



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Hendry County Extension

PO Box 68 LaBelle, Florida 33975-0068

Phone (863) 674-4092

# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

January 21, 2011

**Vegetable growers and crops are still struggling to recover from the coldest December on record with multiple frosts and freezes to show for it.** Across the Sunshine State, the cold has blown away benchmark cold Decembers of 1915, 1935, 1963 and 1989.

**Despite a some nice showers over the past few weeks most of South Florida remains in the grip of a severe drought including interior areas of Collier, Broward, northwest Miami Dade counties as well as the areas around Lake Okeechobee and the metro areas of Palm Beach County.** The rest of south Florida including the metro areas of Broward, Miami Dade, and Collier counties are under a moderate drought status. Most of the wells across South Florida are now running at the lowest 10 percent of normal levels except for the wells across metro areas of Miami Dade where they fell to less the 10 to 30 percent of normal levels.

## FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	29.23	79.54	2.73	78	0.05
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	40.83	83.07	1.44	82	0.06
<b>Clewiston</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	33.79	83.53	2.15	81	0.06
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	41.82	83.71	0.46	77	0.06
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	34.35	84.34	1.27	79	0.06
<b>Homestead</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	42.87	83.88	3.20	83	0.06
<b>Immokalee</b>					
1/1 – 1/20/11	30.33	85.19	0.96	81	0.06

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity – Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational, information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.  
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

**The level of Lake Okeechobee was around 12.4 feet as of January 13, which is about 2.3 feet below normal for this time of the year.** The level of Fisheating Creek was around 1.4 feet, which is around 30 percent of normal for this time of year.

**Harvesting of many vegetables has been curtailed due to sustained cold weather.** Light supplies of snap beans, cabbage, celery, bell peppers, radishes, tomatoes, and strawberries were marketed.

**Loss estimates from last months freezing weather continues to rise.** Estimates indicate losses of around 230 million in SW Florida and some 54 million in Miami Dade County. Some freezing temperatures were reported in colder parts of interior South Florida January 13<sup>th</sup> but little additional crop damage was reported.

**The Governor has forwarded a request for disaster declaration to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.**

**The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates a cold front will move across the local area by Saturday afternoon with a drier and much colder air mass rapidly spreading south behind it.** Although everything indicates this to be a short cold weather event, by Sunday morning we could see temps ranging from the low/mid 30s across Glades county to around 40 west coast and mid 40s east coast. Temperatures could even go to freezing or just below freezing especially in normally colder areas west of Lake Okeechobee.

**Dry conditions should then remain over the local area Monday, through Tuesday as a high pressure ridge builds over the area blocking any system from approaching South Florida.** Models then show a vigorous short wave cascading south from Canada to the lower Mississippi Valley by Tuesday resulting in a rapidly developing storm system over eastern Gulf and North Florida with associated cold front moving through the local area late Tuesday night/early Wednesday. Further out some models indicate more Arctic air could affect the region towards the end of the month bringing the possibility of freezing temperatures once again.

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

## **Insects**

### **Aphids**

**Aphids remain the major insect pest in most areas although populations of other insects are starting to rebound.**

**Growers and scouts in the Glades and other areas are reporting finding lots of aphids on radishes and leafy greens where they are causing some problems.** These are a mixed bag of cabbage aphids and green peach aphids.

**In the Palm Beach area, aphids are present in low to moderate numbers in cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes, with some isolated colonies being reported.**

**Respondents in the Homestead area report that mostly low populations of aphids are present on a wide variety of crops including beans, eggplant, peppers, squash, sweet corn and tomatoes.**

**Around Southwest Florida, aphids are moving around and becoming established in several fields and multiple crops.** Colonies are building on lower foliage, especially in older fields where the upper foliage was burned by the cold.

**In Hillsborough County, aphid numbers are on the rise in strawberries.**

**The cabbage aphid, *Brevicoryne brassicae* (L.), and the green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer), are found on cole crops worldwide.** The cabbage aphid feeds only on plants in the cabbage family while the green peach aphid feeds on over 300 species of plants.

**Cabbage aphids are green gray with a white, waxy coating.** They commonly occur in dense colonies, often covered with waxy droplets. They prefer to feed on the youngest leaves and flowering parts and are often found deep within the heads of cabbages or Brussels sprouts. The aphid has a simple life cycle with adult females giving birth to live offspring throughout the year. Both winged and wingless adults occur; the winged adults have a black thorax and lack the waxy coating. The aphid does not infest non-cruciferous crops but can survive on weedy crucifers when cole crops are not in the field.

**Green peach aphids are yellowish-green, without a waxy coating, and have long cornicles.**

**Feeding damage from large numbers of aphids can kill seedlings and young transplants.** On larger plants, feeding damage results in curling and yellowing leaves, stunted growth, and deformed heads.

**Contamination by dead aphids in the head or wrapper leaves can also be a problem.** Dead aphids do not wash off easily and will cause a head to be unsuitable for fresh market sales.

**A number of wasp parasites attack aphids.** Eggs are deposited into half-grown nymphs. Wasp larvae develop inside the aphid and emerge from the aphid mummy (light brown harden shell of the host aphid) by cutting an exit hole in the mummy. Unfortunately these are not always effective in controlling aphid populations. When wasp populations are large enough to be effective, the aphid population has usually exceeded damage thresholds.

**Small colonies of aphids can be effectively controlled by predators such as ladybird beetles, syrphid fly larvae, and lacewing larvae.** During wet/or humid weather, fungal epidemics can help control aphid populations.

**For the most effective control, time applications of insecticides early in infestation so as not to kill beneficials.** Time the application of insecticidal soaps when the maximum numbers of wasps are still in the aphid mummies.

**Insecticide applications specifically for aphids are usually only needed when high populations (> 50/plant) are present on very young seedlings/transplants, or near harvest-as a contaminant/marketability concern.** Early to mid-season treatment decision for aphids should be decided upon the abundance of beneficial insects, plant growth stage and weather conditions.

**Conventional insecticides applied for the Lepidopteran pest complex will also usually suppress aphid populations.** Excessive use of multiple pyrethroid or carbamate (e.g., Sevin) treatments will often lead to aphid outbreaks by impacting beneficial populations.

**When Bt products are used to control diamondback moth and imported cabbageworm, the beneficial insect complex is maintained and usually helps keep aphid populations in check.**

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

**Resistance to some insecticides has been reported in some aphid populations.** Rotating pesticide materials may effectively help slow the development of resistance. Several aphid control materials are quite toxic; use the least toxic material that is effective on your aphid populations.

**Fields should be scouted at least twice a week.** Sample upwind field borders and edges next to other crucifers first; this is where aphids tend to appear first. Take field samples in a zigzag pattern. Remember to check all quadrants of the field because aphid populations are often clumped.

### **Leafminers**

**Around Homestead respondents are reporting high leafminer pressure in squash and beans with lower numbers present in eggplant, pepper and tomato.**

**Leaf miners are active around Palm Beach County, attacking peppers, eggplants, tomatoes, and lettuce.**

**Around Southwest Florida, leafminers pressure is increasing and is high in some places in young spring plantings and growers are treating younger tomato and watermelon fields.**

**Coragen has been very effective in controlling leafminers and worms on various crops.** Dak Seal, Entomologist at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead reports that Coragen used as a bean seed treatment provides season long control of leafminers.

### **Worms**

**Respondents in Southwest Florida report finding a few beet and southern armyworms along with an occasional looper.**

**Growers and scouts in the Glades are reporting some very low populations of fall army worm and some scattered beet army worm in sweet corn.**

**In Palm Beach County, reports indicate that diamondback moths are quite active on Chinese vegetables, lettuce, and other leafy greens.**

**Around Homestead, respondents are reporting moderate pressure from fall armyworm in sweet corn and low levels of beet and fall armyworm on pepper. Low numbers of melonworms are present in squash.**

**Dak Seal, Entomologist at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead reminds growers that *Bacillus thuringiensis* based insecticides (Dipel, Xentari) are excellent in controlling worms at early stage and encourages growers to use Bt in their rotation.**

### **Whiteflies**

**Respondents around SW Florida are reporting variable whitefly populations, with most areas low but there are some older plantings with higher numbers and nymphs are present.**

**Growers and scouts in Homestead are seeing mostly low numbers of whiteflies on squash, beans, eggplant and tomato**

## **Stinkbug**

**Around Palm Beach County, growers are reporting major problems with stink bugs in shadehouses where they are particularly bad on fruiting vegetables, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cukes, and squash. Nearby open field grown crops do not have much of a problem.**

**Around Southwest Florida, growers are reporting some issues with stinkbugs, which are increasing in number in the older damaged vines.**

## **Broad Mites**

**Growers and scouts across South Florida are reporting continuing battles with low levels of broad mites in a variety of crops including eggplant, pepper. Reports from Homestead also report some issues in squash and beans.**

## **Pepper Weevil**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach and around Southwest Florida report while pepper weevils numbers are down following the freezes they are not gone and remain present in low numbers in a number of locations.**

## **Spider mites**

**Reports indicate that a few spider mites are being seen around Southwest Florida.**

**In Hillsborough County, mites are on the rise in strawberries especially where growers have not employed bio-control measures.**

## **Thrips**

**In the Homestead area, melon thrips are present in moderate numbers in squash, eggplant, beans and peppers. A few chili thrips have been reported in pepper.**

**Dak Seal reports that Spinetoram (Radiant) is still working in Miami-Dade in controlling thrips; but cautions growers to avoid using it frequently. He notes that rotations of Requiem and Trilogy in combination with Spinetoram may help improve the level of control of thrips.**

**Growers and scouts around Palm Beach County are reporting mostly low levels of western flower thrips in pepper.**

**Around Plant City strawberry producers were reporting some problems with thrips but these appear to be declining in recent days.**

## **Cucumber beetle**

**Growers and scouts indicate that cucumber beetles are still active a few locations around South Florida.**

## **Diseases**

### **Downy Mildew on Lettuce**

**Dr Rick Raid, Pathologist at EREC advises that he has observed the first lettuce downy mildew of the season yesterday in a small planting OUTSIDE of the EAA.**

**He notes that this confirms that weather conditions (cool with long dew periods) have been favorable for disease development.**

**He advises everyone growing lettuce to be on a PREVENTATIVE program.** The phosphites are good tools but should be used in a program with maneb and other compounds that are more efficacious against downy mildew.

**The list of fungicides currently labeled for lettuce downy mildew control includes maneb, fosetylAl, metalaxyl, and several copper compounds along with several newer compounds such as Actinovate, Presidio, Previcur Flex, Reason, Revus, and Tanos, that have been added to growers control options.**

**Resistance in *B. lactucae* to the fungicide metalaxyl was reported in Florida during 1989, and therefore its efficacy may be somewhat reduced.** Due to downy mildew demonstrated ability to develop resistance, growers are advised to rotate chemistries to avoid problems - FRAC numbers on labels will help avoid using similar active ingredients repeatedly.

**Downy mildew is a serious foliar disease of lettuce which has a direct effect on yield and quality, as it affects the marketable portion of the crop.** In addition to losses in the field, downy mildew's impact is accompanied by significant postharvest losses. In Florida, yield losses of up to 100 percent have been reported for individual fields.

**Lettuce downy mildew is caused by the fungus *Bremia lactucae* which is the class of fungi known as the Oomycetes.** Downy mildew is capable of infecting any growth stage from seedling to mature plant. Head, leaf, and cos lettuce are all susceptible.

**Symptoms of downy mildew appear initially as chlorotic yellow spots on the upper leaf surface.** Under favorable conditions, a white cottony-like fungal growth indicative of sporulation may be seen on the lower leaf surface.

**During the early stages, leaf spots are often delineated by the veins of the leaf, giving an angular appearance.** Lesions become increasingly chlorotic and eventually turn brown. Although downy mildew is most severe on the older outer leaves, the disease may become systemic over time, infecting heads internally. Lesions may also provide entry for secondary fungi such as Botrytis.

**Downy mildew is spread by spores called conidia or sporangia.** These may be rain-splashed or windblown to uninfected tissue, inciting new infections. Although rain-splash dissemination normally ranges from several inches to several feet, sporangia may be windblown tens to hundreds of miles and still maintain their infectivity.

**Many thousands of sporangia can be formed in each lesion under favorable conditions, allowing downy mildew to spread rapidly over large areas.** Sporulation and infection are favored by relatively cool temperatures and humid conditions. For this reason, epidemics in Florida usually occur during the period of December to March. Five to 7 hours of high humidity or leaf wetness are required for successful infection and sporulation.

**Cultivar resistance when available is the most economically feasible form of downy mildew control.** In the event of a regional outbreak, susceptible cultivars should be protected with fungicides to avoid major losses.

**The list of fungicides currently labeled for lettuce downy mildew control includes maneb, fosetyl Al, metalaxyl, and several copper compounds.** Recently some newer compounds including Presidio, Previcur

Flex, Reason, Revus, and Tanos have been added to growers control options. Resistance in *B. lactucae* to the fungicide metalaxyl has been reported in Florida and its efficacy may be reduced.

**Applications must be made prior to infection if adequate control is to be maintained.** If downy mildew is known to be present in the area, growers should launch a fungicide program immediately.

**Several cultural practices, such as the establishment of a lettuce-free period, crop rotation, and the destruction of possible weed hosts, are also recommended control measures.**

**Given the current susceptibility of Florida cultivars, downy mildew is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to maintain at non-economic levels once a major outbreak has occurred.** For this reason, prevention and early detection are of the utmost importance.

### **Sclerotinia**

**Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report finding low levels of sclerotinia in pepper.**

Unfortunately, growers do not have many control options at this point. Only Actinovate, Contans, and Soilgard are specifically labeled for the control of Sclerotinia in pepper. Contans and Soilgard are soil applied and are typically applied preventatively preplant or at planting. Growers may also get some benefit from other fungicides when applied preventively for the control of anthracnose and frog-eye leaf spot.

### **Bacterial leaf spot**

**Around Southwest Florida, bacterial spot remains active moving up tomato plants into the upper foliage.**

**Respondents in the Homestead area are reporting some increase in bacterial spot pressure in tomato.**

**Some scattered problems with bacterial spot have been reported in pepper around Palm Beach County.**

### **Target Spot**

**Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that target spot is increasing with damage to the fruit in older plants being harvested and some respondents have noted fruit damage in crown fruit of fields reaching maturity.**

### **Alternaria**

**Respondents from around Immokalee report some new early blight in tomato and potato with much of it starting on old cold injured leaves.**

**Alternaria leaf spot has also been an ongoing problem in greenhouse tomatoes due to cold conditions and closed-up humid greenhouses.**

### **Angular Leafspot**

**Respondents in Hillsborough County report that strawberry growers are battling the worst angular leafspot of the season following all the watering, rain, and fog of recent weeks.**

**Growers and scouts in Homestead are also reporting pretty heavy angular leaf spot pressure on strawberry.**

## **Botrytis**

Growers and scouts were reporting an increase in the incidence of botrytis with the disease jumping on dead foliage, blooms, and cold damaged small fruit but note that incidence has subsided.

## **Phytophthora**

Growers and scouts are reporting finding some wilted/dead pepper plants with Phytophthora symptoms in areas where water tables have been brought up or drip irrigation run excessively for freeze protection.

Around Southwest Florida, phytophthora is also causing some problems in cucurbits.

## **TYLCV**

Growers around Southwest Florida continue to report mostly low levels of TYLCV although at least one hotspot has been reported where incidence was 75% at first tie.

Low levels of TYLCV are also being reported around Dade County.

## **Groundnut ringspot virus**

Groundnut ringspot virus continues to be identified from locations around South Florida but overall incidence is low and occurrence remains sporadic with few new infections being identified. Around Palm Beach County, GRSV which was present on tomatoes earlier in the season has now have been found on peppers in nearby fields, occurrence remains low.

## **Fusarium**

Around Southwest Florida, some Fusarium crown rot starting to show in older tomatoes but overall levels are very low.

## **Powdery Mildew**

Powdery mildew is present in some squash around South Florida.

## **Downy Mildew**

Basil growers in all areas continue battle downy mildew.

Downy mildew is also present on squash in Homestead and in some fields around Immokalee.

## **Pythium**

Around Southwest Florida, young watermelons are showing pythium problems in wetter areas.

## **News You Can Use**

### **Coldest December on Record for South Florida.**

With the exception of New England, the eastern half of the nation has been much colder than average for December. The greatest departures from normal lie over the Southeast.

Much of Florida is a shoo-in for the coldest December on record with multiple frosts and freezes to show for it. In the Sunshine State, the cold has blown away benchmark cold Decembers of 1915, 1935, 1963 and 1989.

In Naples, the period from December 1 - 29, 2010, averaged 56.9 degrees blowing away the old record of 61.9 degrees set in 1989.

In the vacation hot spot, Orlando, shivering visitors were witness to an average temperature of 51.4 degrees, which broke the 55.3-degree benchmark set in 1989.

Other Florida cities on the verge of setting their coldest December on record include Miami with 60.9 degrees rivaling that of 62.0 degrees set in 1963, Tampa with 52.4 degrees outpacing that of 54.5 degrees set in 1915 and Fort Myers with 56.1 degrees stomping the previous record of 58.4 degrees set in 1935.

After being hit by multiple cold waves and freezes during December and the first part of January, the weather pattern for the next few weeks may spare much of the Sunshine State from winter's worst.

The upcoming weather pattern into the first half of February will favor increasing cold in the Midwest and East. To some extent, this cold will ooze into the South. However, rather than getting these big, cold high pressure systems building over the Deep South like we had during the first part of the winter, the core of the cold is forecast to be less penetrating across Florida.

Long Range Weather Pattern and Expert Meteorologist Paul Pastelok feels that northern Florida will continue to have below-normal temperatures during the next month or so, but that anomaly will diminish farther south across the state.

"Vacation hot spots around Orlando could still have some chilly mornings," Pastelok added.

People and agricultural interests in northern Florida should expect additional freezes, but the likelihood of these events will diminish farther south.

South Florida should not experience anywhere near the magnitude of cold of December and early January.

AccuWeather Online Jan 20, 2011

### **EPA Has New Virtual Toolbox for Soil Fumigation**

EPA has created a new virtual toolbox for information on soil fumigation, which is available at: [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/soil\\_fumigants/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/soil_fumigants/). The soil fumigants toolbox now provides easy access to a variety of soil fumigant training, outreach, and other resource materials for applicators and handlers, communities, state and local agencies, and others interested in understanding and implementing the current requirements for safe use of soil fumigants. Key features of the toolbox include safety brochures for handlers of soil fumigants, training modules on the new soil fumigant requirements, templates for soil fumigant management plans, and updated fact sheets on the soil fumigant mitigation measures and implementation schedule. New materials will be added to the toolbox as they become available during 2011. (EPA OPP Update, 12/15/10).

### **Dr Kelly T. Morgan Receives UF/IFAS International Achievement Award**

Dr. Kelly Morgan Associate Professor, Soil and Water Science, based at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee, has received a UF/IFAS International Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to research and extension efforts at the University of Florida by devoting a portion of his program to international activities. Most of Dr. Morgan's activities have been in Costa Rica but also include work in, or with people from Honduras, South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, India, Egypt, China, Australia and Georgia.

A highlight of Dr. Morgan's international efforts has been chairing the organizing committees for two international biofuel crop production conferences at EARTH University in Costa Rica (2008) and Zamorano University in Honduras (2010), as well as a third conference to be held in Florida (2011).

Additional activities that contribute to research and extension in both Florida and Costa Rica include sugarcane nutrient and water use, and environment fate projects in cooperation with EARTH University. These projects are being expanded through development of proposals to integrate research, education and extension on biofuel crop production with EARTH and Zamorano Universities.

Educational programs have been provided in Costa Rica, Honduras and China in addition to scientific presentations at international conferences in the U.S., China and Australia. Nutrient and water use information developed in Costa Rica and South Africa have been extended to sugarcane and citrus producers in Florida.

### **USDA Announces Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers who suffer Losses Due to Natural Disasters**

2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program Application Period begins on January 10, 2011

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program begins on Jan. 10, 2011. SURE is one of five disaster programs included in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters.

"This program provides a tremendous amount of assistance to producers who have suffered from natural disasters, and is part of the 'safety net' designed to assist farmers and ranchers who feed America and the world," Vilsack said. "USDA encourages producers who suffered losses during the 2009 crop year to visit their local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program."

To be eligible for SURE a farm must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>

Note: crops have different established final planting dates so the case on tomatoes may not be the same for another crop....

The final planting date established by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for crop year 2009 for fresh market tomatoes is 9/15/2009. So a planting made in 10/09 would actually be considered a 2010 crop and SURE wouldn't be available until 2011. – GM

## **New Data Supports Fewer Pesticide Incidents in Agriculture**

Several states in the nation track pesticide issues to a larger extent than others. Consequently, data from those states are useful to model trends occurring nationwide. In California, San Joaquin County pesticide illness reports fell sharply in 2008, to 22 incidents investigated from 58 such reports in 2007. It was the lowest figure since 2000. County Agricultural Commissioner Scott Hudson, who is in charge of pesticide use and regulation, said the latest figures reflect a long-term trend of declining pesticide illnesses. “The greater awareness of pesticide safety, both with growers and with their employees, is beginning to pay off.” Statewide, 1,275 cases were investigated in 2008, a 14 percent drop from the previous year. Department scientists reported that pesticide exposure was possibly, likely or probably involved in 895, or 70 percent, of the cases. Of those, 311, or nearly one-quarter of all investigated incidents, were attributed to pesticides used in agriculture.

San Joaquin County’s \$2 billion-a-year agricultural industry, which employs 25,000 workers or more in peak summer months, has a number of training and education programs aimed at improving pesticide application safety. Farmers are also turning to less-toxic pesticides and using alternatives, such as cultural practices, beneficial insects and natural predators, to reduce pests without pesticides. Phil Brumley, president of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau, said among the changes he’s seen is that farmers are applying pesticides only when they’re needed. In previous years, farmers would apply pesticides by the calendar, using them on crops whether pests were present or not. Now, Brumley said, farmers regularly monitor their crops for the presence of pests and apply chemicals only when they’re needed. “If you can reduce the number of applications by even one or two per year, that’s that much less exposure for the people who work in the orchard and the neighbors,” he said.

Oregon is also reporting that most recent pesticide poisoning reports are non-ag related. An Oregon Public Health study released at the end of 2010 analyzed 1,038 suspected pesticide poisonings from 2002 to 2007. Likely connections between reported symptoms and pesticide exposure were found in 689 of those cases and one exposure resulted in death. Study subjects had been exposed to insecticide, herbicide, algacide, disinfectant, insect repellent, fungicide, rodenticide or a fumigant. Among the findings were that more than two-thirds of reported harmful exposures happened in the home. Pesticides applied to buildings or houses to rid them of such things as weeds, bacteria, rodents, birds or deer accounted for 22 percent of pesticide incidents harmful to humans. Most workplace pesticide poisonings didn’t affect those applying pesticides or handling application equipment, but bystanders. For example, a 2005 incident involved a single pesticide application that sickened five emergency workers. UF/IFAS Chemically Speaking 1/2011

## **The Value of Pesticides**

A Cranfield University (UK) study found that without the deployment of pesticides to control weeds, pests and diseases, crop yields would fall to half their current levels and food prices would rise by 40 percent (£12 billion) in the UK. The higher prices associated with crop productivity losses represent the net value of plant protection products.

In addition, the report says that the supply of raw materials from UK farmers to the domestic food processing and manufacturing industry would fall, leading to increased imports at higher prices at an additional cost of £40 billion to the UK food processing and manufacturing industry - approximately twice the existing costs of raw material procurement. UF/IFAS Chemically Speaking 1/2011

## **Pesticide Potpourri**

Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the miticide acequinocyl (Kanemite®). Tolerances of importance to Florida and the region include edible-podded beans, fruiting vegetables (group 8) and okra. (Federal Register, 11/17/10).

Based on a request by Bayer CropScience, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide spiroxamine and its metabolites and degradates on fruiting vegetables (group 8). There is no current U.S. registration of this active ingredient as of 12/1/10. (Federal Register, 12/1/10).

## 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](mailto:gmconvoy@ufl.edu)

## Up Coming Meetings

### Hillsborough County

<b>February 11, 2011</b>	<b>Strawberry Field Day</b> Gulf Coast Research and Education Center Wimauma, Florida	11:30AM-4:30 PM
--------------------------	---	-----------------

Register for free at <http://2011strawberryfieldday.eventbrite.com/>

<b>February 8-10, 2011</b>	<b>North American Strawberry Growers Association 2011 Berry Conference</b>  Double Tree Hotel Tampa, Florida	
----------------------------	---	--

Info at <http://www.nasga.org/>

### Southwest Florida

February 9, 2011	Pesticide Applicators Core Exam Class and Test.	7:45 AM – 12 Noon
February 9, 2011	Private Agricultural Pest Control Class and Test	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
February 10, 2011	Ag Row Crop Category Class and Test	8:00 AM – 12 Noon

February 10, 2011	Aquatic Weed Control Class and Test	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
February 11, 2011	Tree Crop Category Class and Test	8:00 AM – 12 Noon
February 11, 2011	Right of Way Category Class and Test	8:00 AM – 12 Noon
February 11, 2011	Natural Areas Category Class and Test	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Programs will be held at the Dallas B. Townsend Agricultural Center, 1085 Pratt Boulevard, LaBelle, Florida. Exams will be administered after each class. A Registration Fee of \$10.00 per session will be charged to all participants.

**February 18 - 19, 2011**      **South Florida Ag Expo and Weeks Heavy Equipment Sugarland Auction**  
Clewiston, Florida.

For more information, go to <http://southfloridaagexpo.com/>

## **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

15 acres along Highway 17 available for rent or lease. Please contact Lora Allison at 941-920-5728 (cell) or email at [medsolla@verizon.net](mailto:medsolla@verizon.net)

### **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  
United Phosphorus, Inc.  
1480 Woodpond Roundabout  
Carmel, Indiana 46033  
317.815.9120 or e-Mail: [phil.robinson@uniphos.com](mailto:phil.robinson@uniphos.com)

## Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete a brief survey and let me know what you think about the South Florida Vegetable List Serve - SFLVEG-L and how I might improve it?

Please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9DCLLSV> to take the survey - only 10 questions.

Thanks for your assistance with this.

## Websites

**Oldies but Goldies** – this nostalgic website provides a virtual jukebox of hits from the 50's – check it out at <http://carolynspreciousmemories.com/50s/sitemap.html>

**Virtual Weather Map** - Just move your cursor around the map and see the current temperatures and weather conditions in cities around the country! Go to <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/zoa/mwmap3.php?map=usa>

## Quotable Quotes

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you know, the more places you'll go. - Dr. Seuss

If things start happening, don't worry, don't stew, just go right along and you'll start happening too. - Dr. Seuss

How did it get so late so soon? - Dr. Seuss

A man who dares to waste one hour of life has not discovered the value of life. - Charles Darwin

## On the Lighter Side

### Some Details Are Best Left Out Until You Are Asked For Them!!

Employee: Excuse me sir, may I talk to you?

Boss: Sure, come on in. What can I do for you?

Employee: Well sir, as you know, I have been an employee of this prestigious firm for over ten years.

Boss: Yes.

Employee: I won't beat around the bush. Sir, I would like a raise. I currently have four companies after me and so I decided to talk to you first.

Boss: A raise? I would love to give you a raise, but this is just not the right time.

Employee: I understand your position, and I know that the current economic down turn has had a negative

impact on sales, but you must also take into consideration my hard work, pro-activeness and loyalty to this company for over a decade.

Boss: Taking into account these factors, and considering I don't want to start a brain drain, I'm willing to offer you a ten percent raise and an extra five days of vacation time. How does that sound?

Employee: Great! It's a deal! Thank you, sir!

Boss: Before you go, just out of curiosity, what companies were after you?

Employee: Oh, the Electric Company, Gas Company, Water Company and the Mortgage Company!

### **Weird Year??**

We will experience four unusual dates this year: 1-1-11, 1-11-11, 11-1-11, and 11-11-11.

Now check this out. Add the last 2 digits of the year you were born to the age you will be this year and it will equal 111. Did it work? Weird huh?

**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.**

**Contributors** include: Joel Allingham/AgriCare, Inc, Jeff Bechtel/Syngenta Flowers, Bruce Corbitt/West Coast Tomato Growers, Fred Heald/Farmers Supply, Sarah Hornsby/AgCropCon, Cecil Howell/H & R Farms, Loren Horsman/Glades Crop Care, Bruce Johnson/General Crop Management, Barry Kostyk/SWFREC, Dr. Mary Lamberts/Miami-Dade County Extension, Leon Lucas/Glades Crop Care, Mark Mossler/UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Gene McAvoy/Hendry County Extension, Alice McGhee/Thomas Produce, Dr. Gregg Nuessly/EREC Chuck Obern/C&B Farm, Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton/SWFREC, Dr. Ken Pernezny/EREC, Dr. Rick Raid/EREC, Dr Ron Rice/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr Pam Roberts/SWFREC, Dr. Nancy Roe/Farming Systems Research, Wes Roan/6 L's, Dr. Dak Seal/TREC, Kevin Seitzinger/Gargiulo, Ken Shuler/Stephen's Produce, Crystal Snodgrass/Manatee County Extension, John Stanford/Thomas Produce, Mike Stanford/MED Farms, Dr. Phil Stansly/SWFREC, Dr David Sui/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr Gary Vallad/GCREC, Mark Verbeck/GulfCoast Ag, Alicia Whidden/Hillsborough County Extension, Dr Henry Yonce/KAC Ag Research and Dr. Shouan Zhang/TREC.

The **South Florida Pest and Disease Hotline** is compiled by **Gene McAvoy** and is issued on a biweekly basis by the **Hendry County Cooperative Extension Office** as a service to the vegetable industry.

Gene McAvoy  
County Extension Director / Extension Agent IV  
Regional Specialized Agent - Vegetables/Ornamental Horticulture

Hendry County Extension Office  
PO Box 68  
LaBelle, Florida 33975  
Web: <http://hendry.ifas.ufl.edu/>

863-674-4092 phone  
863-673-5939 mobile - Nextel 159\*114449\*  
863-674-4637 fax  
[GMcAvoy@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:GMcAvoy@ifas.ufl.edu)

Special Thanks to the **generous support** of our **sponsors**; who make this publication possible.

***Thomas Produce Company***

Of South Florida  
Grower and Shippers of Quality Vegetables  
9905 Clint Moore Road  
Boca Raton, Florida 33496

Shawn Barley

***Wedgworth's Inc***  
**Big W Brand Fertilizer**  
(863) 441-9255 cell

Carol Howard

***Mobley Plant World***

1351 W Cowboy Way  
LaBelle, Florida 33935  
Phone 863-675 -2020

Fred Heald

***Farmers Supply Inc***  
710 Broward Street  
Immokalee, FL 34142  
Phone 239-657-8254 Fax 239-657-2005

***Gargiulo***

Growers Shippers Importers Exporters  
David Pensabene: Production Manager  
Naples Operations  
Phone 239-353-0300 Fax 239-353-3407

Mark Myers

***Agriliance/ProSource One***  
Immokalee, Florida  
Phone 239-657-8374 Mobile 239-253-6631  
E-mail: [memyers@agriliance.com](mailto:memyers@agriliance.com)

Dr. Nancy Roe

***Farming Systems Research***

5609 Lakeview Mews Drive  
Boynton Beach, Florida 33437  
Phone 561-638-2755

Ed Early

***Dupont Agricultural Products***  
5100 South Cleveland Avenue  
Fort Myers, Florida 33907  
Phone 239-332-1467 Mobile 239-994-8594

***Glades Crop Care, Inc.***

**Leaders in Crop Health  
Management**

Charlie Mellinger, Ph.D.  
Phone 561-746-3740 Fax 561-746-3775

Stacey Howell

***Bayer CropScience***  
3481 3rd Ave NW  
Naples, FL 34120  
Phone (239) 353-6491 Cell (239) 272-8575

Glen Kaufman

***Paramount Seeds, Inc.***

PO Box 1866  
Palm City, Florida 34991  
Phone 772-221-0653 Fax 772-221-0102

Bart Hoopingarner

***Gowan Company***  
3605 162nd Ave East  
Parrish, FL 34219  
Phone 941-776-1105 Cell 941-737-7444

Special Thanks to the **generous support** of our **sponsors**; who make this publication possible.

Cody Hoffman  
**Syngenta Crop Protection**  
PO Box 1940  
Fort Myers, FL 33902  
Cell 321- 436-2591

**OmniLytics - AgriPhage**  
Safe Natural Effective  
Vegetable Bacteria Control  
Dave Cole - 561-261-1545  
Tony Swensen - 801-808-2132

Jason Osborne  
**Marrone Bio Innovations**  
  
239-707-7168 cell  
[josborne@marronebio.com](mailto:josborne@marronebio.com)

Brent Beer  
**Beer Leveling &  
Land Development**  
Office 863-675-1663 863-673-3173 cell  
158\*17\*43857 Nextel

**Certis USA**  
*Bio-Pesticides for Crop Production*  
  
Joe Craig - 863-291-9203  
Chuck Goodowns - 352-538-4471

Scott Houk  
**Dow AgroSciences LLC**  
  
Phone 239-948-3999  
Email [sehok@dow.com](mailto:sehok@dow.com)

**FMC**  
**FMC Corporation APG**  
Ron Palumbo  
Cell 305-304- 7941  
Nextel Agnet 14772  
[Ronald.Palumbo@fmc.com](mailto:Ronald.Palumbo@fmc.com) [www.fmccrop.com](http://www.fmccrop.com)

Steve Mike Dave  
**Jamerson Farms**  
  
Growers, Packers and Shippers of  
Florida's Finest Vegetables  
Phone 239-229-5734 Fax 239-368-0969

Sarah Hornsby, CCA  
**Agricultural Crop Consulting, Inc**  
Scouting: Manatee, Hillsborough, Collier  
Office/Fax 941-776-1122  
Cell 941-713-6116  
Email: [AgCropCon@aol.com](mailto:AgCropCon@aol.com)

Donald Allen  
**AGLIME SALES INC**  
1375 Thornburg Road  
Babson Park, Florida 33827-9549  
Office 863-638-1481 Fax 863-638-2312  
Mobil 863-287-2925

**OxiDate®** BioSafe Systems LLC  
**TerraClean®** Luis Hansen  
305.793.9206  
**StorOx®** Sim NiFong  
863.441.1057  
[info@biosafesystems.com](mailto:info@biosafesystems.com)

**AgraQuest Inc**  
  
Mike Roberts  
Central Florida Regional Sales Manager  
(863) 956-1544 office (863) 207-7779 cell  
[mroberts@agraquest.com](mailto:mroberts@agraquest.com)

Special Thanks to the **generous support** of our **sponsors**; who make this publication possible.

Garry Gibson  
**BASF Corporation**  
1502 53rd Avenue  
Vero Beach, Florida 32966  
Office 772-778-4646 AGNET 21726  
w.garry.gibson@basf.com

**ORO AGRI**  
Pesticides and Spreader Oils  
OROCIT/ PREV-AM/WETCIT  
Jerry Dukes 941-524-1312  
UAP/Agrilience/Helena

**Valent USA**  
"Products That Work  
From People Who Care"  
Sarah Markle 863-673-8699

Jack Kilgore  
239-707-7677  
**Natural Industries Inc**  
[info@naturalindustries.com](mailto:info@naturalindustries.com)  
**Actinovate® AG**  
Biological Fungicide

Chuck Obern  
**C & B Farm**  
CR 835  
Clewiston, FL 33440  
Office 863-983-8269 Fax 863-983-8030  
Cell 239-250-0551

Scott Allison  
**Diamond R Fertilizer**  
PO Box 1898  
LaBelle, FL 33975  
(863) 675-3700  
[sagator@aol.com](mailto:sagator@aol.com)

Jay Hallaron  
**Chemtura Corporation**  
321-231-2277 cell 407-256-4667 cell  
[jay\\_hallaron@cromptoncorp.com](mailto:jay_hallaron@cromptoncorp.com)

Richard Roles  
**Roles Marketing International**  
Distributors of Agrigro and Super Cal  
10% Calcium  
[richard@rmiint.com](mailto:richard@rmiint.com) [www.rmiint.com](http://www.rmiint.com)  
Cell 561-644-3511

Dr. Henry Yonce  
**KAC Agricultural Research**  
Scouting, Consulting  
Research  
386-736-0098 work 386-527-1124 cell  
[HDYONCE@msn.com](mailto:HDYONCE@msn.com)

**Grower's Management, Inc**  
P.O. Box 130  
Belle Glade, FL 33430  
Phone: 561-996-6469  
[www.growersmanagement.com](http://www.growersmanagement.com)

**PUT YOUR NAME HERE**

**PUT YOUR NAME HERE**

**NOTE:** The acknowledgement of sponsorship in no way constitutes or reflects an official endorsement of these businesses or their products or services by either the University of Florida, IFAS, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, or the Hendry County Extension Office. Sponsors have no control over the content of this publication