



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

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**Last week end was another water-logged weekend and the third in an October that water managers said will go down as one of the five wettest on record which swamped much of South Florida, leaving roads and yards looking like lakes and flooding parking lots, garages and some homes in low-lying areas.** Coastal cities got hammered, with Fort Lauderdale and Miami Beach both recording nearly a foot of rain. Coconut Grove and Hollywood got upwards of 10 inches. Pinecrest and Palmetto Bay sloshed through nearly nine inches. Even inland cities like Hialeah saw five inches.

**Ground water levels have returned to normal across much of the region and water levels in Lake Okeechobee are close to where they were a year ago, at 13.47 feet above sea level.** The lake has risen 2.33 feet this month alone.

### FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
10/1 – 11/4/11	47.93	86.68	4.30	79	0.1
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
9/17 – 10/16/11	52.05	91.45	6.24	86	0.11
<b>Clewiston</b>					
10/1 – 11/4/11	53.08	90.73	6.12	84	0.1
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
10/1 – 11/4/11	59.56	90.88	14.26	79	0.1
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
10/1 – 11/4/11	53.02	89.78	22.01	82	0.1
<b>Homestead</b>					
10/1 – 11/4/11	58.12	91.4	11.91	86	0.1
<b>Immokalee</b>					
10/1 – 11/4/11	50.43	92.32	8.43	83	0.1

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**Temperatures for the past few weeks have been relatively cool with temps running a few degrees below normal with nights dipping into the 50's and 60's and daytime highs reaching only into the low to mid 80's.**

**Fall planting and land preparation continues across south Florida with some delays due to rainy weather last weekend.** Reports indicate that excessive rain has caused water logging and stand losses in some of the hardest hit areas in addition to fertilizer leaching and beds washing away on open ground crops like corn and beans. In some places small seeded direct seeded vegetables including broccoli, herbs, lettuces, and Chinese vegetables, had to be replanted because the seeds were washed away.

**As can be expected a number of reports indicate that disease incidence is up following last month's rain and some older crops especially in the Manatee Ruskin area look especially rough.**

**A number of crops are starting to come to market across south and central Florida including light volumes of corn, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash, tomatoes and specialty vegetables.**

**The National Weather Service forecast for the coming week indicates that the cold front will bring continued dry conditions, partly cloudy skies and cool temperatures through the coming week.** Highs will remain in the 80's with low to mid 60's at night.

**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 while still heavy has begun to drop off in some areas.**

**Around Homestead, a mixed bag of worms (fall armyworm, beet armyworm, loopers and diamondback moth) continues to cause problems in a variety of crops including beans, corn, tomatoes and specialty items.** Some scouts are reporting up to 70% fall armyworm infestation in sweet corn. Melonworms and pickleworms are active in cucumbers and other cucurbits.

**Grower and scouts in SW Florida report that worms have slowed but pressure is still significant in some locations.** Pepper growers are reporting issues with mostly beet and fall armyworm while southern armyworms seem to be more problematic in tomato. Respondents report that melonworms are still growing strong in some cucurbits. Scouts note that Bt's are still offering good control until the canopy or worms get too big. In some instances rainy weather interfered with sprays and frustrated growers attempts at control. Intrepid is giving good results on larger worms.

**Respondents in the Glades report that fall armyworms continue to be the major problem in sweet corn and in lettuce.** Scouts report that pressure has eased a bit with cooler evening temps but still remains high and constant. Loopers have been the main insect of concern in beans and constant pressure has resulted in more sprays than usual.

**In the Palmetto/Ruskin area, respondents note that worms have dropped off significantly over the past ten days although some problems are still being reported.**

**Around Palm Beach County, reports indicate that worm pressure has dropped off with the onset of cooler weather but remains moderate in some places with armyworms in pepper and tomato and melonworms in cucurbits.**

### **Leafminers**

**Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicate that leafminers have gone wild in tomatoes and most growers are now treating for this pest in that area.**

**Reports from SW Florida indicate that leafminers are increasing and some growers are now spraying for leafminer.**

**Respondents on the East Coast report a few early leafminers showing up in young eggplant.** Growers have also noted some problems in basil as well. Around Belle Glade, some leafminer activity has been noted in leafy greens.

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

### **Corn silk Fly**

**Respondents in Homestead indicate silklies are active in Homestead and the Glades.** Around Homestead scouts are finding 2 - 5 corn silkfly adults/plant and up to 80 - 90% of ears had silkfly larvae in some fields. 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.

### **Aphids**

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

**Around Palm Beach County, growers are fighting aphids in specialty greens.** Aphids are also present in cucumber and squash in some places.

**Respondents in Homestead report that green peach aphids are abundant in eggplant but remain low in other crops.**

**In the Belle Glade area, green peach aphid and potato aphid are starting to show up in lettuce and other leaf crops.**

**Around SW Florida, scouts report that winged aphids are starting to show up, and some colony formation has been noted.**

**Excessive and unnecessary use of insecticides should be avoided.** Early in the season, aphid infestations are often spotty, and if such plants or areas are treated in a timely manner, damage can be prevented later in the season. In some cases, use of insecticides for other, more damaging insects sometimes leads to outbreaks of green peach aphid. Inadvertent destruction of beneficial insects is purported to explain this phenomenon, but aphid resistance to some types of insecticide may also be involved.

**Softer pesticides including insecticidal soaps such as M-Pede), nicotinoids like Admire, Provado, Assail and others including Beleaf, Movento and Fulfill will provide good control help reduce impact on beneficials.**

## **Broad mites**

**Around Immokalee, broad mites are still growing strong in some in peppers.**

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

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach report that broad mite numbers are high in some pepper and eggplant fields.**

**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 pressure has been constant in tomatoes and okra and mostly low in other crops with a few hotspots noted in beans.**

**In the Manatee Ruskin area whiteflies range from horrible to light, depending on the location. Scouts are reporting more locations where pupae are present.**

**Around SW Florida, reports indicate that silverleaf whitefly numbers are mostly low but higher in some spots with up to 10 per plant being reported in some areas while in many locations you would be hard pressed to find 10 per 100 plants.**

**Respondents on the East Coast, report that whitefly pressure is mostly low but numbers are beginning to increase in some places.**

### **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>

### **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.**

### **Thrips**

**Thrips remain low in most areas.**

### **Pepper Weevils**

**A few pepper weevils are beginning to show up several locations in both East and West Coast pepper production areas.**

## Diseases

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

### Bacterial Spot

**In Homestead respondents indicate that bacterial leaf spot has taken off in some hot spots but note it is not uniformly distributed throughout the fields.**

**Growers and scouts around SW Florida report that bacterial leaf spot is all over tomatoes and has moved up to the tops of the plants in many tomato fields and has been the key disease to keep under control this fall.** They note that bacteria is also starting to show in peppers which have been clean until the past few week and infections are now being seen at a number of sites.

**Respondents in the Manatee Ruskin area report that bacterial spot remains the big disease issue and has increased dramatically on tomato with widespread incidence of bacterial spot symptoms on tomato fruit in a number of places.** Disease progression has been aided by heavy rains as well as heavy dews leading to severe blighting of the canopy. Scouts report that the lower canopy is gone in many fields from a combination of diseases including bacterial spot and target spot.

**Around Palm Beach, bacterial spot is the worse disease on pepper and tomato.** Scouts report a number of new infections showing up as well as some existing infections that are getting worse as well as a few that are downright bad.

**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.

**Dr. Gary Vallad, Plant Pathologist at GCREC writes that there is some evidence that there are changes occurring within our *Xanthomonas* population.** In the past, *X. perforans* has typically been an aggressive foliar pathogen which did not cause severe lesions on fruit. More recently however the T4 strains of *X. perforans* have been identified in Florida which are extremely aggressive and cause large lesions on fruit.

**Gary notes that many of the strains examined are highly copper tolerant and advises that growers need to keep in mind that fruit infection is tied to fruit development, with the highest fruit susceptibility occurring about 2 weeks after anthesis.** Afterwards susceptibility to *Xanthomonas* and *Pseudomonas* infection drops.

**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).

**Dr. Vallad reports that in his trials weekly applications of low rates (0.50 oz./acre) of Actiguard has given good control.**

**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.**

### **Bacterial Blight**

**Around Homestead, bacteria blight has increased in beans and scout report finding some low levels on pods.**

### **Southern Blight**

**In the Manatee Ruskin area, southern blight has been causing some problems in fields especially those which were hard hit by rains and where fumigation was less than perfect.** Respondents reports up to 50% stand loss in some places.

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

### **Phytophthora**

**Despite recent rains, reports indicate that phytophthora remains relatively low around Palm Beach County except on some organic farms and in some squash and pepper on old land.**

**Around Southwest Florida some *Phytophthora capsici* has started to show up in pepper as well as squash in some places.**

**Planting sites should be well drained and free of low-lying areas.** Optimal water management is essential to prevent the occurrence of flooded field conditions that favor *Phytophthora* blight. The drainage area of the field should be kept free of weeds and volunteer crop plants, particularly those in the solanaceous and cucurbitaceous groups.

**Preplant fumigant may help reduce the incidence of disease but is not particularly effective.** Equipment should be decontaminated before moving between infested and noninfested fields.

**Infected fruit should be culled to prevent spread in the packinghouse and during shipment.**

**Effective, labeled fungicides should be used preventively according to label instructions.** It is essential that fungicides with different modes of action be rotated to prevent the buildup of fungicide resistance in *P. capsici*. Consult UF/IFAS recommendations for currently labeled fungicides for *Phytophthora* control in Florida vegetables.

### **Phomopsis**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that phomopsis on eggplant is rampant in a couple areas around the county.** They note that symptoms are atypical with little foliar symptoms apparent but lesions all over maturing fruit on bottom of plant.

**The fungus will attack leaves throughout crop development; older leaves are most susceptible.** Lesions are usually circular, gray to brown, and develop a light center as they mature. Numerous fruiting bodies of the fungus, called pycnidia, can often be seen in the center of the older lesions. They appear as tiny, black pimples embedded in the host tissue. Affected leaves may turn yellow and drop prematurely. Spots and cankers can also form on mature stems and branches.

**The most important symptoms are those that occur on the fruit, as these render the fruit unfit for market.** Injury begins as pale, sunken, circular to oval areas on the surface. These later enlarge, and become markedly depressed.

**Several spots may coalesce, affecting large portions of the fruit.** The key to diagnosis of *Phomopsis* fruit rot is the observation of the pycnidia or fruiting bodies embedded in the flesh of the lesion interiors. These black pimple-like structures are often arranged in a roughly concentric pattern.

**Dr. Rick Raid Pathologist at EREC writes that conditions have been ripe for *Phomopsis* fruit rot and *Alternaria* leaf and fruit spot on eggplant.** *Phomopsis* is a rain splash disseminated disease, so the wet conditions have increased its severity. A good protective fungicide program is strongly recommended to protect young developing fruit if this disease has been spotted in your field.

### **Gummy Stem Blight**

**Gummy stem blight is present in watermelon in a number of areas including the Manatee Ruskin area and SW Florida.** Infections have increased in a number of areas following heavy rains in October.

**Growers and scouts reports some gummy stem blight present in Palm Beach County on organic cukes.**

**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.

**Recently Dr. Anthony P. (Tony) Keinath, Vegetable Pathologist, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center and Dr. Pam Roberts, UF/IFAS SWFREC have noted the occurrence of fungicide resistant isolates of gummy stem blight around Immokalee.** They found boscalid and pyraclostrobin-insensitive isolates of the gummy stem blight fungus from a watermelon farm in the Immokalee area.

**As a result growers are advised that Pristine should not be used any longer in the Immokalee area.**

**Dr. Kenaith also notes that he also has not seen any improved control of GSB with Topsin-M when he compared programs with and without Topsin-M several times over the years.** He suggests Inspire Super as an option in place of Pristine.

### **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 low 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.

**Around Homestead, reports indicate that Pythium has been particularly active in beans with up to a 50% stand loss in some areas.** Scouts note that plants with green tops early in the week are dead by week's end because cultivating between rows has pushed wet soil up on the stem creating ideal growing conditions for the pathogen.

**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.**

### **Rhizoctonia**

**Dr. Raid advises that lettuce growers should be on the lookout for bottom rot which could become a problem later on if field conditions remain wet.** Control for this disease, caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, must be somewhat preventative, with sprays of iprodione or boscalid being made to the plants and beds at or just after thinning to prevent infection. He notes that this might be justified on some of the earliest plantings, until temperature cool off.

**On beans, rhizoctonia is affecting plantings in a number of areas and has begun to show up on pods touching the ground around Belle Glade.**

**Rhizoctonia has also been causing some issues in radishes.**

### **Southern and northern corn leaf blight**

**On sweet corn in the Glades, excessive water has probably been the biggest issue, but southern corn leaf blight and northern corn leaf spot, caused by *Bipolaris carbonum* (formerly *Helminthosporium carbon*), have been the most prevalent foliar diseases.**

**Southern corn leaf blight (*Maydis bipolaris*) has been the most prevalent foliar disease fall-planted sweet corn, favored by the warm, moist conditions.**

**Strobilurin and triazole fungicides rotated with a good broad spectrum fungicide, such as mancozeb or chlorothalonil, are very effective in controlling both of these diseases.** Common rust has not been an issue and probably won't be until after the first of the year.

### **Early Blight of Celery**

**Dr. Rick Raid advises that celery growers should definitely be on the lookout for *Cercospora*, which thrives in warm moist conditions.**

**Early blight of celery is caused by the fungus, *Cercospora apii*.** It occurs both in the transplant bed and in the field. On leaf blades, it produces light brown spots that are somewhat circular or slightly angular and 1/4 to 3/4 inch across.

**Spots may be greasy in appearance with or without surrounding yellow halos.** On the petiole, elongated, brown to gray lesions are formed. Gray, fuzzy fungal growth may be observed in the centers of leaf and petiole lesions, but distinct structures (such as those found with celery late blight) are not formed by this pathogen. Even though the fungus growth pattern is similar, do not confuse this disease with the early blight disease that occurs on tomato and potato, which is caused by an *Alternaria* sp. that does not infect celery.

**Remember: disease control is most efficient when used on a preventive basis.** Chlorothalonil, coupled with a good strobilurin or triazole, are strongly recommended for conventional growers. Symptoms of a disease indicate that infection occurred 3-14 days earlier. Most fungicides prevent infection but will not reduce symptoms.

### **Powdery Mildew**

**Respondents around South Florida report some problems with powdery mildew on squash.** Incidence ranges from low to high depending on the location and age of the crop.

### **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%.**

**TYLCV incidence is on the increase in Homestead where an increasing number of infections are showing up in tomato.**

**In Palm Beach 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 patchy at 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 target spot is increasing in incidence and severity 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**

### **DEP Proceeds with Rulemaking For Water Quality Standards**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Herschel Vinyard said Wednesday that DEP will proceed with rulemaking for numeric nutrient standards for Florida waterways.

The announcement came after the U.S. Environmental Protection indicated in a letter it would support the rulemaking. Nancy Stoner, acting assistant EPA administrator, wrote in a letter, "While EPA's final decision to approve or disapprove any nutrient criteria rule submitted by FDEP will follow our formal review of the rule and record under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act, our current review of the Oct. 24, 2011, draft rule, guidance, and other scientific and technical information supporting the draft rule, leads us to the preliminary conclusion that EPA would be able to approve the draft rule under the CWA."

DEP briefed the Environmental Regulation Commission Thursday and will seek commission adoption of the rule on Dec. 8. The department will then ask the Florida Legislature to ratify the rule when its session begins Jan. 10. If passed, it would go to EPA for final approval.

"Should EPA formally approve FDEP's final nutrient criteria as consistent with the Clean Water Act, EPA would initiate rulemaking to withdraw federal numeric nutrient criteria for any waters covered by the new and approved state water quality standards," the letter said.

Florida has invested millions of dollars to create nutrient rules that address the complexity of Florida's waters, Vinyard said, "and we intend to finish the job."

Kerry Kates, FFVA's director of water and natural resources, said, "It only makes sense for the state to develop its own criteria as opposed to being subjugated to costly federal mandates. FDEP's methodology will rely heavily on its Total Maximum Daily Load program and will incorporate a biological assessment indicator to ensure that waters that have healthy flora and fauna aren't needlessly subjected to unnecessary regulations." According to Drew Bartlett, director of DEP's Department of Environmental Assessment and Restoration, EPA remains supportive of and still views the state's Best Management Practices program as the most viable and effective way for agriculture to address water quality impacts.

Because the process is evolving, some concerns remain, Kates said, including the fact that the EPA will have to periodically approve the state's TMDLs. In addition, it's still not clear how canals and ditches north of Lake Okeechobee will be affected by the proposed criteria.

### **FDA Officials in China To Plug New Food Safety Law**

Fifteen percent of the food Americans eat is imported, including 80 percent of the seafood, and two-thirds of the fruit and vegetables. Our current food safety system can't even begin to keep tabs on the 24 million shipping containers loaded with food that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration estimates arrived this year from overseas. Increasingly, that food is coming from China, which has suffered a series of scandals involving tainted food.

Enter the Food Safety Modernization Act, which became law earlier this year. One of its aims is to overhaul our 1930's-era food inspection system, which relies on about 2,000 inspectors to monitor shipments at the ports. The law is why top FDA officials made the trek to Beijing this week, to the China International Food Safety & Quality Conference + Expo. Chinese producers — or anyone who exports food to the U.S. — will soon have to do more to prove to the companies that import their food that it's safe.

Michael Taylor, the FDA's assistant commissioner for foods, told the crowd that the new law marks a fundamental shift from a system that relied on FDA inspectors detecting problems when food imports enter the United States. Rather than rely on port inspectors, the new system will be one "making importers accountable for verifying that their foreign suppliers have adequate preventive controls in place. Importers must manage their supply chains."

Making that happen, Taylor and other federal officials acknowledge, will be a huge challenge. The FDA now has to set up a system for certifying third-party auditors, whom food producers will have to hire to inspect their goods for approval before it's shipped to the United States. The audit reports will be available to the FDA, which hasn't been true of private audits conducted by companies who sell imported food, such as Trader Joe's and Costco.

The new law calls for 600 on-site audits of foreign food producers this year. Those will have to be done by FDA employees, an FDA spokesman said today, because the rules for the third-party auditors don't yet exist. The law doubles the number of audits required each year.

The FDA also will have to set standards for farms that produce fruits and vegetables, with the goal of preventing outbreaks of food-borne illness, rather than just detecting them. Making that happen will require collaboration with officials in China and other big food exporting countries, including Mexico and Chile. (The FDA's Global Pathway to Food Product Safety and Quality, released in July, maps out the long and rocky path ahead in building a global food safety system.)

The Chinese government responded today by announcing the creation of a new Expert Committee for Healthcare, Food, and Cosmetics Safety. But that's just a small, first step — Bian Zhenjia, a deputy director of the State Food and Drug Administration, acknowledged that China has a long way to go in managing food and drug safety.

by Nancy Shute  
National Public Radio  
November 3, 2011

## **EPA General Permit Scrutinized**

### **Ag Community Concerned Farmers Open to Liability**

While the EPA issued its general permit for pesticide applicators Monday, following a lawsuit from environmental groups, agriculture interest groups say the agency raised more questions than it answered about who has to follow the regulation.

Effective Nov. 1, EPA requires permits for pesticides applicators in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES. EPA's general permit covers operators who apply pesticides that result in discharges into waters of the U.S. from mosquito and other flying insect pest control, weed and algae control, animal pest control and forest canopy pest control.

The agency did not create a blanket permit for other applicators, as the agency has held the rules around NPDES only apply to those listed.

Ag groups aren't so sure.

The lack of a general permit or permits from approved state-level programs specifically for row-crop farmers, in combination with what is a broad definition in the Clean Water Act of "waters of the U.S.," are reasons for producers to take notice, said Mark Gaede, director of government affairs for environmental policy at the National Association of Wheat Growers.

"I told our folks that if they've got a wet spot on land and EPA wants to exert jurisdiction, that is compounded by not allowing farmers to get general permits," he said. "It is a matter of time before someone is found in violation of the Clean Water Act. It exposes our folks to horrendous liability."

Violators of the CWA can face penalties of up to \$37,500 each day they are out of compliance.

"Pesticide operators that need permit coverage in states where no general permit is available, must seek individual permit coverage, or risk discharging in violation of the Clean Water Act," EPA spokesperson Enesta Jones said.

Excerpted from  
DTN Online  
Nov 3, 2011

### **EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**

On October 31, 2011, EPA issued a final NPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP) for point source discharges from the application of pesticides to waters of the United States. This action was in response to a 2009 decision by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (National Cotton Council, et al. v. EPA) in which the court vacated EPA's 2006 Final Rule on Aquatic Pesticides and found that point source discharges of biological pesticides, and chemical pesticides that leave a residue, into waters of the U.S. were pollutants under the Clean Water Act (CWA). As a result of the court's decision, NPDES permits are generally required for these types of discharges as of October 31, 2011. While the permit requirements must be met as of October 31, Operators will be covered automatically under the PGP without submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) for any discharges before January 12, 2012. To continue coverage after January 12, 2012, those Operators who are required to submit NOIs will need to do so at least 10 days (or 30 days for discharges to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Listed Resources of Concern) prior to January 12. For the first 120 days that the permit is in effect, EPA will focus on providing compliance assistance and education of the permit requirements, rather than on enforcement actions.

The Agency's final PGP covers Operators that apply pesticides that result in discharges from the following use patterns: (1) mosquito and other flying insect pest control; (2) weed and algae control; (3) animal pest control; and (4) forest canopy pest control. The permit requires permittees to minimize pesticide discharges through the use of pest management measures and monitor for and report any adverse incidents. Some permittees are also required to submit NOIs prior to beginning to discharge and implement integrated pest management (IPM)-like practices. Record-keeping and reporting requirements will provide valuable information to EPA and the public regarding where, when, and how much pesticides are being discharged to waters of the U.S. Pesticide application use patterns not covered by EPA's Pesticide General Permit may need to obtain coverage under an individual permit or alternative general permit if they result in point source discharges to waters of the U.S.

This general permit will provide coverage for discharges in the areas where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority, which include six states (Alaska, Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Oklahoma), Washington, D.C., most U.S. territories and Indian country lands, and many federal facilities (for details, click here (PDF) (5 pp, 239K)). In the remaining 44 states (and the Virgin Islands), the states are authorized to develop and issue the NPDES pesticide permits.

See EPA website for details [http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=410](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410)

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>, the program includes educational sessions, grower panel, and a variety of field tours highlighting strawberries, tomatoes, caladiums, greenhouse studies, and plant diagnostic lab.

On-line registration is closed but you can still register on-site. The program is also available for your review at <http://www.floridaagexpo.com/program>

## Very high rainfall amounts across south Florida – Oct 28 – 31, 2011

Very heavy rain has affected portions of south Florida, mainly across Miami-Dade County and Broward counties since Friday night. The highest rainfall amounts occurred over portions of Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Here are some 72 hour rainfall totals ending at 8 am Monday October 31st.

Location	total (inches)
-----	-----
Fort Lauderdale Beach	12.15
Miami Beach	11.70
Coconut Grove	10.72
Hollywood	10.00
Fairchild Tropical Gardens	9.70
Pinecrest	8.86
Palmetto Bay	8.80
Fort Lauderdale (Dixie Water Plant)	8.57
Marco Island	7.03
Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport	6.10
Belle Meade	5.96
Golden Gate Estates	5.93
Ave Maria	5.80
North Naples	5.43
Juno Beach	5.09
Hialeah	5.07
Miami Weather Forecast Office	4.78
Palm Beach Gardens	4.76
Immokalee	4.69
East Naples	4.56
Palm Beach International Airport	4.46
Naples	3.92
Miami International Airport	3.40
North Miami Beach	3.11

## Up Coming Meetings

**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/>

**December 7, 2011      WPS Train the Trainer Workshop 9am-11am,**

Manatee County Extension.

For agenda and registration please visit: <http://wpsmanatee120711.eventbrite.com/> or call Jennifer at (941)722-4524

**December 13, 2011      Core and Private Applicator Exam Training**

Core      9am-11am  
Private    11am-1pm

Manatee County Extension Service.

Can be taken for exam preparation or CEUs for current license holders. CEU's available are: 2 in Core for Core class, 2 in Private Applicator for Private class.

Registration: <http://12-13-11coreprivate.eventbrite.com/>, or call Jennifer at 941-722-4524

**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](http://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**

**In the Field Magazine** – the online agriculture magazine for central Florida with editions for Hillsborough, Polk and the Heartland area. You can find it at <http://www.inthefieldmagazine.com/cms/>



**UC Davis Agricultural and Resource Economics** – contains a number of excellent articles and papers concerning Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Marketing and Trade Information. These will give you a better understanding of the industry and trends affecting it. Check it out at:

<http://agecon.ucdavis.edu/people/faculty/roberta-cook/docs/articles.php>

**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.



### **Quotable Quotes**

Life's tough, it's even tougher if you're stupid -- John Wayne

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

Every production of genius must be the production of enthusiasm. -- Benjamin Disraeli

Everything is sweetened by risk. -- Alexander Smith

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

### **On the Lighter Side**

#### **My Wish for You**

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder

You get your fill to eat

But always keep that hunger

May you never take one single breath for granted

God forbid love ever leaves you empty handed.

#### **Rules To Remember In Life:**

1. Money cannot buy happiness but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy but remember the SOB's name.
3. Help a person when they are in trouble and they will remember you when they are in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive, only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problem, but then neither does milk

## The Final Inspection

The Marine stood and faced God, which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining, just as brightly as his brass.  
'Step forward now, Marine, How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek? To My Church have you been true?'  
The soldier squared his shoulders and said, 'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns, can't always be a saint.  
I've had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent, because the world is awfully rough.  
But, I never took a penny, that wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime, when the bills got just too steep.  
And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me, I've wept unmanly tears.  
I know I don't deserve a place, among the people here.  
They never wanted me around, except to calm their fears  
If you've a place for me here, Lord, it needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much, but if you don't, I'll understand.  
There was a silence all around the throne, where the saints had often trod.  
As the Marine waited quietly, for the judgment of his God.  
'Step forward now, Marine, you've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets, you've done your time in Hell.'

**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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