



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

November 8, 2010

After a couple of weeks of warm dry weather a strong front swept through South Florida this past weekend dropping to the mercury to lowest temperatures the area has seen since March 8. Most areas experienced lows in the low to mid 40's.

Tropical moisture streaming across the peninsula earlier in the week bought with it a few days of unsettled weather and showers. FAWN Weather Stations across the area reported from just over a half inch of rain in Clewiston to over 3 inches in Fort Lauderdale.

Crops look good throughout the area although early harvest coming in around Palmetto Ruskin indicates volumes may be less than spectacular due to poor fruit set early in the season. Harvesting is picking up seasonally as growers gear up for Thanksgiving markets in a few weeks. Cucumbers eggplant, melons and squash and specialty items like basil are coming to market as are light volumes of pepper and tomato and some

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
10/23 - 11/8/10	41.66	93.0	0.97	79	0.10
Belle Glade					
10/23 - 11/8/10	42.7	91.8	1.03	83	0.10
Clewiston					
10/23 - 11/8/10	43.51	90.88	0.60	83	0.09
Ft Lauderdale					
10/23 - 11/8/10	50.25	88.79	3.18	78	0.09
Fort Pierce					
10/23 - 11/8/10	43.01	88.18	0.74	79	0.09
Homestead					
10/23 - 11/8/10	42.66	89.29	2.95	84	0.10
Immokalee					
10/23 - 11/8/10	42.41	95.05	1.70	81	0.10

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, SEA GRANT AND 4-H YOUTH, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING

okra is still being harvested in Homestead. Melons in Hillsborough County should be wrapping up in the next week or two.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that models continue to be in good agreement in forecasting generally dry weather across south Florida with clear skies through the end of the week. Temperatures will gradually moderate reaching back into a comfortable range with low 80's in the day and 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

Growers and scouts around Immokalee indicate that they continue to find worm eggs and new hatches in many fields, overall numbers are not too high but pressure has been persistent. They report finding mostly southern and beet armyworms but also fall armyworms, loopers, fruitworms, melonworms and hornworms.

Reports from Manatee County indicate worm pressure has slacked off a bit but pressure remains persistent especially in pepper.

Worm pressure in sweet corn continues to be in the high in the Glades. Cut worm are also active in newly seeded lettuce in the Glades. Some imported cabbage worm moths are flying around in leafy greens and some egg-masses can be found.

Respondents in Palm Beach County report that worm pressure still remains considerable. Reports indicate that some of the largest hatches have been in cabbage in Martin Co and Okeechobee area where literally 100% infestations are being seen. Species are mainly Beet armyworm as well as some fall and southern armyworm. In some places, striped cabbage worm are numerous and a particular nuisance as they tend to go immediately to the hearts and bore in. Growers are also having some problems with fall armyworm in maturing bell peppers.

Leafminers

Reports from the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that leafminer numbers continue to increase and that a number of growers are spraying for control. Growers indicate Coragen continues to perform well where applied.

Around Palm Beach County reports indicate that leafminers are now in high gear in a number of areas where growers are treating transplants that have only been in the field for a week. Leafminer activity has been highest in eggplant and tomato with some problems being reported in leafy greens.

Around Immokalee, reports indicate that leafminer are starting to show up but levels are still low. Good control is reported where Coragen has been applied.

Whiteflies

Growers and scouts in Hillsborough and Manatee counties report that whitefly activity has really increased in central Florida and growers are experiencing spiking high whitefly counts around picks. Silverleaf remains a problem in some squash plantings.

Around SW Florida, whitefly pressure remains overall is low but varies from location to location with numbers in some older fields starting to increase and some young fields are also having serious pressure from adults moving in. Scouts report finding eggs and note that some nymphs are starting to build in early tomato and pepper.

Around Palm Beach County, whitefly pressure remains mostly low but consistent and little TYLCV is being reported.

Reports from Homestead indicate that whiteflies remain active in some squash, okra and other crops.

Broad mites

Around Immokalee reports indicate that broad mites remain active in pepper and range from low to moderate and even high in some places in pepper and eggplant.

Around the Manatee/Ruskin area, broad mites are mostly light to moderate depending on the location. Reports indicate some pepper is showing severe broad mite damage.

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that broad mites pressure remains persistent and they are common in maturing pepper. Respondents also report finding broad mites in pepper transplants that were only in the field a few days.

Russet Mites

Dr Gary Vallad: Pathologist at the UF/IFAS GCREC reports he has received some tomato samples from the Manatee/ Ruskin area displaying severe symptoms from russet mites.

Aphids

Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report that aphids are increasing with winged aphids flying across the area but reports of colony formation remains low and limited to only a few areas thus far.

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that aphids are very common in a number of areas on a variety of crops but few colonies have been detected.

Beside pepper and tomato, aphids are also causing problems in leafy greens and cucurbits. One report noted the presence of winged aphids on 100% of some young organic squash.

Reports indicate that aphid numbers are moderate to high around Manatee County.

Spider mites

Reports indicate that low levels of two-spotted spider mites are building in a variety of crops including tomatoes in SW Florida and eggplants in Palm Beach County

Pepper Weevil

Growers and scouts around southwest Florida indicate pepper weevils are active in several locations at mostly low levels.

Respondents from Manatee County indicate pepper weevil numbers remain mostly low.

Around Palm Beach County, growers and scouts report weevils increasing in pepper and note they seem to be earlier than usual this year.

Thrips

Around Palm Beach County, respondents report they are seeing more thrips than usual for this time of year and note that several species are present. Given an increased number of reports of groundnut ringspot virus around south Florida, growers are advised to monitor thrips populations and implement cultural controls as possible. (See below - groundnut ringspot virus)

Around Hillsborough County, growers and scouts report finding chili thrips in strawberry.

Thrips remain low in other areas and no problems are being reported.

Diseases

As one pathologist has remarked – “not a very interesting season around South Florida...”

Groundnut ringspot virus

Dr. Scott Adkins of the USDA/ARS in Fort Pierce reports confirming the presence of groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV) from samples taken in several locations around Palm Beach County.

Dr Shouan Zhang, Plant Pathologist at the Tropical Research and education Center in Homestead reports that the groundnut ringspot virus was also found in tomato plants from Homestead and was confirmed by Dr. Scott Adkins at USDA-ARS in Ft. Pierce. Scouts operating in the area report finding additional infections in several locations.

Scouts working around Immokalee also report findings some groundnut ringspot virus around at very low levels in tomatoes, mostly single plants in a few fields.

Groundnut ringspot virus is a relatively new virus affecting tomatoes in Florida. Symptoms resembling infection by a tospovirus were observed on tomato plants in the Homestead area from November 2009 through February 2010 by scouts employed by Glades Crop Care of Jupiter.

Serological testing by USDA ARS researchers indicated the presence of a tospovirus in the majority of tomato samples from December and February. Groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV) was subsequently detected in samples by specific molecular tests. Although this was the first report of GRSV in the United States., similar symptoms have been observed for about a decade on tomato plants in the Homestead area. This fall (2010), scouts are reporting infected tomatoes around Immokalee.

Foliar symptoms include necrotic flecking/spots, irregular chlorotic areas and deformation (inward rolling) of leaflets. Necrotic lesions on stem and petiole epidermal tissues may also be present.

GRSV has previously been found in Argentina, Brazil and South Africa infecting hosts including tomato, pepper, peanut, soybean and coriander. Alternate hosts for GRSV in Florida are not currently known and need to be explored.

The narrow host range of GRSV, contrasts with the extremely wide host range of tomato spotted wilt virus, (TSWV), a tospovirus that is common in the southeastern U.S. and closely related to GRSV. Both

viruses induce similar symptoms on tomato necessitating serological or molecular tests to accurately identify which virus is present.

GRSV is transmitted exclusively by several species of thrips. The virus must be acquired by larval thrips for subsequent transmission as adults. Reported GRSV vectors include the western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), common blossom thrips (*F. schultzei*) and *F. gemina*.

Two of these species (*F. occidentalis* and *F. schultzei*) were observed in the Homestead tomato fields from which the December and February tomato samples were collected although it is not yet known which thrips species are able to transmit GRSV in Florida.

Transmission occurs in a circulative propagative manner, meaning that the virus multiplies in the vector. Nymphs must emerge on an infected host plant to be able to acquire the virus, which is then spread by the adult insects.

Early symptoms of infection are difficult to diagnose. In young infected plants the characteristic symptoms consist of inward cupping of leaves and leaves that develop a bronze cast followed by dark spots. As the infection progresses additional symptoms develop which include dark streaks on the main stem and wilting of the top portion of the plant. Fruit may be deformed, show uneven ripening and often have raised bumps on the surface. Once a plant becomes infected the disease cannot be controlled.

Control of this disease is difficult. To prevent spread of the virus, infected plants should be immediately rogued to prevent spread to neighboring plants. Control of insects, especially thrips, is important to reduce spread of the virus by vectors

The close relationship of GRSV and TSWV likely indicates that integrated management strategies including the use of virus-free transplants by excluding thrips from plant houses and use of metalized (UV-reflective) mulch developed for TSWV by scientists at the University of Florida's North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy will also be effective for GRSV. This integrated management approach combines the use of insecticides to reduce thrips larval development and thus limit secondary virus spread.

The combination of UV reflective mulches, acibenzolar-S-methyl (Actigard), and insecticides has provided excellent management of TSWV in commercial tomato fields.

For more info and photos of the disease, go to:

http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/pestaalert/groundnut_ringspot_a_big.jpg

http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/pestaalert/groundnut_ringspot_b_big.jpg

http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/pestaalert/groundnut_ringspot_d_big.jpg

Bacterial leaf spot

Reports from Palm Beach indicate that bacterial spot in pepper was a little more active the past few weeks in response to higher temperatures and a couple rains in some areas. Respondents indicate most problems were mainly in previously affected plantings in hot varieties and bells without 1-5 bacterial spot resistance.

Around Immokalee, bacterial spot has slowed but scouts report a few tomato fields have low levels of new bacterial spot – most likely from foggy mornings. Some peppers also have new bacterial spot at low levels.

In the Manatee Ruskin area, growers report that bacteria spot is around but mostly inactive in peppers and tomatoes and most lesions have dried up.

Target Spot

Growers and scouts around southwest Florida report that they are beginning to see some target spot in maturing tomatoes. Incidence is still very low but is starting on some interior foliage in older fields.

Reports from the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that target spot activity has slowed

Dr Gary Vallad, Plant Pathologist at GCREC writes foliar symptoms of target spot caused by *Corynespora cassiicola* consist of brown-black lesions with subtle concentric rings giving them a target-like appearance. These can be confused with early blight. Fruit symptoms of target spot often consist of small sunken lesions, but can develop larger zonate lesions.

Target spot has a broad host range and is favored by periods of high humidity and free moisture (rain or dew) and temperatures between 70 - 94 °F.

Management strategies for target spot require an integrated approach for best results.

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

Gary indicates that based on his spray trials, he would rate available products for efficacy against Target spot (and Early blight) as follows:

- 1) Switch, Inspire Super
- 2) Revus Top, Scala
- 3) Tanos, Endura, Quadris (and other strobilurins), Reason
- 4) Bravo (chlorothalonil)
- 5) Mancozeb, Copper

He advises target spot will often go unnoticed by growers and scouts; who will often misidentify it as bacterial spot. He advises growers to hit target spot harder early on, as it is difficult to control once plants get to the 2nd-3rd tie as it is difficult to get good penetration with any contact fungicide into the interior of the plant.

Both target spot and early blight will do very well in this weather, especially with the heavy dews we've been having.

Early blight

Growers and scouts reports some early blight is showing up on tomato in a few locations around the south Florida. Incidence and severity is low.

TYLCV

Respondents in the Manatee area report TYLCV is in the 2 to 5 % range in some tomatoes nearing harvest in Manatee County, and note that they have had some relatively high adult whitefly counts since the dry weather has moved in.

Around Immokalee, TYLCV has been creeping up in several locations but overall levels are low with a few hot spots being reported where infection is up to 8-12% in some places.

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach indicate that TYLCV is low but can be found in most older fields.

Downy mildew

Reports from around South Florida indicate that downy mildew is present on basil primarily in older maturing plantings. Growers need to vigilant and on a preventative spray program to avoid losses.

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County are reporting downy mildew is common in squash mostly in older plantings that are not on regular spray program or are being grown organically. Low downy mildew is also present cucumber. As in basil, growers need to vigilant and on a preventative spray program to avoid losses.

Respondents around SW Florida indicate that downy mildew is present in cucumbers, squash and watermelons at low levels.

Spotty downy mildew is also present on cucurbits around the Manatee Ruskin area.

Gummy stem blight

Gummy stem blight is present on at low levels some fall watermelons around southwest and west central Florida.

Powdery mildew

Respondents in Palm Beach are reporting some traces of powdery mildew in cukes but note it is becoming more common in squash.

Reports from Homestead note that powdery mildew is also present on specialty cucurbits.

Southern corn leaf blight

Some southern corn leaf blight is being reported on sweet corn in the Glades. Pressure is light.

Southern blight

Growers and scouts in all areas are reporting finding a few scattered tomato plants with southern blight. Incidence is less than 1% in most places.

News You Can Use

Election Shuffles Ag Leadership, Casts Doubt on Food Safety

The midterm election alters the playing field and the players for the 2012 farm bill and will likely make progress difficult for hot-button issues for the produce industry, including immigration reform and new food safety rules.

The dramatic change in the makeup of the Congress complicates the possibility for action during the lame-duck session for food safety reform and child nutrition reauthorization, said Robert Guenther, senior vice president of public policy for the United Fresh Produce Association, Washington, D.C.

“The big question will be what kind of mood Congress will be in when they come back in two weeks,” Guenther said Nov 3.

With Senate Democrats retaining control, they may be motivated to act on pending legislation.

On the other hand, the House of Representatives may not be eager to take up big issues.

“I think food safety legislation may be dead,” said Tom Nassif, president and chief executive officer of Irvine, Calif.-based Western Growers.

Nassif said the push for a national leafy greens marketing agreement may take on added importance if food safety reform doesn’t advance.

Nassif expressed hope that Congress would spur the Obama administration to end the dispute over Mexican truck access in the U.S., which has resulted in retaliatory duties on selected fruit and vegetable exports to Mexico.

Republican control of the House of Representatives will mean more efforts to provide oversight to the administration’s environmental, food safety and agricultural policies, Guenther said.

Nassif said GOP control of the House likely will mean an end to prospects for cap and trade legislation, card check legislation and more severe environmental restrictions on waterways.

Committee shuffle

The change in power in the House of Representatives leaves Rep. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma in line to be chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, replacing current chairman Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn.

The Senate Agriculture Committee will have new leadership after Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln’s (D-Ark.) loss to Republican John Boozman.

Guenther said possible Democrat successors to Lincoln include Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan and Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota. Guenther said United Fresh supports Stabenow for the leadership position.

Bob Schramm, lobbyist with Schramm, Williams & Associates Inc., Washington, D.C., said lawmakers could elect to extend the farm bill by one year rather than consider it in 2012, which will be a presidential election year.

Half of the Democrats on the House Agriculture Committee lost seats in the election, and their replacements provide the key to what the next farm bill looks like, said Kam Quarles, director of legislative affairs for Washington, D.C.-based McDermott Will & Emery law firm. The current farm bill expires Sept. 30, 2012.

“We remain in a strong position to advocate for our policies, but everybody is going to be under the gun in defending their programs,” he said. “We’re all going to have a very big challenge ahead of us to make sure the programs we like continue to be adequately funded to function well.”

Nassif said lawmakers must be convinced that intelligent spending means investing in programs to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and programs that increase the competitiveness of domestic producers, he said.

Battle count

Florida lost an industry advocate with the defeat of Democratic Rep. Allen Boyd by Republican Steve Southerland, Guenther said. Boyd has served on both the House Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture Appropriation Committee.

Republican Adam Putnam was elected as Florida’s Agriculture Commissioner, easily dispatching Democrat Scott Maddox.

By Tom Karst
The Packer 11/05/2010

Growers Await Better Season with Favorable Weather and Lower Acreage

PALMETTO, Fla. — After a disastrous 2009-10 season, Florida grower-shippers this fall say they’re ready for better deals. The prospect of fewer acres could also help strengthen prices, sources say.

Though most grower-shippers said the fall of 2009 produced strong crops, freezes that struck in January destroyed many crops such as tomatoes and bell peppers.

Shortages ran through spring when production hit at once and crashed markets as growing areas entered on top of other deals.

Less Acreage for Some

Jeff Williams, president of Wm. P. Hearne Produce Co. LLC, Wimauma, said the state’s growers are talking about less planted acreage.

“The general consensus is there will be less volume down here this year, which will hopefully make what product we have worth it,” he said. “Are costs in it are a little more. Everyone in the industry, whatever the extent you’re in, needs to have a good season. This has to be a good season for us because we’re all coming off a bad season. It will be a critical season for a lot of us.”

Williams said many of the growers and companies remain unstable because of last year’s devastating experience some had never witnessed in their lifetimes.

He said the industry needs a strong rebound, but not necessarily a great one, to just get over “the disaster that was last season.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida planted 18% fewer tomato, 12% fewer cabbage and 2% fewer corn acres for fall production compared to fall 2009.

Bell pepper and green bean plantings were up 11% while cucumber plantings increased 6% from the previous year.

Overall, Florida's 31,200 acres for the fall remain unchanged versus last fall, according to the USDA.

Growers Optimistic

Frank Pero, corporate executive vice president of Pero Family Farms, Delray Beach, said south Florida so far has escaped hurricanes or other threatening early fall weather and said growers are showing more enthusiasm this season.

"We are positive and everyone is positive," Pero said in late October. "Our foundations have been going well. It's been built and should carry us through as we haven't had any planting interruptions. The weather has been perfect and we have had good growing conditions."

Pero said Pero Family Farms began harvesting bell peppers and green beans on Oct. 17.

Pero's acreage remains similar to last season, he said.

Brian Rayfield, vice president of sales and marketing for J&J Produce, Loxahatchee, said it's time for a better season.

"We had a very good fall last year. It went well," he said. "We were off to a great start. This year, I think everyone is looking for an exceptional season of high-quality product."

Rayfield in late October said Florida's crops have been growing well and that the crops look strong.

He said retailers should expect ample supplies for the Thanksgiving pull and that buyers should expect a small overlap between the ending of south Georgia harvesting and the start of Florida's production in early November.

Adam Lytch, operations manager for Raleigh, N.C.-based L&M Cos. Inc., said he thinks this will be a different kind of fall season for Florida.

"I just think this year will be unique for certain items like cucumbers and squash as production is down in Florida," he said. "There will be less acres planted. Specifically in central Florida, where a lot of producers aren't growing this year. That will cause the markets to be firmer."

Grower-shippers report favorable early fall quality.

"The conditions of the crops are better than they have been the last couple of years," said Gerry Odell, chief operating officer of farming and packing for the Lipman Family Cos., Immokalee, which grows and packs tomatoes and vegetables through Six L's Packing Co. Inc. and Custom Pak.

Florida grows a variety of fresh produce items during the fall and winter, including bell peppers, cucumbers, squash, sweet corn, green beans, cabbage, eggplant, lettuce and tomatoes.

On tomatoes, the Homestead-based DiMare Co. had started shipping light volumes of grape tomatoes from central Florida in early October with steady supplies of grapes and cherries expected to hit by early November.

DiMare planned to begin shipping mature greens in late October and early November with romas following, said Tony DiMare, vice president.

“Overall, our fall growing weather has been good and the crops are in very good condition,” he said in mid-October.

That’s opposite of last year when severe heat harmed fall crops and January freezes destroyed most of the state’s tomato crop.

As the winter begins, the southern half of Florida produces oranges, grapefruit and tangerines.

Though a fraction of the state’s overall citrus crop ships fresh, most tangerines and navel oranges ship fresh and nearly half of the state’s grapefruit go to fresh channels.

Blasted by arctic air during winter freezes that delayed their production, strawberry growers in the central part of the state are hopeful they won’t have to experience what they underwent last season.

Strawberry harvesting normally begins in earnest in early to mid-December.

The far southern part of the state grows avocados and fall tropicals such as boniato and star fruit

By Doug Ohlemeier, The Packer 11/5/2010

More State Leaders Sign Letter to EPA Opposing Water Standards

Nine former state agency heads and water managers sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson on Oct. 27 opposing EPA's proposed standards for Florida waterways.

Signatories included Jacob D. Varn, former secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (precursor to the Department of Environmental Protection); Pete Hubbell, former executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and Gary Kuhl, also a former executive director of SWFWMD.

Former DEP secretaries Virginia Wetherell and Coleen Castille joined Varn in signing a similar letter to Jackson earlier in October.

EPA will finalize numeric water quality standards for the state’s freshwater streams and lakes by the end of November. Pollution limits for estuaries and flowing waters in South Florida will be set by August 2012.

Florida’s Minimum Wage Unchanged For 2011

Florida’s Agency for Workforce Innovation has announced the state minimum wage will remain at \$7.25 for 2011. Florida law requires the state to calculate an adjusted minimum wage each year based on the percentage change in the federal Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. Employers must pay the higher of the federal or state minimum wage. The federal minimum wage is also \$7.25.

The Difference between Nitrogen and Potassium Deficiencies

Here’s the key way you can know the difference in the field.

It could be easy to confuse a potassium or nitrogen deficiency in the field. But Farm Journal Field Agronomist Ken Ferrie says you only need to understand how the plant shows its deficiency in the nutrients.

“Both nutrients are mobile and move from the oldest to the newest part of the plant,” Ferrie says. “But it’ll look different on the individual leaf.”

Nitrogen deficiency starts at the tip of the leaf and comes down through the mid-rib so they will be a V-pattern through the mid-rib.

However, potassium looks somewhat the same but different. Its deficiency starts at tip but then goes down through the outside of the leaf.

Ferrie warns that if you apply more nitrogen when there's a potassium deficiency that can make that nutrient deficiency worse.

Miami and Tampa Districts Wage and Hour Seminars

Growers and contractors are invited to attend the Miami and Tampa Districts Wage and Hour seminars to receive up-dates on many of the agricultural enforcement issues they could face this year.

Presenters and topics may vary at each location but attendees can expect updates on the H-2A Program, Florida Department of Transportation, Wage and Hour (by the appropriate District) and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Please notify your employees and crew leaders of the meetings and encourage them to attend. Subordinate crew leaders are also invited.

MIAMI WAGE AND HOUR DISTRICT:

November 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Immokalee, FL, at UF/IFAS SWFREC, 2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL, especially for the Citrus industry.

November 10, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Immokalee, FL, at the UF/IFAS SWFREC, 2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL, especially for the Vegetable industry.

November 15, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Homestead, FL, at the UF Miami Dade County Extension offices, 18710 SW 288th Street, Homestead, FL 33030, for all agricultural employers.

November 16, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Vero Beach, FL, at the Indian River Citrus League offices, 7925 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL, for all agricultural employers.

November 17, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Belle Glade, FL, at the South Florida Work Force offices, 1085 South Main Street, Belle Glade, FL., for all agricultural employers.

TAMPA WAGE AND HOUR DISTRICT:

December 6, 2010, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wauchula, FL, at the Hardee County Civic Center, 515 Civic Center Dr., Wauchula, FL, for all agricultural employers.

December 7, 2010, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Winter Haven, FL, at the Florida Citrus Building, 500 3rd Street NW, Winter Haven, FL, in the Nora Mayo Hall, for all agricultural employers.

December 8, 2010, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Dover, FL, at the Florida Strawberry Education and Event Center, 13138 Lewis Gallagher Road, Dover, FL, for all agricultural employers.

Follow SW Florida Vegetable Grower on Facebook

SW Florida Vegetable Grower is now on Facebook providing up-to-date news for vegetable growers and industry reps on the go!

This is the place to find what you need to know about growing vegetables in SW Florida. Bringing you the most up-to-date news; about varieties, pest control tactics, tips and breaking news, to help make you a more successful grower.

Relevant, timely information and discussion topics that help the fruit and vegetable industry understand how to succeed in this dynamic and ever-changing business.

Follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/SW-Florida-Vegetable-Grower/149291468443385>

Facebook is a social networking website with more than 500 million active users in July 2010, which is about one person for every fourteen in the world. In the US, almost over 100 million people use Facebook. For the younger crowd (whether in age or spirit), its use is nearly universal. Your kids are on it, many of your friends too. Check it out and get with the times!

South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline – if you get the hotline second hand from another source you may be missing the Quotable Quotes and the Lighter Side – to subscribe direct – email gmconvoy@ufl.edu

Up Coming Meetings

Manatee County

November 9, 2010 **WPS Train the Trainer** 9:00 -11:00 AM

1303 17th St W
Palmetto, Florida 34221

Register on-line at <http://wpsttmanatee.eventbrite.com/>

November 9, 2010 **Serenade Meeting** 12:00 PM

Popi's Restaurant
Ellenton, Florida

If you plan to attend please call or e-mail Mike Roberts at 863-207-7779 or mroberts@agraquest.com

Palm Beach County

November 23, 2010 **Pepper Workshop** 12:00 - 3:30 PM.

UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension.
Exhibit Hall-A
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida

November 10, 2010 **Florida Ag Expo**

UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
Balm, Florida

For details and to register on line, go to <http://floridaagexpo.com/>

Other Meetings

November 30, 201 Compost Production and Utilization For 7:30 - 4:30 pm
Vegetable, Fruits, Ornamentals and Organic Agriculture

Indian River Research & Education Center
2119 South Rock Road
Ft. Pierce, Florida

\$25.00 (Lunch Included)

For more information or to register, go to
<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1006938781>
or contact Ed Skvarch eask@ufl.edu

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

Help Wanted:

Field Development Position, United Phosphorus, Inc.

Field Development Representative, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina.

Minimum of 5 years experience working with AgChem products in high value crops.

Position responsible for technical service of sales and implementing product development projects within the assigned region.

Responsibilities will include the monitoring and evaluation of plant protection technologies and development of new label use instructions for new and existing products.

Candidates will be responsible for the compilation, interpretation and presentation of project data in written and oral formats. Tasks will also include support of sales personnel within the region by conducting meetings, tours, and demonstrations as requested.

Advanced degree in Plant Sciences (Entomology, Plant Pathology, or Plant Physiology). Strong inter-personal and communication skills with researchers, regulatory, marketing and sales community. No closing date. This position will remain open until filled.

Submit resume to:

Philip W. Robinson

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Carmel, Indiana 46033

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Websites

World's Smallest Political Quiz - Take the Quiz and find out where you fit on the political map. You may be surprised! Go to <http://www.theadvocates.org/quiz>

Poodwaddle 2010 World Clock stats counter – A novel and interesting way to look at the passage of time - the World Clock displays live statistical data counters. See the world population, death rates, illness incidence, energy consumption, etc. - <http://www.poodwaddle.com/clocks/worldclock/> .

Quotable Quotes

"If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner." - Tallulah Bankhead

“The old believe everything, the middle-aged suspect everything, the young know everything.” - Oscar Wilde

“A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain.” – Robert Frost

“A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age.” – Robert Frost

“A jury consists of twelve persons chosen to decide who has the better lawyer.” – Robert Frost

“A mother takes twenty years to make a man of her boy, and another woman makes a fool of him in twenty minutes.” – Robert Frost

On the Lighter Side

Pool Party

A filthy rich Floridian decided that he wanted to throw a party and invited all of his buddies and neighbors.

He also invited Leroy, the only Redneck in the neighborhood. He held the party around the pool in the backyard of his mansion.

Leroy was having a good time drinking, dancing, eating shrimp, oysters and BBQ and flirting with all the women.

At the height of the party, the host said, 'I have a 10 foot man-eating gator in my pool and I'll give a million dollars to anyone who has the nerve to jump in.'

The words were barely out of his mouth when there was a loud splash. Everyone turned around and saw Leroy in the pool!

Leroy was fighting the gator and kicking its rear! Leroy was jabbing it in the eyes with his thumbs, throwing punches, head butts and choke holds, biting the gator on the tail and flipping it through the air like some kind of Judo Instructor.

The water was churning and splashing everywhere. Both Leroy and the gator were screaming and raising heck.

Finally Leroy strangled the gator and let it float to the top like a dime store goldfish.

Leroy then slowly climbed out of the pool. Everybody was just staring at him in disbelief.

Finally the host says, 'Well, Leroy, I reckon I owe you a million dollars.'

'No, that's okay. I don't want it,' said Leroy.

The rich man said, 'Man, I have to give you something you won the bet. How about half a million bucks then?'

No thanks, I don't want it,' answered Leroy.

The host said, 'Come on, I insist on giving you something. That was amazing. How about a new Porsche and a Rolex and some stock options?' Again Leroy said no.

Confused, the rich man asked, 'Well, Leroy, then what do you want?'

Leroy said, 'I want the name of the son of a gun who pushed me in the pool!'

Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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 with in 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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