



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

December 12, 2008

The past few weeks have been unseasonable cool with daytime temps mostly in the 70s and night time lows in the 40's and 50's, with a few nights in the 30's. Some of the normally cooler interior locations reported scattered light frost around Thanksgiving and again last week. This season has also been unusual in the duration of the cool weather which has been consistently cool for nearly a month. The low temperatures have slowed crop growth impacting schedules, quality, and volume with many planting lagging behind projections.

It has been mostly dry but passing fronts have been accompanied by heavy showers in a number of locations with some reporting over 2 inches of rain for the period. Foggy mornings and heavy dew falls helped also keep disease active in places.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
11/15 – 12/11/08	33.07	84.52	2.47	69	0.06
Belle Glade					
11/15 – 12/11/08	36.56	83.3	0.87	78	0.06
Clewiston					
11/15 – 12/11/08	39.84	84.15	1.55	71	0.06
Ft Lauderdale					
11/15 – 12/11/08	46.71	81.55	1.11	74	0.06
Fort Pierce					
11/15 – 12/11/08	37.39	82.62	0.76	76	0.06
Homestead					
11/15 – 12/11/08	42.58	81.46	0.3	76	0.06
Immokalee					
11/15 – 12/11/08	34.79	86	1.53	76	0.06

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Over all most crops are looking good with tomato harvest nearing completion in the Manatee Ruskin area and harvest picking up seasonally around Immokalee and Palm Beach County. Other crops coming to market include beans, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and specialty crops including basil with volumes beginning to increase seasonally around South Florida.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that the primary cold front was already well east of mainland South Florida over the Northern Bahamas while a secondary front was located across south-central Florida and poised to move over northwest interior/lake Okeechobee region. Much drier air is indicated behind the second front with dew points falling into the mid 30s and lower 40s across north Florida. An area of mostly low to mid-level clouds associated with the second front should move over South Florida today help to keep max temps in the upper 60s to mid 70s. Tonight rapidly decreasing clouds should give way to mostly clear skies over much of South Florida allowing radiational cooling to take effect, especially over interior sections.

A gradual warming trend should begin Saturday as low level flow shifts to the north/northeast.

Monday through Thursday, an upper trough/frontal system moves east and large amplitude mid to upper level ridge will build across eastern third of U.S. basically blocking any system approaching from the northwest keeping South Florida under mostly dry and warmer conditions with temps climbing to seasonal or just above seasonal values. Chances for rain will remain very low. 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 Manatee County indicate that worms are pretty quiet and pressure is mostly low.

Around Southwest Florida, growers and scouts report that worm pressure remains steady with a slight increase in both southern and beet armyworm egg deposition last week.

Respondents in Palm Beach report that worm pressure is variable with heavy egg-laying being noted in some places. Southern and beet armyworms along with loopers and a few tomato fruitworms are present.

Leafminers

Reports from Palm Beach and the East Coast indicate that leafminer numbers are variable ranging from low to high depending on the location.

Respondents around Homestead indicate that leafminer numbers remain low.

Around Southwest Florida leafminer pressure is slowly increasing in most places.

Growers and scouts in Manatee County report that leafminer are widely present and note most farms are now treating for leaf miner.

A number of growers across South Florida report good results with Coragen which has virtually eliminated leaf miner pressure on many farms. They also note improved populations of beneficials settling in on farms where broad spectrum sprays have been reduced.

At least 14 species of hymenopterous (wasp) parasites attack *Liriomyza* spp. leafminers on non-sprayed tomatoes in Florida. Four parasite species predominate: *Diglyphus intermedius*, *D. begini*, *Neochrysocharis* (= *Chrysonotomyia*) *punctiventris* and *Opius dissitus*.

Up to 90% parasitism in non-sprayed tomatoes has been observed in Florida. In commercial tomatoes using selective insecticides to kill leafminers and conserve parasites, parasitism can reach 100%.

To determine whether leafminer larvae are dead or alive, leaflets are removed from the plant, held up to the sun and examined with a hand lens. Living larvae are a pale yellow and flush with the end of the mine. The back and forth feeding movements of the mouth hooks is readily visible, although movement may cease momentarily when larvae are disturbed or may cease for an extended time when larvae are molting. Dead larvae do not show mouth hook movement and are usually discolored and removed from the ends of mines.

The relative toxicity of selected pesticides to parasites of leafminers should be considered. Some pesticides like methomyl are highly toxic to all life stages of all natural enemies evaluated while others, like methamidophos, are highly toxic to some life stages of natural enemies but not all. Some insecticides like azadirachtin were moderately toxic to some life stages and relatively non-toxic to most others while others like *Bacillus thuringiensis* and cyromazine were relatively non-toxic to all life stages of all natural enemies evaluated. Therefore, it is important that the scouting program include not only an assessment of the pests present but also the natural enemies, including the specific life stage(s). If these guidelines are followed, conservation of natural enemies through the use of timed applications of selective insecticides for the above pests can not only be feasible but can be a reality.

Whiteflies

Reports from around Manatee County indicate that whitefly pressure remains unseasonably low with a slight increase noted in the past week or so.

Around Palm Beach reports indicate that whitefly numbers are mostly low with a few exceptions.

Around SW Florida, whitefly pressure remains mostly low.

Respondents in Homestead indicate that whitefly populations are building in cucurbits and tomatoes.

Aphids

Scouts around Palm Beach indicate more winged aphids are showing up and are common in a variety of crops including eggplants, tomato and pepper with some colony formation noted in pepper.

Respondents in Immokalee report an increase in aphids with low levels of winged aphids beginning to showing up on a wide variety of crops.

Reports from Manatee County indicate a few aphids are present.

Broad mites

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

Broad mites remain widely present across scattered locations around Palm Beach County primarily on basil, pepper and eggplant.

Spider mites

Growers in scouts across south Florida report a few scattered problems with spider mites in cucurbits and eggplants.

Pepper weevils

Scouts report pepper weevil adults are present in mostly low numbers but are beginning to increase in a few locations around Southwest Florida.

Thrips

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report seeing a few thrips in pepper and eggplant.

Elsewhere only Florida flower thrips have been reported and remain at very low levels over all.

Diseases

Late Blight

Late blight is present on tomatoes at one location in Immokalee.

Late blight is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora infestans*, which is a pathogen of potato and tomato. This disease can spread quickly and devastate a tomato or potato field within a few weeks if not properly controlled.

The disease thrives under cool and wet conditions. Temperatures between 50 and 80 F combined with moist conditions such as rain, fog, heavy dews, or relative humidity above 90 percent are conducive for disease development. Night temperatures in the mid-fifties with daytime temperatures from the mid-fifties to mid-seventies are ideal for this disease.

Since the disease can spread so rapidly, growers should scout their fields thoroughly each day, especially when cool and wet conditions conducive to disease development prevails.

Late blight symptoms on leaves appear as irregularly shaped brown to purplish lesions with indefinite border lesions that can span veins. The lesions may be seen any time of day, on any stage of plant growth and on leaves of any age. Velvety, white fungal growth may appear on the lower surface of affected leaflets early in the morning before leaves dry and/or in the lower canopy.

On stems, purplish lesions may be found any where on the stem. Cottony, white growth of fungus on stems with lesions can often be seen early in the morning and/or in the lower canopy. Stems with lesions are brittle and break easily. Lesions are confined to epidermis and cortex. Leaf rolling and wilting is often associated with stem lesions and purpling of leaflets may occur in some varieties.

Several control measures plus observation are absolute necessities if late blight is to be properly controlled. Potato growers should purchase certified, disease-free seed pieces and store seed in a dry location before planting.

Other important cultural controls include destruction of cull piles and volunteer potato or tomato plants. Plant resistant varieties.

Begin a spray program with fungicides if late blight is in your area or weather conditions are suitable for late blight development. After harvest, kill infected foliage to minimize tuber infection.

Tomato growers should purchase disease-free transplants. Observe your fields thoroughly each day, especially when cool and wet weather prevails.

Currently, fungicides are the most effective means of controlling late blight and will remain the primary tool until cultivars with resistance to this disease become available. Fungicides slow the rate at which the disease develops in the field by creating a protective barrier on the foliage. Just applying a chemical, however, does not necessarily equate with effective disease control. Relative effectiveness of a product, coverage, and timing must be factored into the equation for maximum benefit.

Numerous fungicide products are registered for late blight control. Protectants, as the name implies, protect foliage from infection by spores. Protectant chemicals must be well distributed over the leaf surface and must be applied before spores land on leaves. They are ineffective against established infections.

Systemic products become distributed locally within plant tissues and protect foliage from infection by spores. They may kill some established infections and may suppress production of new spores. Even a short break in spray schedules, despite what is said regarding some of the newer fungicides, can result in a dramatic increase in blight.

In trials conducted by Pam Roberts at SWFREC in Immokalee, the old standard Bravo performed well in providing control as did Curzate, Presidio and Revus Top. In past years, some growers have reported good results with a program of phosphonic acids in combination with Sonata.

In Florida, it has been observed that seldom does a widespread late blight epidemic occur on tomatoes in the Manatee-Ruskin area unless the disease was present in the Immokalee area and/or Dade County. Since late blight has been confirmed on tomato in Immokalee growers in other areas are advised to adhere to a preventative spray program.

Downy Mildew

Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report that downy mildew continues to work on cucumbers and squash.

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

On the east Coast downy mildew is now widespread in cucurbits.

Downy mildew has been observed on basil, both in the greenhouse and in the field. This disease can be of great economic significance and an entire crop can be lost without adequate management. All Florida growers should be on a preventative program with this disease.

Around Palm Beach scouts report that occurrence is sporadic with the biggest problems in areas with a high concentration of basil and multiple plantings present.

Unless growing for the organic market, preventative sprays should be initiated soon after emergence with a phosphonic of demonstrated efficacy. Stay on a strict fungicide program (1-2 sprays/wk), rotating in registered fungicides of dissimilar chemistry during alternate weeks.

A variety trial is being initiated to examine varieties and basil types for potential resistance. We will try to keep you posted as results are accumulated. Also, work is being initiated with IR-4 for the registration of additional fungicides for both greenhouse and field use, along with research on fungicide seed treatments. This disease is highly suspected as being seed-borne, which has resulted in its rapid spread over great distances.

Since its original observation in Florida in 2007, it has now been observed in NJ, NY, NC, MO and Canada. For the organic market, preventing any form of leaf wetness is your best management hope. Since this is a new disease for many, if you have questions on managing this disease, call Dr. Richard Raid at 561-993-1564.

Powdery Mildew

Growers and scouts in all areas of South Florida are beginning to report problems with powdery mildew on squash and other cucurbits. They report that it is active moving in a number of fields in all locations.

Resistance Management Tips for powdery and downy mildew

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

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

A similar strategy can be used for downy mildew control:

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

Fusarium Crown Rot

More fusarium crown rot and fusarium race 3 continues to being reported on tomato from scattered locations around Manatee County again mostly in wetter fields/blocks.

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

Bacterial leaf spot

Growers and scouts around Immokalee indicate that bacterial spot incidence is low in most places

Reports from Manatee County indicate that bacterial leaf spot is also low.

Respondents on the east Coast report bacterial spot continues to creep along in some tomato and pepper but is mostly low.

Bacterial Blotch

In the Glades and around Devils Garden continue to report some low level problems with bacterial blotch on beans.

Problems with bacterial blotch have also been noted in Homestead.

Phytophthora

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach report continuing problems with *Phytophthora* primarily in fields with a history of the disease.

Target Spot

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

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

Target spot is frequently misdiagnosed as in its early stages as leaf lesions are difficult to recognize and may be mistaken for bacterial spot

The name derives from the bull's eye appearance that is often displayed in lesions caused by the disease. Since concentric rings are not always visible and not all lesions with concentric rings are target spot, it is recommended that a laboratory diagnosis be obtained to ensure that a correct diagnosis is made.

On tomato leaves and stems, the disease first appears as small necrotic lesions with light brown centers and dark margins. Some varieties display a pronounced yellow halo around these leaf spots. Individual lesions often coalesce and cause a general blighting of leaves.

Target spot is controlled primarily by applications of protectant fungicides. It should be noted that tank-mix sprays of copper fungicides and maneb do not provide acceptable levels of target spot control. Recommended fungicides include various chlorothalnil formulations (Bravo, Echo, Bravo Ultrex, Bravo Weather Stik and Ridomil Gold/Bravo).

TYLCV

Growers around Manatee County continue to report mostly low levels of tomato yellow leaf curl virus on tomato with a few hotspots with rather high percentage of infection from 20 to 35% of tomatoes either at harvest or close to harvest.

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

On the East Coast, tomato yellow leaf curl virus remains low at 1 -2 % in most places.

Early Blight

A few reports of *Alternaria* on tomato are starting to come in from several locations around south Florida.

Cercospora Leaf Spot

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sclerotinia

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach report that sclerotinia is common in a number of pepper fields.

The fungus, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is responsible for a number of vegetable diseases. Sclerotinia is particularly damaging in bean, lettuce, potato, and tomato. Common names for Sclerotinia diseases in Florida are white mold (beans), drop (lettuce), stem rot (pepper, potato and tomato), and nesting (post-harvest disease of bean).

Sclerotinia is a fungus that prefers cool, moist weather, causing diseases of great intensity when temperatures range from 60 - 70°F (15 - 21°C). High humidity with dew formation supports the spread and increases the severity of infections.

A good indicator of Sclerotinia disease is the presence of small, black sclerotia (resting structures) of the fungus. Sclerotia vary in size and shape. Sclerotia can form on the surface of plant parts as well as inside the stems of tomato and potato. The sclerotia enable the fungus to survive from season to season and are the source of inoculum to infect crops. Recycled irrigation water may move sclerotia to fields where sclerotia are not present.

Small, mushroom-like structures called apothecia develop from sclerotia and produce infectious spores. When the environmental conditions are correct, these spores are ejected into the air and carried to healthy plants, where they germinate and produce disease.

Another common indicator of Sclerotinia diseases is the presence of white, cottony-like mycelium of the fungus when weather conditions are cool and moist.

News You Can Use

Fall Comes Early to the Southeast

Fall came early to Southeast this year, with an October cold snap bringing freezing temperatures as far south as Tallahassee, FL. Many records were set over the Southeast on the morning of October 29th, with Tallahassee and Jacksonville registering the lowest temperatures on record in the month of October. The cold weather continued in November with yet another record-setting cold snap on November 18 and 19 with freezing temperatures extending south of Gainesville, FL. Over the last 30 days, the Southeast is averaging temperatures 4 to 6 degrees F below normal and could end up ranking among the top 10 coldest falls on record.

Winter Climate Outlook

The Neutral Pacific ENSO pattern now in place means more variable weather patterns over the Southeast. With Neutral conditions firmly in place in the tropical Pacific Ocean, there is no indication that temperatures or rainfall will be either above normal or below normal. More variable weather is common in neutral winters, with periods of very cold weather mixed in with warm spells. With the very cold weather we have experienced thus far this fall, chances are good that the winter season will see a continuation of this cold weather. Chill hour accumulations are ahead of schedule so far this year, while growing degree-days are lagging behind normal.

Severe freezes that can impact citrus and other winter crops are more likely this year. Studies have shown that of the dozen or so catastrophic freezes that have impacted the Florida citrus industry since the late 1800's, nearly all of them have occurred during times of Neutral conditions in the Pacific. The predominant jet stream patterns set up by El Niña and La Niña tend to "block" the major intrusions of Arctic air masses that cause these severe freezes. With neither in place this season, the jet streams are more susceptible to the dramatic dips, or "troughs" that can allow these air masses further south. Most of the severe freezes of the past century have occurred when Neutral patterns were in place.

Near-normal rainfall is the best forecast, as there is no El Niño or La Niña to tip the balance towards wetter or drier than normal. Keep in mind that winter is the critical recharge period for surface and groundwater in Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolina's. The good coverage and slow soaking nature of winter rainfall that is cause by fronts and low pressure systems is much more effective at refilling rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and aquifers than the scattered summer thundershowers. In addition, the colder temperatures and mostly dormant vegetation result in much less loss to evapotranspiration. Normal or above normal rainfall during the coming season is critical to easing the prolonged drought conditions these states have experienced.

USCIS Finalizes Changes to Improve the H-2a Temporary Agricultural Worker Program - Changes Will Assist Employers of Temporary Agricultural Workers

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today changes to the H-2A regulations that will streamline the hiring process of temporary and seasonal agricultural workers. This final rule will facilitate the H-2A process for employers by removing certain limitations and will further encourage lawful employment. These changes stem from the commitment made by President Bush's Administration in August 2007, after Congress failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform. This final rule supplements the extensive reforms of the H-2A program that are included in the Department of Labor's final rule, also being published today.

When U.S. employers have a shortage of available U.S. workers to fill temporary or seasonal agricultural jobs, they may file an H-2A petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for permission to employ foreign workers to perform that work in the United States. Once the petition is approved, these workers, if they are eligible for admission, may enter the United States in H-2A nonimmigrant status.

Operation Cleansweep

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are again joining forces to collect and safely dispose of cancelled, suspended or unusable commercial pesticides for the 9th annual Operation Cleansweep.

Operation Cleansweep is a convenient, cost-effective public-private partnership to dispose of unwanted or outdated pesticides, providing free collection and disposal for Florida's pesticide consumers.

To participate in Operation Cleansweep, commercial pesticide applicators can call FDACS at (877) 851-5285 or download the sign up form at www.flaes.org/pdf/Flyer2006.pdf. For more information, visit DEP's website at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides.

2009 Florida Certified Pile Burner Courses

The Florida Division of Forestry and University of Florida IFAS are cooperating to offer Certified Pile Burners Courses in 2009. This course will show you how to burn piles legally, safely and efficiently. Most importantly, it could save a life by decreasing risks associated with smoke on roadways. If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. **When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn.** Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations. Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. The cost of the course is \$50 per person and includes all course materials, test and lunch.

February 24, 2009; Highlands County Extension Office in Sebring, FL

See http://www.fl-dof.com/calendar/cal_pdf/pile_burner_sebring_Feb2009.pdf for details and registration form.

Please share this information with your clients, constituents, neighbors or others that may be interested.

Florida's Certified Pile Burner Course is a service of:

Florida Division of Forestry

University of Florida - IFAS, School of Forest Resources and Conservation University of Florida - IFAS,
Cooperative Extension Service

It may seem that this class is not for vegetable growers but in conversations that I have had with the Department of Forestry – this is why citrus growers can burn when vegetable growers are denied permits. Having this certification is no guarantee but will cause the Department to look more favorably on allowing you to burn especially in dry times. – GM

Minimum Wage to Increase

The minimum wage will change for the State of Florida again this coming January 1st! Florida's minimum wage will increase to \$7.21 an hour on January 1, 2009, a \$.42 cent per hour increase to match inflation as required by an initiative passed by the voters. On July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 - so we will have to endure two minimum wage changes in 2009. The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation posters for the workplace about the Florida minimum wage will need to be changed on January 1, 2009. Also, remember to change your Worker Information - Terms and Conditions of Employment forms to comply with this change in January!

Farm Labor Contractor Registration

Farm Labor Contractor registration continues to be an uphill battle... for both the federal and the state with less than pleasant results. The US DOL office in Atlanta has advised us they will no longer accept documents or requests by fax or e-mail. All items need to be mailed and any requests should be made by telephone. The state office in Tallahassee still remains understaffed at this time of year - so submitted documents are taking 30 or more days to get processed. After 12/31/2008, DBPR field personnel will no longer be helping FLC's complete applications and all testing will be done by computer at a testing center - 21 of which will be located across Florida. Not sure how this will affect us the process - other than to advise you to submit your documents completely together in one mailing and at least 30 days in advance.

Farm Labor Contractor Compliance

US DOL Wage and Hour Officials are reportedly instituting compliance inspections targeting citrus and vegetable operations across South Florida. It would be well advised to review your level of preparedness in advance of a possible inspection.

Work Safe

Increased harvesting activity leads people to "rush" their jobs - sometimes with dire consequences. Please remind all your equipment drivers (goats, tractors, vans, buses, and semi-trucks) to be more safety conscious with the increased workload. Driver safety should be "refreshed" with all operators, giving special attention to the driving problems all of our "winter visitors" cause at this time of year!

Pesticide Registrations and Actions

On October 6, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) approved the registration of Bayer CropScience's insecticide flubendiamide (Belt®) to control lepidopteran pests on corn, cotton, tobacco, stone fruit, grape, tree fruit, and nut and vine crops. The EPA registration number is 264-1025. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 11/6/08).

On October 6, the FDACS approved the registration of Bayer CropScience's insecticide flubendiamide (Synapse®) to control lepidopteran pests on cucurbits, fruiting, leafy, and brassica vegetables, and okra. The EPA registration number is 264-1026. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 11/6/08).

On October 9, the FDACS approved the registration of KHH BioScience's systemic activator Reynoutria sachalinensis extract (Regalia®) to improve plant disease resistance in many food crops. The EPA registration number is 72179-2. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 11/6/08).

Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide cymoxanil (Curzate®). Tolerances of importance in Florida include cilantro, leafy greens (subgroup 4A), leafy petioles (subgroup 4B), and bulb and green onions. (Federal Register, 10/8/08).

Valant announce registration of Presidio fungicide in Florida. Presidio provides outstanding control of downy mildews and Phytophthora diseases including late blight, and the root, fruit and crown rots caused by *Phytophthora capsici* and other species. Leafy, fruiting and cucurbit vegetables have no plant back restrictions. All other crops, including field corn, cotton, soybeans and alfalfa – 18 months. REI: 12 hours, PHI: 2 days for vegetables.

Wanted

Avatar Trucking is seeking produce loads. Call 757-693-1129, ask for Aaron.

Farm Land for Lease

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

Up Coming Meetings

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

December 15, 2008 Nora Mayo Hall, Florida Citrus Building
503 3rd Street
Winter Haven, FL

December 16, 2008 Turner Center, Annex (a.k.a. Exhibition Hall)
2250 N.E. Roan Street
Arcadia, FL

December 17, 2008 Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center
4509 George Blvd.
Sebring, FL

Websites

AgroClimate – A service of the Southeast Climate Consortium, this site provides up-to-date climate analysis and predictions for trends and impact on agriculture – go to <http://agroclimate.org/>

Multi Cultural Fresh Fruits and Vegetables – this power point produced by the US Department of Defense may open you're your eyes to new crops and new opportunities in vegetable production – check it out at http://www.dsep.dla.mil/subs/conf2007/briefs/breakout/prod_ethnic.ppt#258,3,The%20World%20is%20coming%20to%20us!

Quotable Quotes

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not. - Thomas Jefferson

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world. - Thomas Jefferson

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them. - Thomas Jefferson

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our Liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered. - Thomas Jefferson

On the Lighter Side

Points to Ponder

1. Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.

2. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car.
3. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
4. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
5. A person, who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention! It never fails.)
6. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
7. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
8. A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel so good.
9. No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
10. Opportunities always look bigger after they have passed.
11. Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
12. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
13. Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
14. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
15. Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
16. It ain't the jeans that make your butt look fat.
17. There is a very fine line between 'hobby' and 'mental illness.'
18. You should not confuse your career with your life.
19. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
20. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

Disconnect

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped,

"Didn't you get my E-mail?"

Early Shopper

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?" "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant. "That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?" "Before the store opened," countered the prisoner.

The Three Wise Men

In a small Southern town there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left.

At a "Quick Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You Yankees never do read the Bible!" I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said, "See, it says right here, 'The three wise men came from afar.'"

Wishing you and yours a merry and Blessed Christmas!

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