



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

December 21, 2009

After an unusually dry Oct and early November, it seems that a typical el Nino pattern has kicked in bringing above average precipitation to south Florida in December. Since the beginning of the month several weather systems have crossed the state bringing rainy weather to the area. The most recent event being the low pressure system that moved in from the Gulf late last week, dumping heavy rain across south Florida. Most places received 1 - 2 inches or more with some locations in Miami Dade and Broward reporting an incredible 10 – 14 inches.

With the exception of a few cool fronts temperatures for most of the month have been above normal. The strong cold front, which moved in over the weekend brought much cooler temperatures across the area but cloud

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
12/7 – 12/21/09	41.66	84.99	0.20	84	0.06
Belle Glade					
12/7 – 12/21/09	49.28	87.46	2.36	87	0.07
Clewiston					
12/7 – 12/21/09	46.38	88.03	0.89	86	0.07
Ft Lauderdale					
12/7 – 12/21/09	54.61	88.99	3.98	83	0.07
Fort Pierce					
12/7 – 12/21/09	45.01	87.94	3.97	85	0.07
Homestead					
12/7 – 12/21/09	51.4	86.72	4.31	86	0.07
Immokalee					
12/7 – 12/21/09	47.68	90.59	2.22	84	0.07

Wishing you all the very best for a Blessed and Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

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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

cover kept temps from falling as low as previously predicted with lows mostly in the mid to low 40's in some of the normally colder interior locations. Daytime highs have been in 70's and 80's.

Growers report that cloudy rainy weather continues to cause lots of problems of tomato splitting and cracking, on all kinds of tomatoes, with grape tomatoes experiencing some of the worst problems. Many growers are also reporting problems with bruising on bell pepper. The frequent rains have caused the peppers to be fragile and easily bruised with some farms reporting up to 60% of peppers bruised during harvesting, grading, and packing process.

Cucumbers, cantaloupes, eggplant, green beans, herbs, lettuce, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons, and specialty items moved to market. Volumes on most items remain light as growers try to meet holiday market demand.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami calls for development of a northeasterly onshore flow over the peninsula, which will result in increased atmospheric moisture and the possibility of widely scattered shower activity affecting southeast Florida on Tuesday. An east/southeast flow will develop over south Florida on Wednesday and should result in a substantial warming trend along with increasing chances for showers/storms on Thursday and Thursday night. A cold front moving eastward across the gulf of Mexico is expected to move across the region on Friday with at least some cloud cover and lingering shower chances to the north of the boundary early in the weekend. Cooler and drier conditions will likely persist into the first part of next week.

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

Insects

Whiteflies

Around SW Florida, whiteflies are moving from field to field now and in several fields the nymphs are building. Adults are moderate to high in several areas and harvesting activities is hindering spraying.

Reports from Palm Beach indicate whitefly pressure is increasing in many places. Numbers are higher in cucurbits.

Growers and scouts in the Manatee Ruskin area, report that whiteflies are horrible in a number of locations. All stages are present and whitefly adults are increasing in tomatoes as the season ends and less care is given.

With the high incidence of virus present in the Manatee County area, growers could be facing a tough situation this spring unless cold weather intervenes. As harvest winds down, good sanitation and crop destruction can play a major role in reducing potential problems in subsequent crops. With all crops that suffer from whiteflies and whitefly vectored viruses, the following management recommendations should be considered.

Recommendations for Management of Whiteflies, Begomovirus, and Insecticide Resistance for Florida Vegetable Production

A. Crop Hygiene.

Field hygiene should be a high priority and should be included as an integral part of the overall strategy for managing whitefly populations, TYLCV incidence, and insecticide resistance. These practices will help

reduce the onset of the initial infestation of whitefly, **both biotype B and biotype Q (if present)**, and lower the initial infestation level during the cropping period.

1. Establish a minimum two-month crop free period during the summer, preferably from at least mid-June to mid-August.

2. Use a correct crop destruction technique, which includes destruction of existing whitefly populations in addition to the physical destruction of the crop.

- a. Promptly and efficiently destroy all vegetable crops **within 5 days of final harvest** to maximally decrease whitefly numbers and sources of plant begomoviruses like TYLCV.
- b. Use a contact desiccant (“burn down”) herbicide in conjunction with a heavy application of oil (not less than 3 % emulsion) and a non-ionic adjuvant to destroy crop plants and to quickly kill whiteflies.
- c. Time burn down sprays to avoid crop destruction during windy periods, especially when prevailing winds are blowing whiteflies toward adjacent plantings.
- d. Destroy crops block by block as harvest is completed rather than waiting and destroying the entire field at one time.

B. Other Cultural Control Practices.

Reduce overall whitefly populations, **both biotype B and biotype Q (if present)**, by strictly adhering to cultural practices.

1. Use proper pre-planting practices.

- a. Plant whitefly and virus-free transplants.
 - 1) Do not grow vegetable transplants and vegetatively propagated ornamental plants (i.e. hibiscus, poinsettia, etc.) at the same location, especially if bringing in plant materials from other areas of the US or outside the US.
 - 2) Isolate vegetable transplants and ornamental plants if both are produced in the same location.
 - 3) Do not work with or manipulate vegetable transplants and ornamental plants at the same time.
 - 4) Practice worker isolation between vegetable transplants and ornamental crops.
 - 5) Avoid yellow clothing or utensils as these attract whitefly adults.
 - 6) Cover all vents and other openings with whitefly resistant screening. Use double doors with positive pressure. Cover roofs with UV absorbing films.
- b. Delay planting new fall crops as long as possible.
- c. Do not plant new crops near or adjacent to old, infested crops.
- d. Use determinant varieties of grape tomatoes to avoid extended crop season.
- e. Use TYLCV resistant tomato cultivars (see additional information below for list) where possible and appropriate, especially during historically critical periods of virus pressure. Whitefly control must continue even with use of TYLCV resistant cultivars because these cultivars are able to carry the virus.
- f. Use TYLCV resistant pepper cultivars (see additional information below for list) when growing pepper and tomato in close proximity.

g. Use ultraviolet light reflective (aluminum) mulch on plantings that are historically most susceptible to whitefly infestation and TYLCV infection.

2. Use proper post-planting practices.

- a. Apply an effective insecticide to kill whitefly adults prior to cultural manipulations such as pruning, tying, etc.
- b. Rogue tomato plants with symptoms of TYLCV at least until second tie. Plants should be treated for whitefly adults prior to roguing and, if nymphs are present, should be removed from the field, preferably in plastic bags, and disposed of as far from production fields as possible.
- c. Manage weeds within crops to minimize interference with spraying and to eliminate alternative whitefly and virus host plants.
- d. Dispose of cull tomatoes as far from production fields as possible. If dumped in pastures for cattle feeding, the fruit should be spread instead of dumped in a large pile to encourage consumption by cattle. The fields should then be monitored for germination of tomato seedlings and, if present, they should be controlled by mowing or with herbicides.
- e. Avoid u-pick or pin-hooking operations unless effective whitefly control measures are continued.
- f. Destroy old crops within 5 days after harvest, destroy whitefly infested abandoned crops, and control volunteer plants with a desiccant herbicide and oil.

C. Insecticidal Control Practices.

1. Use 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 because this can kill natural enemies, thus interfering with biological control, and because this can 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 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. If foliar applications of a neonicotinoid insecticide are used instead of or in addition to soil drenches at transplanting, **foliar applications should be restricted to the first six 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 six weeks and do not use any neonicotinoid class insecticides for the remaining cropping period.

D. Do unto your neighbor, as you would have them do unto you.

1. Look out for your neighbor's welfare.

This may be a strange or unwelcome concept in the highly competitive vegetable industry but it is in your best interest to do just that. Growers need to remember that should the whiteflies develop full-blown resistance to insecticides, especially the neonicotinoids, it's not just the other guy that will be hurt—everybody will feel the pain!

2. Know what is going on in the neighbor's fields.

Growers should try to keep abreast of operations in upwind fields, especially harvesting and crop destruction, which both disturb the foliage and cause whitefly adults to fly. Now that peppers have been added to the list of TYLCV hosts, tomato growers will need to keep in touch with events in that crop as well.

For additional information:

IRAC (Insecticide Resistance Action Committee) Website – <http://www.irac-online.org>.

Leafminers

Respondents on the East Coast report leafminer activity has increased significantly, with some eggplant fields at up to 80% infestation. Reports indicate that the situation is not much better for tomatoes or peppers either. Pressure has been persistent and growers report finding mines on plants only in the ground for a few days.

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that leafminer activity is also increasing in a number of places areas with a number of young tomato plantings, cucurbits, eggplant, and pepper fields needing treatment. Some scouts report heavy leafminer pressure in some young plantings and note some growers are just tolerating mining damage on young leaves until they can get Coragen out. Others are spraying young plants in attempt to reduce early damage.

Reports from Homestead indicate that leaf miner is a problem on many vegetable crops including beans, tomatoes, squash, and basil.

Worms

Around Southwest Florida, worms are sporadic but there are still armyworms around on a variety of crops and melonworms and pickleworms are still going strong in cucurbits.

On the East Coast, respondents indicate that armyworms are just as bad or worse in some fields than two weeks ago on peppers, tomatoes, sweet corn and leafy greens. Cabbage loopers are widely present on brassicas in the Glades.

Broad mites

Growers on the East Coast locations report that broad mites are persistent and note that they seem to have persisted unusually long this fall.

Around Immokalee, broad mite pressure appears to be slacking off but they are still active in a number of places

Aphids

Respondents around Southwest Florida report that aphids are present in a number of locations and colonies are forming in some fields. Growers in Devil's Garden and the Glades continue to report problems with aphids in greens and crucifers, especially bok choy and mustard greens.

Around Palm Beach County, respondents report that more aphids are showing up in squash, pepper and some specialty items and some colony formation has been noted.

Spider mites

Around Immokalee, spider mites numbers remain low.

Respondents in Palm Beach indicate that spider mites remain problematic in eggplants and strawberries with highest pressure on field margins and near weedy ditch banks.

Mites are present in strawberries in Manatee and Hillsborough Counties where harvest activity is moving them around.

Pepper Weevils

Pepper weevils are widely present in Palm Beach County and other locations. Reports indicate they are bad in some places and low in others.

In Southwest Florida, pepper weevils are showing up all over the area and quickly establishing themselves. Several older fields now have moderate levels of weevils and scouts report that adults are moving into very young fields

Thrips

Reports from Hillsborough County indicate that strawberries are showing increasing thrips activity and several of farms have identified infestations of chili thrips which reportedly have caused an amazing amount of damage in short amount of time. Scouts report that this is the first time they have seen so many chili thrips so things may get interesting.

David Sui, Vegetable Extension Agent in Palm Beach County, reports that recent frequent rains seem to have done a pretty good job pounding on the thrips and populations are down. A pepper samples last week showed an average of only 5-9 Florida native thrips and 0-1 WFT per flower.

In other areas thrips remain very low.

Diseases

Target Spot

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that target spot is the key disease in many tomato fields. Target spot is widespread and many mature fields have lost most of the inner foliage to target spot and fruit infections have hurt pack outs.

Around the Manatee Ruskin area, target spot is widespread and especially where growers are holding on to crops.

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that target spot is widely present on tomato and is also causing problems in cucumber.

Bacterial leaf spot

Bacterial spot is widely present on pepper and tomatoes around Homestead.

Respondents in Southwest Florida report that bacterial spot has taken off in many places and is active in many tomato fields causing moderate defoliation and some fruit infections. Some increase in bacterial spot activity has been reported in peppers but overall peppers still have very low disease.

In the Manatee/Ruskin area rain and fog have kicked bacterial spot into high gear. Reports indicate that disease pressure is heavy in some areas.

Around Hillsborough County, strawberry growers are also facing increasing bacteria problems this week

Scouts in Palm Beach County report that the bacterial spot problems have increased rapidly on tomato and some pepper following recent rains.

TYLCV

Respondents in Manatee/Ruskin area report that TYLCV is everywhere. Some places worse than others...reports indicate some grape tomato fields are just horrific and most fields around Wimauma are 100% infected and growers still haven't cleaned up anything. Look for serious virus issues in the spring. See **Recommendations for Management of Whiteflies, Begomovirus, and Insecticide Resistance for Florida Vegetable Production** above.

Around Immokalee, TYLCV is increasing pretty much across the board although the level of increase varies depending on location. There are many older fields around with over 10% infections and scouts indicate they are starting to see new symptoms in young fields. It seems we are the point in the season when it appears that whiteflies are starting to move around more and a higher percentage are carrying virus. Growers are beginning to burn down old fields of tomatoes and reports indicate movement of adult whiteflies is beginning to become more common.

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach report that more fields are showing TYLCV symptoms, with some fields at 3-10% incidence of infection.

Rhizoctonia Web Blight

Dr Rick Raid, Plant Pathologist at UF/IFAS EREC reports the warm wet conditions have really been tough on spinach and some of the leafy vegetables, causing severe Rhizoctonia web blight and damping off. He notes this is a tough disease to control, as one seldom can anticipate the conditions for it much in advance.

***Rhizoctonia* is more commonly known as a soil borne fungus that causes root rot diseases and damping off.** During favorable environmental (warm, wet) conditions it may grow up from soil, the fungal mycelium grows over the leaf surfaces matting them together and causing large irregular-shaped lesions that later dry and fall out; this phase is called web blight. Lower leaves in contact with soil develop large water-soaked lesions and this phase is known as bottom rot. In heading vegetables, infection from the lower leaves progresses of head causing it to decay; this phase of the disease is known as head rot.

Southern corn leaf blight

In the Glades, southern corn leaf blight, southern rust, and northern corn leaf blight are all present on sweet corn.

Downy Mildew

Downy mildew is widespread and almost universally present in cucumbers around South Florida with few exceptions where aggressive control program are in place. It is also increasing in squash and has hits some fields hard around Manatee County.

Dr Rick Raid, Plant Pathologist at UF/IFAS EREC reports that downy mildew has been severe on basil. Warm wet conditions definitely favor this disease and growers must be on a tight fungicide program using azoxystrobin and the phosphites to have any hope of controlling it. Rick notes that although there are numerous good candidates for controlling the disease there aren't a lot of products currently labeled. He reports he is currently speaking with FFVA about a Section 18 or 24C for Revus, as restrictions on the numbers of azoxystrobin sprays leaves us short. Some growers have reported good results with Regalia.

Rick notes that there are no reports of downy mildew on lettuce or crucifers yet. He indicates chances for the disease appearance will increase if the weather cools down as growers in the Glades are usually seeing downy mildew on crucifers by now.

Sclerotinia

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that scouts continue to find Sclerotinia on pepper and incidence has increased.

Powdery mildew

Around Immokalee powdery mildew is very active and is hitting squash, especially yellow squash, hard.

Growers and scout in Palm Beach County report that powdery mildew continues to be a major problem on squash and other cucurbits.

Powdery mildew is also beginning to show up more widely on peppers around Palm Beach County.

Powdery mildew is also increasing on strawberries around Hillsborough County.

Phytophthora

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that problems with Phytophthora have increased significantly on peppers, eggplants, and tomatoes following recent rains.

Botrytis

Reports from around SW Florida indicate that botrytis is becoming more active in tomatoes.

Botrytis is also becoming more active on strawberries around Plant City.

Late Blight

No reports of late blight yet but it is that time of year and conditions have been favorable so growers should be extra observant for symptoms of the disease and rotate protective fungicides such as Bravo into their spray program. Looking over back issues of the hotline – we have seen late blight in 12 of the past 13 years. The earliest appearance has been around Thanksgiving and it typically appears by mid-late December.

Gray Wall

Growers note some problems with gray wall in tomatoes mostly like assisted by the cloudy weather over the last few weeks. Incidence is mostly low but is bad in some fields.

Symptoms are first observed as flattened, blotchy, brownish- gray areas that develop on green fruit. As the fruit matures, these blotchy areas remain gray or turn yellow while the rest of the fruit turns red resulting in uneven ripening. Internally, there may be some browning of the vascular tissue. While the disorder is not well understood, certain conditions seem to favor its' development.

These conditions include: plants that are growing rapidly, high nitrogen, low potassium, high soil moisture, high humidity, temperature fluctuations, low light intensity, low temperatures and soil compaction, most of which we had during the past month.

News You Can Use

Baker, Adkins File Immigration Enforcement Bill

State Sen. Carey Baker, R-Eustis, and State Rep. Janet Adkins, R-Fernandina Beach, have filed joint legislation for the 2010 session addressing illegal immigration in the state.

Among its provisions, the Florida Illegal Immigration Reform Act (House Bill 421 and Senate Bill 856) authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to work with the Department of Homeland Security for a labor visa program.

"If it looks like it's going to pass, we've got to amend it to exempt associations such as ours that bring in legal workers, because it looks like it could prohibit us from doing that," said Butch Calhoun, FFVA's director of government affairs.

The bill also would institute a pilot program requiring public employers to utilize electronic verification to ensure that people employed by state government are legal residents of the United States or have met

citizenship requirements. In addition, it would require driver's license applicants to present proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the country. If passed, the measure would become effective July 1, 2010.

House Immigration Bill Includes Agjobs

A group of Democratic lawmakers has introduced a comprehensive immigration bill in Congress that, among other provisions, would offer a path to legalization for the country's estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants.

The bill, championed by Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.), includes the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act, known as AgJOBS.

The measure would require undocumented immigrants to register with the federal government, pay a \$500 fine for each adult, learn English, pass background checks and meet other requirements. They would then be eligible for a six-year visa and later a green card.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., is expected to file a companion bill in the Senate after the holiday break.

USDA Publishes Fall Labor Statistics

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released the results of its Fall Farm Labor Survey in Florida. USDA estimates that there were 49,000 hired farmworkers in Florida during the report period (Oct. 11-17, 2009), an increase of 11,000 workers from the July 2009 survey, and 8,000 more workers than a year earlier.

Field and livestock workers in Florida averaged \$9.20 per hour, which is 16 cents more than the July 2009 survey and 40 cents more than last October's survey. Hired workers averaged 38.6 hours of work per week, which means the average weekly wage was \$355.12.

Nationally, 1,092,000 field and livestock workers averaged \$10.24 per hour. Also nationally, hired farmworkers worked an average of 39 hours per week, for average weekly earnings of \$399.36.

South Florida Flooding and Severe Weather - December 17-18, 2009

The active southern branch of the jet stream so typical of El Nino events produced a textbook example of a wintertime low pressure system in the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday, December 17, 2009. This low deepened as it moved northeast toward Apalachee Bay, pushing a warm front northward across the Florida peninsula where temperatures and moisture had been well above normal for more than a week.

On the evening of Thursday, December 17, 2009, precipitable water values on the Miami upper air sounding were more than two standard deviations above normal for mid December, generally around 1.8 inches, prompting National Weather Service forecasters at the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Miami to issue statements and outlooks calling for the possibility of heavy rains Thursday night and Friday as the low pressure system moved eastward. However, no one expected more than 10 inches of rain to fall in very localized neighborhoods of eastern Broward and extreme northeast Miami-Dade counties, which is what happened. A boundary between very warm, moist and unstable air over the Atlantic coastal waters (including the warm Gulf Stream) of southeast Florida and cooler more stable air over the land areas of southeast Florida provided a focus persistent thunderstorms from around 5 PM EST through 10 PM EST. These thunderstorms dropped torrential rainfall amounts, but in a very limited area near the coastline.

Rainfall estimates in excess of 10 inches fell in a very small area of extreme southeast Broward County (Hallandale Beach and parts of Hollywood) and extreme northeast Miami-Dade County (Aventura and extreme north North Miami Beach). Rainfall was estimated greater than 3 inches in all locations along and east of I-95.

West of I-95, the rainfall diminished very quickly, and up through 8 AM EST on Friday almost no rain had fallen in the western suburbs of Broward County.

Below are some reported rainfall totals through 7 AM EST Friday, December 18, 2009

North Miami Beach S-29 (SFWMD)	14.25 inches
Hollywood (NWS coop)	13.32
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Intl AP (KFL)	7.74
Pompano Beach CoCoRAHS	6.72
Pompano Beach Airport (KPMP)	5.45
North Miami Beach (NWS coop)	2.03 (to show small scale)
Coconut Creek S-37B (SFWMD)	7.42
Oakland Park S-37A (SFWMD)	5.42
Delray Beach S-40 (SFWMD)	5.82
West Boca Raton S-39 (SFWMD)	4.66
Boynton Beach S-41 (SFWMD)	5.29

In addition, the Storm Prediction Center issued a Tornado Watch valid from 745 AM EST until 1 PM EST for all of mainland South Florida. The NWS Weather Forecast in Miami issued several tornado warnings throughout the morning, one for Collier County that was cancelled after the storm weakened and three for Miami-Dade County.

One strong thunderstorm for which a tornado warning was issued at 1027 AM EST for the Homestead Speedway and Homestead Bayfront Park areas of extreme southeast Miami-Dade County moved across Coral Gables and the City of Miami with 40-45 mph winds, continuing northeast to North Miami Beach by 11 AM.

Strong straight line wind gusts or possibly a brief “gustnado” at the corner of NE 163rd Street and Biscayne Boulevard resulted in two injuries reported from flying glass after an awning was blown into a gas station’s pumps. Another tornado was verified in extreme South Miami-Dade near the Homestead Speedway (near SW 328 St. and SW 132

Navigating the Canadian Marketplace - Town Hall Meetings - January 19-22, 2010

Doing business in Canada? Interested in the opportunity?

Agricultural products are Florida’s leading export sector to Canada. Join us at one of these timely Town Hall Meetings to learn more about this valuable export market opportunity. Highlights will include:

- Payments and quality claims
- Inspections and border issues
- Maximum residue levels
- Food safety
- Labeling
- and more...

Mark your calendar ... there’s a free meeting at a place convenient for you.

- Tuesday, Jan. 19 Dade County CES, Homestead 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 20 UF Indian River REC, Fort Pierce 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 20 Palm Beach County CES, West Palm 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 21 Southwest Florida REC, Immokalee 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 21 Gulf Coast REC, Balm 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 22 Hilton Garden Inn, Valdosta, Ga. 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sessions will include buffet lunch or dinner. RSVP by calling 321-214-5200 or contact Mike Aerts, FFVA Director of Membership and Marketing, at Mike.Aerts@FFVA.com

Farm-To-School Program Seeks Interested Farms

The School District of Collier County provides nutritious meals for thousands of students every school day. A key element in offering a well balanced, nutritious meal is having the freshest produce available. As a way to accomplish this, the district's Department of Nutrition Services is interested in developing a farm-to-school program. Through this program, local farms would provide district schools with fresh seasonal produce.

Working through a bid from Sarasota County Schools, the Collier district would be able to add new farms willing to provide produce to our schools. The district would purchase the product directly from the farm, and bring it into schools through its produce distributor, Fresh Point.

Director of Nutrition Services Dawn Houser is excited about the advantages such a program would bring everyone. "We hope to build a relationship with local farms that will prove mutually beneficial to farmers, and allow us to serve our students the freshest locally grown produce currently available throughout the school year."

If you're interested in becoming a part of this program, please contact Sarasota County Schools Nutrition Services Director Beverly Girard, at (941) 4862199.

To learn more about the School District of Collier County's initiative, please contact Dawn Houser at (239) 377-0280.

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 gmcavoy@ufl.edu

Up Coming Meetings

Southwest Florida

December 22, 2009

Pesticide License Training and Testing

**Core
Private**

**8:00 AM – Noon
1 PM – 5 PM**

Hendry County Extension Office
1085 Pratt Boulevard
LaBelle, Florida

Cost is \$20 – lunch provided.
Contact 863-674-4092 for more information or to register.

December 29, 2009

Spanish WPS Train the Trainer

8:00 AM – Noon

Hendry County Extension Office
1085 Pratt Boulevard
LaBelle, Florida

Cost is \$10.
Contact 863-674-4092 for more information or to register.

Other Meetings

January 19-22, 2010 NAVIGATING THE CANADIAN MARKETPLACE - Town Hall Meetings

Doing business in Canada? Interested in the opportunity?

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Opportunities

Commercial Development Representatives - Valent USA is seeking a two Commercial Development Reps (West Coast & East Coast) to work on biorational products.

Valent USA is seeking two hands-on leaders to spearhead a greater emphasis on biorational products. This individual will serve as a critical liaison between university extension agriculture experts, Valent's agriculture product distributors, and Valent customers in the field and distributors' locations. This includes coordinating internal staff and resources with external partners and customers. This person will be essential in providing guidance to sales representatives. As an individual contributor, it is critical that this person be a self-starter.

The following responsibilities will fall under his/her control:

- Initiate, direct and execute scientific research and/or development strategies for biorational products through research staff or individual studies.
- Investigate the feasibility of applying a wide variety of scientific principles and concepts to potential opportunities, products or problems.
- Plan and execute field research for biorational products.
- Manage the technical development of the sales group and interface with various departments.

The CDR must possess an in-depth understanding of the biological pesticides and develop a proficiency to explain the biorational product line and train Sales colleagues in their use. Since he/she will regularly interact

with the Field Market Developers (FMDs), it is of utmost importance to foster an effective working relationship with them. A key ingredient for success in this role is the ability to work with others and demonstrate strong personal skills with people throughout the agriculture industry.

The selected individual will travel up to 40%. The West coast position will be based in the candidate's home office, ideally in Central California, the Fresno area and/or Washington State. The East Coast position will be located in the State of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New York or Pennsylvania. There may be a significant amount of car travel as well.

The ideal candidate will have:

- A B.S. degree in an agricultural or biological science such as plant physiology or agricultural science. An advanced degree such as an M.S., Ph.D. or MBA in business agriculture, entomology, plant physiology, agriculture sciences, plant science, horticulture or a biological science a plus.
- A minimum of five years relevant industry experience, preferably with ten or more years experience in field development.
- Extensive knowledge of agricultural practices and work experience with Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) is preferred, and Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) experience is ideal.
- A record of successful product development and commercialization.

In addition to a salary, this position is eligible for a significant annual cash bonus, which is tied to sales and job performance goals.

Contact Joanne Yawitz, President, Bay View Resource Group, on a proprietary and confidential basis.

Telephone: 415-441-351 E-mail: jyawitzbvr@gmail.com
Website: www.bayviewresourcegroup.com

Research Associate in Phytopathology

Join the winning team at Harris Moran Seed Company, a global leader in vegetable seed; as part of the world's largest independently owned seed company, we offer exciting careers full of challenge, diversity, and growth. The Assistant Plant Pathologist will design, implement and manage, in a team environment, the plant pathology program based in Immokalee, FL. The Florida research station houses a fresh market tomato and a sweet pepper breeding programs, and it is used by other programs including corn, melon, watermelon, squash and bean for trials in hot and humid environment.

Main responsibilities:

- Implement plant pathology tests for diseases that are considered industry standard.
- Put in place new tests with the support of the Business Unit research pathology team.
- Manage the daily activities of the pathology laboratory, growth chamber and greenhouses.
- Establish and maintain a pathogen collection.

Other responsibilities:

- Support breeding, sale and product development in identifying diseases in field samples in coordination with other Business Unit laboratories.
- Supervise the phytosanitary conditions of plants grown at the Immokalee FL station field and greenhouses.

Qualifications:

- M.S. in Plant Pathology or closely related field with 2+ years of relevant experience or B.S. with relevant experience of at least 10 years

- Experience with plant pathology, microbiology and molecular biology is required
- Spanish language skills desirable

Please send application and resume to:

Harris Moran

PO Box 4938

Modesto CA 95352

USA

or by e-mail to: hr@harrismoran.com

Farm Land for Lease

Farm Land for lease in LaBelle area – contact Clyde Lavender at 863-673-2338

Websites

A Look Back In History – sometimes it helps to put things into perspective to take a look at the way things were back when ... Go to <http://www.openmyeyeslord.net/ALookBackInHistory.htm>

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Quotable Quotes

None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm. - Henry David Thoreau

Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm. - Winston Churchill

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. - Calvin Coolidge

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. - Agnes M. Pharo

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. - Charles Dana: editorial in the New York Sun, 1897, responding to a letter from 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon

On the Lighter Side

Gratitude

There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read

Dear God,

I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension.

Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had "\$100" in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment.

Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. Can you please help me?

Sincerely, Edna

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars.

By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter came from the same old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read:

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me?

Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift.

By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it might have been those bastards at the post office.

Sincerely, Edna

The Spirit of Christmas

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold. Bobby had been in the backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. He shook his head as he thought, "This is useless, even if I do come up with an idea. I don't have any money to spend."

Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far.

What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity. Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the household in their mother's absence. All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother.

Somehow, it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already, and he had nothing.

Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to.

Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and out of reach.

It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime.

Never before has anyone felt so wealthy as Bobby felt at that moment.

As he held his new found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw.

His excitement quickly turned cold when the salesperson told him that he couldn't buy anything with only a dime. He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his Mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cent offering.

Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you."

As Bobby waited he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls like flowers.

The sound of the door closing as the last customer left, jolted Bobby back to reality. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid.

Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow.

Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box.

"That will be ten cents young man," the shop owner said reaching out his hand for the dime.

Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime. Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime!

Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?"

This time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas, son."

As he returned inside, the shop keeper's wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?"

Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway.

Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime. "When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too, was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars.

"When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses." The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.

May this story instill the spirit of CHRISTMAS in you and all the best for a Joyous and Peace-filled Season.

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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