioner Andrew Jackson, who chaired the board in 1972 when the Agri-Civic Center was built, said it was always Harris's dream that a building be devoted to agriculture, "so it's entirely proper and fitting that we name this building today for Bert Harris Jr."

Bert J. Harris Jr. came to Highlands County from the University of Florida in 1948 as the assistant county agent, and was known for his work improving cattle through breeding and forage. He encouraged better bull selection to produce premium calves.

Harris introduced the concept of improved pastures, which were coupled with native ranges. He introduced new cattle forages to Highlands County and adapted their use to soil and pasture conditions. The annual Highlands/Hardee Feeder Calf Sale, which he introduced and coordinated, attracted buyers from around the U.S.

Caladiums were a large part of Highlands County's economy, but only a small part of the state's agriculture, so Harris recruited Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers to work on problems. New varieties and improved growing techniques were developed.

Following his retirement in 1975 as an agriculture agent, Harris served 16 years in the Florida House of Representatives, representing Highlands and central Florida counties. His most notable achievement was the Florida Property Rights Bill.

Back in the 1960s, O.S. Polston, the county's soil and water conservation agent from 1950 to 1984, developed watershed projects like Istokpoga Marsh, along C.R. 621, where most of the caladiums are grown today, said Commissioner Bates. Polston was instrumental in the development of watershed projects such as the Istokpoga Marsh watershed project, the Jackson Creek Watershed Project as well as other watershed projects that helped to better manage both land and water resources in the county.

"He was the driving force in development of the Highlands County Chain of Lakes Project," said Tim Hurner, the current citrus agent, "which allowed for a connection between several lakes in the central portion of the county." That allowed for better water control and conservation," wrote Hurner, who is currently in the soil and water office. Polston designed and introduced permanent irrigation in citrus groves in Highlands County beginning in the early 1960s. First were the permanent overhead irrigation systems and later the low-volume, under-tree, irrigation systems that were more water efficient and effective.

## **Energy and the Environment: Myths and Facts**

The Center for Energy Policy and the Environment at the Manhattan Institute released a report by senior fellow Max Schulz. "Energy and the Environment: Myths and Facts" reveals that Americans' beliefs about energy and our environment are largely unfounded.

Sound policy decisions require a well-informed citizenry. But we must ask: how well-informed are we regarding our energy needs and natural environment? The Manhattan Institute, along with Zogby International, polled 1,000 Americans about basic facts relating to energy policy. The poll results reveal that many widely held beliefs are, in key ways, inaccurate.

In this report, Max Schulz examines the public perception of energy and the environment; by separating fact from fiction, and the true story behind America's energy myths is presented.

**MYTH:** Most of our energy comes from oil.  
Nearly two thirds of respondents believed this to be the case.

**FACT:** In reality, 60 percent of our energy comes from non-oil sources. Growing electricity use accounts for over 85 percent of growth in our energy demand since 1980; this deserves greater focus from policy-makers and media.

**MYTH:** Saudi Arabia provides more oil to the United States than does any other foreign country.  
When asked for the largest source of foreign oil, 55 percent guessed Saudi Arabia.

**FACT:** Canada provides the USA with more foreign oil than any other country. An erroneous belief in our dependence on Middle Eastern oil leads to an illegitimate fear of having energy used as an economic weapon against us.

**MYTH:** The accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant was fatal.  
Over 80 percent of respondents did not disagree.

**FACT:** No one died from the accident at Three Mile Island. Untenable safety concerns prevent a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that could be achieved by turning to nuclear power as an energy source.

**MYTH:** Our cities are becoming more polluted and our forests are shrinking.  
Nearly 84 percent believe cities are increasingly polluted; 67 percent believe logging and development are shrinking our forests.

**FACT:** Trends suggest that the air in our cities is becoming cleaner and we are experiencing annual net gains for forest area. Inaccurate assumptions about our environment encourage onerous regulation and limit urban development.

**MYTH:** The Kyoto Protocol would require all countries to cut emissions.  
Almost 60 percent believe that is, in fact, required by the protocol.

**FACT:** The Kyoto Protocol has exempted large emitters like China and India; analysts have shown it would be unlikely to reduce global warming. The cost to the American economy, however, is estimated to be between \$13 billion and \$397 billion in 2010.

**MYTH:** The US can meet its future energy demand solely through conservation and efficiency measures.  
Nearly 70 percent agreed with this statement.

FACT: We will need 30 percent more energy in 2030 than we consume today - not a demand that can be met through mere conservation. Our needs will be met by introducing new energy sources-like nuclear power. Despite wide-spread misconceptions among respondents, there was some level of awareness. More than half (50.7 percent) of participants knew we will not run out of oil in this century. And sixty-one percent correctly identified wind and solar power as providing the least amount of energy among a list of major energy sources that included coal, nuclear power, natural gas, and oil.

Energy and the Environment: Myths and Facts is available online at [http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/Energy\\_and\\_Environment\\_Myths.pdf](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/Energy_and_Environment_Myths.pdf)

Max Schulz is a senior fellow at the Center for Energy Policy and the Environment at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Prior to joining the Manhattan Institute, Mr. Schulz served as Senior Policy Advisor and Director of Speechwriting for United States Secretaries of Energy Samuel Bodman and Spencer Abraham. His work focuses on the practical application of free-market principles in energy debates at the international, federal, and state levels.

### **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](http://www.flaes.org/pdf/Flyer2006.pdf). For more information, visit DEP's website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides](http://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

#### **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](mailto:john.taylor@syngenta.com).

### **Farm Land for Lease**

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

### **Up Coming Meetings**

#### **Hillsborough County**

November 21, 2008

#### **Workers Protection Standards (WPS) Train-the-Trainer Course**

Hillsborough County Extension Office  
Seffner, Florida

Please call Alicia at 813-744-5519, ext. 134 or Lacey at 813-744-5519, ext. 128 to reserve a seat.

A Workers Protection Standards (WPS) Train-the-Trainer Course will be offered for WPS Trainer Certification on Friday, Nov. 21, 2008 at the Hillsborough County Extension Office, Seffner, Florida from 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.

This certification allows you to train agricultural workers and handlers so your firm meets WPS criteria if you do not hold a pesticide applicators license. The WPS training for workers and handlers now has new expanded guidelines for what is to be taught and these will be presented in class.

Registration is \$20 and is non-refundable. Materials and refreshments will be provided. Checks are to be made to Hillsborough County Vegetable Advisory Committee. Please call Alicia at 813-744-5519, ext. 134 or Lacey at 813-744-5519, ext. 128 to reserve a seat.

#### **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

**US Department of Labor Contractor/Grower Seminars** - The times are the same: all seminars start at 5:30 P.M. and end at about 9:00 P.M. No need to call or register... just show up.

- December 15, 2008            Nora Mayo Hall, Florida Citrus Building  
503 3rd Street  
Winter Haven, FL
- December 16, 2008            Turner Center, Annex (a.k.a. Exhibition Hall)  
2250 N.E. Roan Street  
Arcadia, FL
- December 17, 2008            Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center  
4509 George Blvd.  
Sebring, FL

## Websites

South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline – past issues can be found at [http://hendry.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/sw\\_fl\\_pest\\_hotline/index.shtml](http://hendry.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/sw_fl_pest_hotline/index.shtml)

**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>

Carlton Ward Photography – beautiful photos including many of natural landscapes and wildlife of Florida, check it out at <http://www.carltonward.com/>

## Quotable Quotes

The Lord so constituted everybody that no matter what color you are you require the same amount of nourishment. – Will Rogers

Civilization has taught us to eat with a fork, but even now if nobody is around we use our fingers. – Will Rogers

You can't say that civilization don't advance, however, for in every war they kill you in a new way. – Will Rogers

The man with the best job in the country is the vice President. All he has to do is get up every morning and say, 'How's the President?' – Will Rogers

I don't care how poor and inefficient a little country is; they like to run their own business. I know men that would make my wife a better husband than I am, but, darn it, I'm not going to give her to 'em. – Will Rogers

If we ever pass out as a great nation we ought to put on our tombstone, 'America died from a delusion that she has moral leadership. – Will Rogers

## On the Lighter Side

### What a Dollar Stands For...

Most people don't know that it was the Truro and Solomon families that bankrolled the American Revolution and never were paid back and not only did Solomon die a pauper, the Truro family also. Who was Hayim Solomon?

On the rear of the One Dollar bill, you will see two circles. Together, they comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid.

Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the west or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

'IN GOD WE TRUST' is on this currency.

The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, 'God has favored our undertaking.'

The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, 'a new order has begun.'

At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776. (MDCCLXXVI)

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, 'E PLURIBUS UNUM' meaning, 'one from many.'

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away.

Again, we were coming together as one.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number.

This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor.

But think about this:

- 13 original colonies,
- 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence,
- 13 stripes on our flag,
- 13 steps on the Pyramid,
- 3 letters in, 'Annuit Coeptis,'
- 13 letters in ' E Pluribus Unum ,'
- 13 stars above the Eagle,
- 13 bars on that shield,
- 13 leaves on the olive branch,
- 13 fruits,
- and if you look closely, 13 arrows.

And finally, if you notice the arrangement of the 13 stars in the right-hand circle you will see that they are arranged as a Star of David.

This was ordered by George Washington who, when he asked Hayim Solomon, a wealthy Philadelphia Jew, what he would like as a personal reward for his services to the Continental Army, Solomon said he wanted nothing for himself but that he would like something for his people. The Star of David was the result. Few people know that it was Solomon who saved the Army through his financial contributions but died a pauper.

### **Circle Flies**

After pulling a farmer over for speeding, a state trooper started to lecture him about his speed, pompously implying that the farmer didn't know any better and trying to make him feel as uncomfortable as possible. He finally started writing out the ticket, but had to keep swatting at some flies buzzing around his head.

The farmer said, "Having some problems with circle flies there are ya?"

The trooper paused to take another swat and said, "Well, yes, if that's what they are. I've never heard of circle flies."

The farmer was pleased to enlighten the cop. "Circle flies are common on farms. They're called circle flies because you almost always find them circling the back end of a horse."

The trooper continues writing for a moment, then says, "Hey, are you trying to call me a horse's behind?"

"Oh no, officer." The farmer replies. "I have too much respect for law enforcement and police officers for that."

"That's a good thing," the officer says rudely, then goes back to writing the ticket.

After a long pause, the farmer added, "Hard to fool them flies, though."

### **How the Bail Outs work:**

Chuck moved to Texas and bought a Donkey from a farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the Donkey the next day.

The next day, the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died."

Chuck replied, "Well, shit happens. Just give me my money back." The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Chuck said, "OK, then just bring me the dead donkey." The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with him?"

Chuck said, "I'm going to raffle him off." The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!" Chuck said, "Sure I can, watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

Chuck said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars a piece and made a profit of \$898."

The farmer said, "Didn't anyone complain?"

Chuck said, "Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two dollars back."

Chuck now works for Goldman Sachs.

## Without agriculture, we would be hungry and naked!

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