



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

November 22, 2016

**Monday morning saw the coldest morning of the season so far with temperatures reaching into the mid-upper 30's and low 40s over much of interior Central and Southwest Florida and the 40's and 50s over much of inland South Florida.** For the past few weeks, warm days and cool nights have prevailed with daytime highs mostly in the low to mid 80's and nights dipping into the mid- low 60's.

**It has been dry across South Florida since the passage of Hurricane Matthew over the past few weeks with most areas reporting only trace amounts of rainfall and water levels are dropping in ponds and wetland areas.** Despite dry weather, some patchy fog and heavy dewfall has kept some diseases active.

**Crops are looking good but prices have been soft for some items.** Some wind scarring has been reported on tomato, pepper and eggplant. Growers are busy harvesting cucumbers, green beans, eggplant, herbs, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomato, watermelon and specialty items for the Thanksgiving market.

## FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	37.97	84.94	0.02	74	0.08
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	43.06	85.71	0.02	81	0.08
<b>Clewiston</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	42.00	83.93	0.03	79	0.08
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	55.38	83.86	0.97	74	0.09
<b>Homestead</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	50.16	83.86	0.46	57	0.08
<b>Immokalee</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	36.27	88.41	0.00	78	0.08
<b>Okeechobee</b>					
11/1 – 11/22/16	34.19	85.66	0.07	81	0.08

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**The National Weather Service forecast indicates cooler, drier air will be the major player for weather in South Florida through much of the coming week.** Temperatures will moderate over the next few days, but not much in the way of rain chances appears imminent in the forecast.

**As we move closer to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next frontal system will begin to emerge over the central United States.** Little in the way of moisture is expected ahead of this front as it nears the southeast Thursday into Friday. As the mid and upper level support pushes out, the surface boundary weakens and stalls over northern Florida by Friday. A second mid-level impulse comes late Friday into Saturday, helping push the remnant frontal boundary southward towards our region by Sunday. Some showers may be possible with this frontal system to close out the weekend, though nothing widespread is expected at this point.

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

## **Insects**

### **Leafminer**

**Growers and scouts in the Manatee Ruskin area report that leafminer pressure has been very high and note that most growers are spraying for leafminer every 7-10 days.**

**On the East Coast, respondents indicate that leafminer pressure is moderate in tomato and eggplant.**

**Around SW Florida, leafminer pressure has picked up as the weather cools and has reached moderate to high levels in many places.**

**Leafminer are also becoming problematic in the Homestead area.**

**Leafminers are particularly damaging on celery, crucifers, cucurbits, okra, potato and tomato.** In south Florida, populations peak between October and March while in central Florida they are a problem in both spring and fall.

**The adults are small yellow and black flies about the size of a gnat.** The female punctures or "stipples" the leaves with her ovipositor to lay eggs in the leaf tissue or to feed on sap.

**Leafminer damage is easily recognized by the irregular serpentine mines in leaves.** The tunnel is clear with a trail of black fecal material left behind as the maggot feeds.

**Scouts report seeing elevated disease problems in some fields where leafminer control has been neglected and bacterial spot and Alternaria are getting a start on damaged tissue around mines.**

**Certain insecticides may decimate beneficial insects including those that attack leafminer.** This often results in a larger leafminer problem if the pesticide reduces numbers of leafminer parasites.

**Several parasites for this insect have been recorded in Florida, but parasitic wasps are most common.** Up to 90% parasitism in non-sprayed tomatoes has been observed in Florida.

**To determine whether leafminer larvae are dead or alive, leaflets can be 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 are readily visible, although movement may cease when larvae are disturbed or molting. Dead larvae do not show movement and are usually discolored and removed from the ends of mines.

**It is important that the scouting program include not only an assessment of the number of leafminers present but also the natural enemies.**

**Vegetable growers should scout for this pest from the beginning of their crop.** Growers can use SpinTor, Radiant, Coragen, Durivo, neonicotinoids, Agrimek, and Neemix for leafminers.

### Worms

**Around SW Florida, growers and scouts report that worm pressure has been moderate to high depending on locations but note that growers have been getting good control.** Respondents note that pressure increased about 10 days before the full moon and hasn't slowed yet.

**On the East Coast and down in Homestead, worm pressure is mostly low.**

**In the Glades, respondents note that worm pressure seems to be related to soil moisture, with fair moisture resulting in lower more normal fall armyworm pressure.** Dry soils seem to be attracting a much higher amount of activity and possibly interfering with controls too.

**Growers and scouts in the Manatee Ruskin report that worm pressure is steady at mostly low levels.**

**Depending on location, growers are finding a mixed bag of beet, southern and fall armyworms as well as loopers and a few tomato fruitworm numbers.** Melonworms are still active in cucurbits. Some diamondback moths are beginning to show up in crucifers. Diamondbacks are prone to resistance problems and products such as Coragen, Radiant, Rimon, Avaunt, and Exirel have given good results.

**Fall means worm time in Florida.** Fortunately, growers have a wide array of excellent worm control materials at their disposal these days.

**Scouting is extremely important in detecting worms early before they can do significant damage.** The Florida Tomato Scouting Guide indicates a pre-bloom threshold of 1 larva/6plants and post-bloom threshold of 1 egg mass or larva/field.

**The Florida Tomato Scouting Guide has excellent color photographs to help you identify different lep species as well as other common tomato pests.** It can be found on the web at <http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/tomato-scouting-guide/>

### Lesser cornstalk borer

**Around the Glades, lesser cornstalk borer trap counts are very high, especially in the northern and southern sand land areas.** Scouts report that they are beginning to see the first signs of lesser cornstalk borer adult activity in newly emerged corn.

### Whiteflies

**In the Manatee Ruskin area, whitefly numbers have been high and pressure has been relentless in many places.** Reports indicate that Sivanto is providing good control and that some growers have started to apply growth regulators like Courier to combat pupae.

**Around Immokalee, whitefly numbers are building and adults are moving around.** Growers have reported control issues in some areas but sampling has revealed no Q-biotype to date. Whitefly nymphs are building in several older crops. High whitefly numbers have been reported in some eggplant as well as silverleaf in some zucchini.

**On the East Coast and in Miami Dade County whitefly pressure remains mostly low but is beginning to increase in many places.**

**Proper scouting is essential to combat this pest.** Over the years, UF entomologists have developed usable action thresholds that have been successful for many tomato farmers. However, these thresholds are only guidelines. Farm managers may modify them to fit their particular situations and expectations. \*

### **Silverleaf whitefly thresholds**

**0-3 true leaves 10 adults/plant\***

**3-7 true leaves 1 adult/leaflet**

**NOTE - \*If the source of whiteflies is believed to be tomato, especially if infected with tomato yellow leaf curl virus, the threshold will be lower!**

**Growers are reporting good whitefly control with Verimark, Sivanto, and Venom applied in transplant water.**

**Dak Seal notes that neonics applied at planting followed by drip application of Verimark (28 DAP) and then foliar application of Venom, Knack, Requiem and fungus based insecticides (PFR) applied in a program will provide significant suppression of whiteflies and whitefly vectored TYLCV.** This program will also reduce tospoviruses. Sivanto has performed well in controlling whitefly. If labelled, it can be used in a program with Movento and other insecticides.

**Since initial finds of the Q biotype whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* in Palm Beach County, Q-biotype has been detected in 13 counties including Broward, Duval, Highlands, Hillsborough, Martin, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Pasco, Orange counties, primarily on landscape and nursery crops.** It has been found in field grown vegetables in Palm Beach and St. Johns counties (1 detection in each location).

**Growers should be aware of this especially if they encounter control issues as populations are prone to develop resistance to insect growth regulators (IGRs) and neonicotinoid insecticides.**

**Dr Cindy McKenzie, Ph.D., Research Entomologist, USDA, ARS, US Horticultural Research Laboratory has offered to test whitefly samples for growers.**

### **Pepper Weevil**

**Some pepper weevils are being reported in a number of fields around Southwest Florida.**

**Pepper weevils are also beginning to show up in some older pepper fields on the east Coast.**

**In the Manatee Ruskin area, pepper weevil numbers continue to increase.**

**Scouting is importance as with other pests to detect infestations at an early stage.** In the absence of Vydate, growers may want to look at Exirel, Actara, Rimon, Dimilin and the pyrethroids to knock down adults.

### **Thrips**

**Thrips have been mostly low in South Florida but scouts continue to report finding a few thrips vectored Groundnut Ringspot Virus and Tomato Chlorotic Spot Virus infected plants here and there.**

**Around Southwest Florida, thrips activity increasing and a few locations have both flower thrips (*F bispinosa*) and melon thrips (*T palmi*).**

**On the East Coast, thrips are starting to show up some in older pepper with a few larvae present in blooms and on fruit.**

**Thrips are also showing up early this season in pepper around Hillsborough County.**

**Around Homestead, common blossom thrips and western flower thrips, vector of TCSV and other tospoviruses are a constant threat.** Growers should scout fields carefully to detect their presence in tomato. Reflective plastic mulch may be useful to repel thrips early in the cropping cycle.

**Melon thrips are also causing problems around Miami Dade County.**

**Melon thrips abundance is high on eggplants planted earlier.** Adults are being found in squash, cucumber, beans and okra, but the numbers remain mostly low. At low population levels, growers should apply soft chemistry to try and hold populations down and use a non-ionic surfactant in the tank mix to improve control.

### **Broad Mites**

**Respondents report that broad mite remain common in pepper and eggplant fields around SW Florida.**

**Growers and scouts in East Coast pepper production areas indicate that broad mites are widely present at mostly low levels.**

**Broad mites have also been reported from several locations in the Manatee Ruskin area.**

### **Spider mites**

**With drier weather, a few two spotted spider mites have been showing up on eggplants and several other crops.**

### **Aphids**

**Cooler drier conditions have spurred an increase in aphid activity around the area.**

**In the Glades, aphids have recently started to show up silks in low numbers recently.**

**Around Hillsborough and Manatee Counties, respondents report big flights of aphids coming in but note they have been easy to kill.**

**Winged aphids have been showing up on a variety of susceptible crops around Palm Beach County.**

**Aphid activity is increasing around Southwest Florida.**

**Aphids have also been problematic around Miami Dade County.**

### **Silkfly**

**Silk fly adults are scattered around in corn but no problems with maggot infestations of ears have been reported.**

## Diseases

### Bacterial Spot

**Around Southwest Florida, bacterial spot has slowed down and but is still a concern in some fields and continues to spread with heavy dews.** In some hotspots, where it came in early it has moved to the tops of plants in a few heavily affected plantings.

**In Manatee and Hillsborough County, bacterial spot continues to creep along in fields where it is present.**

**On the East Coast, bacterial spot in tomato varies from moderate in oldest plantings to just starting to show up on some farms that have been clean.** Wetter nights helping it move. It is also a bit more active in the some none resistant pepper plantings.

**Some bacterial leaf spot is present in tomato plantings in Homestead which saw considerable rainfall over the at the end of October.**

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

**In the past few years, a number of 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), Double Nickel 55 (Certis), Regalia (Maronne Bioinnovations) and Serenade and Sonata (AgraQuest). Note Actigard applications should start at transplant and continue weekly

**Growers should also avoid working in wet plants (staking, tying, harvesting).** Spraying wet plants can also spread bacteria if the disease is present.

### Target Spot

**Around Immokalee, target spot remains a concern in tomato as fields approach maturity but overall is mostly low.**

**Target spot activity is also increasing in the Ruskin area with higher dew points and fields staying wet longer in the mornings.**

**Target spot remains very low in most East Coast plantings.**

**Growers and scouts should be alert for the presence of target spot as the weather changes seasonally and canopies begin to close in early tomato plantings.**

**Foliar symptoms of target spot caused by *Corynespora cassiicola* consist of brown black lesions with subtle concentric rings giving them a target-like appearance.** Lesions can be confused with early blight. Foliar symptoms of early blight caused by *Alternaria solani* also consist of brown black lesions with conspicuous concentric rings and but are often associated with a general chlorosis (yellowing) of the leaf.

**Disease development is favored by periods of high humidity and free moisture (rain or dew) and temperatures between 70 - 94°F.** *Corynespora cassiicola* has a broad host range, while *Alternaria solani* is limited to specific solanaceous hosts (tomato, potato, eggplant, and nightshade).

**Disease Management: Strategies for early blight and target spot are very similar, and require an integrated approach for best results.**

- 1. Rotate tomato fields to avoid carryover on crop residue. Avoid rotations among solanaceous crops.**
- 2. Eliminate any volunteers and weed species (especially solanaceous weeds) that can act as a reservoir.**
- 3. Start with clean, healthy transplants preferably produced in facilities removed from tomato production.**
- 4. Maintain proper fertility, nitrogen deficiencies favor the development of early blight.**
- 5. Apply fungicides in a preventive manner when conditions favor disease development**

**Dr Gary Vallad, Plant Pathologist at GCREC has documented extensive resistance to strobilurin fungicides**

**Target spot has become one of the hardest to control pathogens in tomato. Good rotations and tank mixes are the best option.**

**Newer fungicides such as Endura, Scala, Inspire Super, Reason, Luna, Tanos and Fontelis have provided growers with new tools to manage this disease.** Consult UF/IFAS recommendations for currently labeled fungicides for target spot control in Florida tomatoes. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/cv/cv13700.pdf>

### **Early Blight**

**A few reports of Alternaria on tomato are starting to come in from several locations around south Florida.** Some of this is associated with leafminer damage.

### **Phytophthora**

**Some scattered problems with Phytophthora in squash have been reported in Homestead following rains at the end of October.**

### **Powdery Mildew**

**Respondents are seeing a lot of powdery mildew in squash and other cucurbits around Hillsborough and Manatee Counties.**

**Growers and scouts report that powdery mildew is active in cucurbits around SW Florida, mostly squash but also a few watermelons.**

**Powdery mildew has jumped on some cucumber around Palm Beach County.**

**Growers are getting good control with products like Fontelis, Quintec, Torino, and Rally.**

### **Downy Mildew**

**Downy mildew remains present on squash and cucumber around the Manatee Ruskin area.**

**On the East Coast, downy mildew has jumped on mature squash in recent days.**

**Around Immokalee, downy mildew continues to cause some problems in cucurbits.**

**Downy mildew is also present on squash in Homestead.**

### **Anthracnose of cucurbits**

**Anthracnose remains common in watermelons around Southwest Florida.**

### **Anthracnose of pepper**

**Anthracnose is in decline or stable where it was reported pepper on the East Coast.**

**Growers are also seeing a little anthracnose on pepper around Southwest Florida.**

### **Tomato Chlorotic Spot Virus**

**Around Southwest Florida, scouts have found a few scattered single TCSV infected plants here and there in a few tomato fields.**

**Tospoviruses are also starting to show up on tomato around Homestead and Palm Beach County.**

### **Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl**

**A few scattered TYLCV infected plants have been reported in tomatoes in all production areas around South Florida.**

**TYLCV incidence continues to creep upwards in the Manatee Ruskin area.**

**Around SW Florida TYLCV is increasing in some younger fields but is still not bad.**

### **Cucurbit leaf crumple virus**

**Around Homestead, cucurbit leaf crumple virus is widely present in squash**

**In Southwest Florida, cucurbit crumple leaf virus is very common in watermelons now.**

### **Watermelon mosaic virus**

**Growers in few locations around Southwest Florida are experiencing problems with mosaic in melons and squash.**

### **Black Rot**

**Respondents report that black rot is showing up on some early plantings of cabbage and broccoli. Black rot is caused by the bacterium, *Xanthomonas campestris pv. campestris*. Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, collards, radish, and other members of the cabbage family are susceptible.**

**In the field, the disease is easily recognized by the presence of large yellow "V"-shaped areas extending inward from the margin of a leaf, and by black veins in the infected area. Usually only a few of the outer leaves are involved.**



## **Halo blight**

**Due to cool temperatures and several rainy days a couple of weeks ago, outbreaks of halo blight on beans have been reported in some fields in Homestead, and some plantings were disked with attempts to reduce the bacterial inoculum to other plantings.**

## **Northern corn leaf spot**

**Around the Glades, low levels of Northern corn leaf spot, *Cochliobolus carbonum* (syn. *Helminthosporium carbonum*) have been reported in sweet corn.** This disease is favored by moderate temperature and high relative humidity. Sometimes mistaken for northern corn leaf blight, northern corn leaf spot typically exhibits narrow linear lesions up to 1/8 to 1/2 inch long running in a line along leaf vein resembling a “string of pearls.”

## **News You Can Use**

### **USCIS Revises Form I-9, Used for All New Hires in U.S.**

Release Date: November 14, 2016

Changes are designed to reduce errors and enhance form completion using a computer

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today published a revised version of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification.

By Jan. 22, 2017, employers must use only the new version, dated 11/14/2016. Until then, they can continue to use the version dated 03/08/2013 or the new version.

Among the changes in the new version, Section 1 asks for “other last names used” rather than “other names used,” and streamlines certification for certain foreign nationals.

Other changes include:

- The addition of prompts to ensure information is entered correctly.
- The ability to enter multiple preparers and translators.
- A dedicated area for including additional information rather than having to add it in the margins.
- A supplemental page for the preparer/translator.

The instructions have been separated from the form, in line with other USCIS forms, and include specific instructions for completing each field.

The revised Form I-9 is also easier to complete on a computer. Enhancements include drop-down lists and calendars for filling in dates, on-screen instructions for each field, easy access to the full instructions, and an option to clear the form and start over. When the employer prints the completed form, a quick response (QR) code is automatically generated, which can be read by most QR readers.

Form I-9 requirements were established in November 1986 when Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). IRCA prohibits employers from hiring people, including U.S. citizens, for employment in the United States without verifying their identity and employment authorization on Form I-9.

Find form here - <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9>

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON EPA'S PROPOSAL TO REVOKE CHLORPYRIFOS TOLERANCES**

EPA has opened a 60-day public comment period (Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0653; closing date January 17, 2017). EPA currently indicates it plans for this public comment for the NODA to be the last opportunity for stakeholders to express their critical need for chlorpyrifos.

The public comment period for this NODA will likely be the last opportunity for stakeholders to weigh in on the cost-benefit analysis by expressing the critical need for chlorpyrifos, and to call for the EPA to rely on sound and transparent science and a reliable regulatory process.

<http://www.dowagro.com/en-US/usag/Chlorpyrifos%20Petition>

### **EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Revision**

As you may know the EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) was revised in 2015 and it became effective on Jan 2, 2016.

There are a number of changes and the majority of the rule revisions will be effective on January 2, 2017. This will give farmers and states time to adjust to the new requirements, as well as time for EPA and states to develop updated materials for training and other purposes.

Here are some references to help

Quick Reference Guide to The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Revised in 2015

<http://pesticideresources.org/wps/hosted/quickrefguide.pdf>

### **AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS) - COMPARISON OF THE NEW PROTECTIONS TO THE EXISTING PROTECTIONS – October 2015**

This table summarizes key provisions in the EPA's current WPS regulation and the 2015 revisions. It does not cover all of the details in the rule nor does it include all of the information needed to comply with the regulation.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/comparison-chart-wps.pdf>

Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard Revisions - A Rule by the Environmental Protection Agency on 11/02/2015

The text of the revised WPS

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/11/02/2015-25970/pesticides-agricultural-worker-protection-standard-revisions>

EPA Pesticide Safety website

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard#when>

**All workers will have to be trained annually beginning in 2017 and all persons holding a Train the Trainer Certificate will have to be retrained.**

## **Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training**

(PSA, for those who fall under the Produce Safety Rule – most commercial farms and some packing houses)

November 30, Balm <https://psa113016.eventbrite.com>

December 9, Homestead <https://psa120916.eventbrite.com>

Who Should Attend - Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement.

### What to Expect

The trainers will spend approximately seven hours of instruction time covering content contained in these seven modules:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

In addition to learning about produce safety best practices, key parts of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements are outlined within each module. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

### Benefits of Attending

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course.

## **PSA TRAINING AGENDA**

8:30 Registration and Refreshments

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

9:15 Module 1: Introduction to Produce Safety

10:00 Module 2: Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training

11:00 Break

11:15 Module 3: Soil Amendments

12:00 Module 4: Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use

12:45 Lunch

1:30 Module 5: Agricultural Water

Part 1: Production Water

2:15 Part 2: Postharvest Water

3:15 Break

3:30 Module 6: Postharvest Handling and Sanitation

4:30 Module 7: How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

5:00 Final Questions and Evaluations

## Up Coming Meetings

### November 30, 2016 Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

**West Palm Beach** – see below for additional calluses and locations

November 30, Balm - <https://psa113016.eventbrite.com>

December 9, Homestead - <https://psa120916.eventbrite.com>

(PSA, for those who fall under the Produce Safety Rule – most commercial farms and some packing houses)

**The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement.**

### November 16-18, 2016 Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance

**West Palm Beach**

(FSPCA, those who fall under the Preventive Controls for Human Food Rule) – some packinghouses

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fspca-training-west-palm-beach-registration-26053345257>

**November 23, 2016 WPS Train the Trainer class 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM**

Hendry County Extension Office  
1085 Pratt Boulevard  
LaBelle, Florida

Cost is \$20 – contact Debra at 863-674-4092 or [dcabrera@ufl.edu](mailto:dcabrera@ufl.edu) to reserve a place.

**December 1, 2016 Fall Vegetable Field Day 3:00 to 6:00 PM**

UF/IFAS Southwest FL Research and Education Center  
2685 State Rd 29 North  
Immokalee FL

To register or for additional information, please contact Jennifer Derleth at [jderleth@ufl.edu](mailto:jderleth@ufl.edu)

**December 5, 2016 WPS Train the Trainer class 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM**

Hendry County Extension Office  
1085 Pratt Boulevard  
LaBelle, Florida

Cost is \$20 – contact Debra at 863-674-4092 or [dcabrera@ufl.edu](mailto:dcabrera@ufl.edu) to reserve a place.

## Websites

**Frequently Asked Questions on FSMA - Questions & Answers on the Food Safety Modernization Act -**  
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm247559.htm>

**2016-2017 UF/IFAS Vegetable Production Handbook of Florida** - This handbook is designed to provide Florida growers with the latest information on crop cultivars, cultural practices, and pest management. Free hard copies of the handbook are available at UF/IFAS research and education centers and county extension offices. It can be viewed or downloaded at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vph](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vph)

**Check out Southwest Florida Vegetable Grower on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Florida-Vegetable-Grower/149291468443385> or follow me on Twitter @SWFLVegMan - <https://twitter.com/SWFLVegMan>

## Quotable Quotes

It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen. – John Wooden

There are seven days in a week and Someday isn't one of them. – Rita Chand

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. – Steve Jobs

Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names. -- John F. Kennedy

Show me a man who cannot bother to do little things and I'll show you a man who cannot be trusted to do big things. -- Lawrence D. Bell

Hunger kills more people than Ebola, but it is not considered a problem because rich people don't die of it. - Anon

## On the Lighter Side

### The First Thanksgiving

Throw out the turkey and forget the Pilgrims.

Strong evidence exists that America's first formal prayers of gratitude for good fortune, followed by a feast of thanks, took place at St. Augustine in 1565 – 56 years earlier than the traditionally accepted first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock and more than 1,000 miles south of it.

The Spanish founded America's first permanent settlement in 1565, and Spanish explorers celebrated the first Thanksgiving of Europeans in America on Sept. 8 of that year.

Archaeologists and historians have been able to locate the approximate site, which visitors can view today at the Mission Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine. A 208-foot tall stainless steel cross both celebrates the founding of the city and marks the approximate location of the inaugural feast of thanks.

Instead of Pilgrims in tall black hats and broad white collars, robed Spanish priests and armor-clad explorers held a Catholic Mass, then shared a Thanksgiving meal with Native Americans – the tattooed, seashell-adorned Timucuan of Florida. The Spanish doffed their armor and the Timucuan dropped their stone-tipped spears for the occasion, and each group shared food and fellowship.

What brought about Florida's earlier celebration?

On Sept. 8, 1565, Spanish admiral Pedro Menendez de Aviles landed at the St. Augustine site with about 1,000 soldiers, sailors, farmers, clergy and artisans. He led an expedition to claim the territory for his king, Spain's

Philip II. On a makeshift altar, Father Francisco Lopez celebrated a mass of Thanksgiving for the party's safe journey.

A replica of the altar sits next to the shore in the general area where archaeologists believe the Mass was held.

Eminent Florida historian Michael V. Gannon, history professor emeritus at the University of Florida, wrote about the occasion in his heavily researched 1965 book, *The Cross in the Sand*. The Admiral had the Indians fed and then dined himself, Gannon said.

Turkey was not on the menu.

Instead, the first Thanksgiving's main dish was a garlic stew called *cocina*, made from pork, garbanzo beans and olive oil that the Spanish brought from their ships. They dipped hardtack in the stew and washed it all down with red wine.

The Timucuan likely contributed a variety of wild game and fish —perhaps deer, mullet, catfish, tortoise, oysters and clams. According to historians, side dishes might have included pumpkins, squash, beans and a variety of fruits and nuts. The Indians did not touch wine or rum. They probably drank only water; although, they did imbibe a strong non-intoxicating herbal beverage made from a coastal weed.

Today, more than 200,000 visitors annually come to the mission and the shrine to stroll the grounds, to worship, to reflect and to experience a new window into history. A large part of the attraction is the chapel that houses a replica of the statue of Our Lady of La Leche, the first shrine dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus, in the United States. The original casket of Pedro Menendez de Aviles is on view at the mission museum, which tells the story of Catholicism in Florida.

And annually, the city's founding on Sept. 8 is celebrated with pageantry, cannon fire, a mayor's proclamation, speeches and a Mass at the replicated altar.

## **17 INCHES**

In Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January 1996, more than 4,000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA convention.

While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name, in particular, kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment — "John Scolinos is here? Oh, man, worth every penny of my airfare."

Who the hell is John Scolinos, I wondered. No matter, I was just happy to be there.

In 1996, Coach Scolinos was 78 years old and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung — a full-sized, stark-white home plate. Seriously, I wondered, who in the hell is this guy?

After speaking for twenty-five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about home plate since he'd gotten on stage.

Then, finally ... "You're probably all wondering why I'm wearing home plate around my neck. Or, maybe you think I escaped from Camarillo State Hospital," he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the

others, acknowledging the possibility. "No," he continued, "I may be old, but I'm not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I've learned in my life, what I've learned about home plate in my 78 years."

Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. "Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?"

After a pause, someone offered, "Seventeen inches?", more of a question than an answer. "That's right," he said.

"How about in Babe Ruth's day? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?" Another long pause. "Seventeen inches?" came a guess from another reluctant coach.

"That's right," said Scolinos.

"Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?" Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear. "How wide is home plate in high school baseball?" "Seventeen inches," they said, sounding more confident. "You're right!" Scolinos barked.

"And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in college?" "Seventeen inches!" we said, in unison.

"Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?" "Seventeen inches! "RIGHT!"

"And in the Major Leagues, how wide home plate is in the Major Leagues?" "Seventeen inches!" "SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!" he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. "And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can't throw the ball over seventeen inches?" Pause. "They send him to Pocatello!" he hollered, drawing raucous laughter.

"What they don't do is this: they don't say, 'Ah, that's okay, Jimmy; You can't hit a seventeen-inch target? We'll make it eighteen inches, or nineteen inches. We'll make it twenty inches so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can't hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.'"

Pause.

"Coaches ..."

Pause.

"... what do we do when our best player shows up late to practice? When our team rules forbid facial hair and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him. Do we widen home plate?"

The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach's message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd, point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows. "This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don't teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We widen the plate!"

Pause.

Then, to the point at the top of the house he added a small American flag. "This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need

to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?"

Silence. He replaced the flag with a Cross. "And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate for themselves! And we allow it."

"And the same is true with our government. Our so called representatives make rules for us that don't apply to themselves. They take bribes from lobbyists and foreign countries. They no longer serve us. And we allow them to widen home plate and we see our country falling into a dark abyss while we watch."

I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curveballs and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable. From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path.

"If I am lucky," Coach Scolinos concluded, "you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: if we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards, if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools and churches and our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to ..."

With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside. "... dark days ahead."

Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91, but not before touching the lives of hundreds of players and coaches, including mine. Meeting him at my first ABCA convention kept me returning year after year, looking for similar wisdom and inspiration from other coaches. He is the best clinic speaker the ABCA has ever known because he was so much more than a baseball coach.

His message was clear: "Coaches, keep your players—no matter how good they are—your own children, your churches, your government, and most of all, keep yourself at seventeen inches."

Chris Sperry,  
Baseball/Life, LLC  
2016

## **Wishing you all the very best for a Happy Thanksgiving**

Thank You Lord for all our Blessings and we especially Thank You for America's farmers who grow our economy, care for our land and provide the food, fuel and clothing that we all depend on every day.

Every bite of food we'll eat this Thanksgiving is because a farmer or rancher woke up before dawn, put on his boots and got to work.

Florida's farmers are among the hardest working and most productive in the world. Florida's 48,000 farms and ranches produce 300 different commodities and add \$120 billion annually to Florida's economy.

Every time we chop, boil, barbecue or bake, there is a farmer to thank for the meal that results.



Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has many -- not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our family and friends, for we truly have a lot to be thankful for!

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