



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

December 30, 2010

Three very strong cold fronts hammered South Florida this month with the first arriving on December 6<sup>th</sup> bringing the earliest freeze to hit South Florida in over 30 years. Two subsequent episodes of multiple nights of freezing temperatures blasted area crops causing hundreds of millions of dollars in crops loss and damages across the region. Crop loss and damage was reported in all areas. Temperatures for December 2010 averaged 8 to 10 degrees below normal. This put December 2010 on track for one of the coldest December's on record for South Florida, likely even the coldest at some locales.

Ground water tables are dropping quickly across the area and National Weather Service indicates that drought conditions are increasing around Lake Okeechobee.

### FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	22.86	78.37	0.48	72	0.04
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	25.55	79.99	0.55	75	0.04
<b>Clewiston</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	27.68	79.75	0.72	75	0.05
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	33.66	78.78	1.03	70	0.04
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	25.3	81.52	0.24	73	0.04
<b>Homestead</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	30.62	78.35	0.71	76	0.05
<b>Immokalee</b>					
12/6 – 12/30/10	24.76	80.83	1.08	74	0.04

Wishing you all the Very Best for a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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**Crops went from as many growers expressed “looking gorgeous” to looking “downright dead” to “pretty pitiful” depending on the location.** In addition to cold damage, high winds also took a toll on crops.

**The total extent of this month’s freezes and low temperatures on fruit and vegetable supplies is as yet undetermined.** Growers salvaged as much as they could in advance of the freezes. Cold weather slowed growth of vegetables that would normally be coming into season. Temporary suspension of trucking restrictions will continue until January 7<sup>th</sup> to mitigate crop loss. Some producers protected vegetables with freeze clothes. In Ruskin, remaining tomato crops in fields from the previous week were lost to the cold. Tomatoes in Naples, Homestead, and Immokalee sustained significant damage. In the south, growers reported damage to snap beans, sweet corn, squash, and tomatoes. Damage was more prominent in fields without adequate watering. Growers are also reporting problems with pepper bruising. Market movement consisted of snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, bell peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and strawberries.

**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 that in the short term through New Years’ Day, conditions will be a dry with temperatures climbing to slightly above normal early January averages.** In the extended period for the remainder of the holiday weekend into next week, the forecast will remain dry with temperatures at or slightly above normal. A cold front will move into North Florida late Sunday and sag south down the peninsula rapidly becoming diffuse as it does so. About the only effect, this front will have on South Florida will be to keep temperatures near climatological averages for early January.

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

## **Insects**

**In general, insect populations haven’t been very active with all the cold weather.**

### **Aphids**

**Following December’s extended bout of cold weather, aphids have emerged as the major insect pest.**

**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.

**Southwest Florida aphids are blowing around and respondents reports some increase in numbers on surviving crops.**

**In Hillsborough County, aphids are increasing 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, Provado, Assail and others including Beleaf, Movento and Fulfill will provide good control 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.

## Whiteflies

Cold weather pretty much suppressed whitefly populations across the region, although respondents around SW Florida still report finding a few whiteflies and nymphs on surviving tomatoes.

## Leafminers

Leafminers remain mostly low but are active in all areas on remaining crops. Growers should watch out for an increase in numbers and activity as weather warms.

## Worms

Growers and scouts in all areas report that are still finding a few worms but overall numbers are low.

## Spider mites

Very few reports of new two-spotted spider mites infestations from around the area and respondents indicate growers are catching up on mite control where they were present.

## Thrips

Cold weather has also suppressed thrips and numbers remain low where present.

## Cucumber beetle

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

## **Diseases**

The biggest disease issue out there is freeze blight.

## 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.

### **Botrytis**

**Growers and scouts report an increase in the incidence of botrytis with the disease really jumping on dead foliage, blooms, and cold damaged small fruit that is kicking off.**

***Botrytis* can cause a variety of problems including damping-off and blights of flowers, fruits, stems, and foliage.** Entry often occurs through damaged tissue. Stems can become infected through leaf scars, dead leaves, or other form of stem damage. Stem lesions appear as large elliptical, water-soaked lesions. These may partially girdle the stem, but sometimes the entire stem is affected and the plant is killed.

**Leaf lesions often start on senescent tissue or areas of physical or chemical damage and develop into wedge-shaped grayish-brown lesions.** Senescent flower parts that have fallen onto leaves are a common starting point for leaflet colonization. During cool moist weather, a gray fungal growth may be evident on infected tissue.

**Fruit are often infected at the stem end or shoulder where they contact other infected plant parts.** Young fruit can also become infected directly by airborne. Water-soaked spots appear with a light brown to tan central region. Decay progresses rapidly. A soft rot may develop with the fruit skin remaining intact, while the inner tissue becomes mushy and watery. Sclerotia may form in infected tissues.

**If there is a rapid weather change (not favorable to the fungus), fruit infections may abort.** White circular (halo) spots appear on the fruit and are called "ghost spots." These spots persist on green, breaker, and mature fruit.

**The fungus survives between crops as sclerotia or as mycelium in plant debris.** Other crops may also serve as sources of inoculum. Development is favored by cool, wet, humid weather. Airborne spores landing on tomato plants germinate and can produce an infection when free water from rain, dew, fog, or irrigation is present for prolonged periods.

**Some research indicates that disease development is favored by low calcium to phosphorus levels in the soil.** There is currently no fungicide specifically labeled for the control of gray mold although fungicides applied for the control of other diseases may provide some protection. There is no known resistance to *B. cinerea* in tomato cultivars.

### **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.**

**Injecting Presidio or Revus may help suppress these infections.**

### **Bacterial leaf spot**

**Reports from several areas indicate that bacterial spot is still active in some surviving tomato fields**

### **Target Spot**

**Growers and scouts are reporting some increase in target spot on cold ravaged plants.**

### **Alternaria**

**Respondents report that Alternaria is jumping on damaged fruit and foliage in some surviving fields.**

### **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.** One grower

joked that it is difficult to identify the GRSV-infected plants that need to be rogued because some of the stunting, purpling, and necrotic spots look similar to cold damage.

## **TYLCV**

**Growers and scouts report that TYLCV remains low in older fields but note there are a few isolated hotspots where increases in the number of infected plants have been noted.**

## **Fusarium**

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

## **Phomopsis**

**Respondents in Palm Beach report some increase in phomopsis in older eggplant**

## **News You Can Use**

### **Why so cold in eastern U.S.? Winter's 'wild card' in play**

As we all know to well: teeth-chattering, bitterly cold winds have swept across the eastern half of the USA this month, sending December temperatures to near-record cold levels all the way from Minneapolis to Miami.

Blame it mainly on the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and its close cousin, the Arctic Oscillation (AO). These large-scale climate patterns in the atmosphere over the Arctic and North Atlantic Ocean strongly affect winter weather.

There's been a persistent blocking pattern over the North Atlantic, which means a low pressure south of a high pressure, with neither moving much. This is why the eastern 1/3 rd of the nation has been in the deep freeze for some time: the high is keeping upstream low-pressure systems nearly stationary. The counterclockwise flow around the low has been pulling very cold air into the eastern half of the nation. We have been on the western fringe of this and have been spared the brunt of the cold.

Orlando, Florida reached 28 degrees Tuesday morning and Miami hit 36. This kind of cold in the Sunshine State" is usually the result of such a pattern, known as a negative phase of the Arctic Oscillation, or "AO".

The swings in atmospheric pressure between the Polar Regions and the mid-latitudes (areas that are populated) "cause a redistribution in temperatures across the Northern Hemisphere," says meteorologist Michelle L'Heureux of the Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md.

L'Heureux says December's NAO has been in what scientists call its "negative" or "cold" phase, causing Arctic air to surge farther south into the central and eastern USA.

The cold air can also invade northern and Western Europe, as it has this month, causing travel troubles in the U.K., Germany and France. Meanwhile, Greenland and much of eastern and northern Canada are experiencing a relatively mild month.

The NAO was in a record negative phase last winter, which supplied the cold air that contributed to the colossal snowfalls in the Mid-Atlantic States, L'Heureux says. "The NAO this winter — so far — is not approaching those record values yet."

When the NAO and AO are in their "positive" or "warm" phase, the USA and northern Europe see milder winters.

Vikings recorded these effects nearly a thousand years ago, according to James Hurrell of the National Center for Atmospheric Research. They noticed severe winters tended to strike Greenland in tandem with mild winters in Denmark, and vice versa — a classic NAO effect, he says.

The NAO and AO can overwhelm the effects of the more well-known El Niño/La Niña climate patterns, which are changes in temperature of the tropical Pacific Ocean that affect weather worldwide. However, El Niño and La Niña are what climatologists primarily rely upon to make their seasonal forecasts.

"The NAO/AO are this winter's — and every winter's — wild card," L'Heureux says. "We know that past two weeks. They can become quite strong and wreak havoc on the seasonal forecasts."

A slight break from the cold blast should be on the way for the eastern USA this week, according to the Climate Prediction Center, as the NAO and AO have shifted more toward their "positive" or "warm" phase in recent days.

“The recent extremely cold pattern in the central and eastern US should moderate a bit as we head deeper into winter, with a more textbook La Nina pattern emerging,”

Dr. Crawford added. “The bulk of the cold should retrogress back into the northern Rockies and northern Plains for the remainder of the winter, with milder temperatures becoming established across much of the East. However, although we do expect more seasonal temperatures in the eastern US in January and February, the historically persistent negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation suggests that any mild spells may be short-lived.

For January and February, Weather Services International predicts regional temperature anomalies as follows: Southeast\* – Warmer than normal, except Florida!

### **Drug Violence Could Hamper Mexican Produce Exports**

U.S. importers of fresh fruits and vegetables from Mexico say they are beginning to face losses from delays after U.S. quality inspectors pulled out of Mexico fearing escalating drug violence. The Arizona Department of Agriculture, or ADA; decided last month to stop sending inspectors to northern Sonora State to check fresh produce quality prior to import; citing fears of surging drug murders south of the border. The retreat of U.S. agricultural inspectors from Nogales, Mexico, across from the city of the same name in Arizona, is a sign the drug war is affecting business and risks denting the country's reputation as a safe place for foreign investment. More than 30,000 people have been killed in drug violence in the past four years in Mexico, according to official figures. Most killings are along the northern border where rival drug gangs battle for smuggling turf, but which also serves as a gateway for billions of dollars of legal commerce.

The State Department has issued travel warnings for U.S. citizens visiting some of the more dangerous border areas where there have been shootouts and explosives planted inside cars. ADA, which has done quality checks on a contract basis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for years, will now conduct hundreds of inspections in dozens of sites on the U.S. side of the border rather than in three warehouses in Nogales, Mexico. Mostly tomatoes and table grapes are inspected in Nogales in a trade valued by the U.S. department of Agriculture at more than \$1.1 billion.



## **Mexican Tomato harvest**

With the tomato harvest just beginning this month; Mexico's No. 1 farm export to the United States, according to Mexico's agriculture ministry, some importers say they are seeing the first signs of back-log because of the new rules. "It's created a logistics nightmare for us as a company," said Gil Munguia, a manager at packing company L&M in Nogales. "There's not enough space, there's not enough inspectors and there is not enough time in the day to get this done on the U.S. side of the border at multiple locations. Time and space is money in this industry," he said. Adding to worries, Mexico could ship significantly more produce to the United States this year after a damaging frost hit crops in Florida, Mexico's main competitor for winter fruits and vegetables. More product crossing the border will put extra pressure on the new system.

Hold ups in inspection could stall distribution chains, forcing Mexican farmers to leave their fruit in the fields or face higher costs to export through alternative ports of entry, the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, or FPAA, said. Some U.S. warehouses have been forced to rent extra space to have room for the inspections, said Mexican tomato exporter Jose Castro from Yory Packing Company. Arizona agriculture officials say they are doing everything possible to minimize bottlenecks and so far -- early in the season -- there have been no problems.

Some Mexican growers may even find the new system beneficial since they will only have to unload once instead of unloading on the Mexican side for inspection and again on the U.S. side for distribution, ADA spokeswoman Laura Oxley said. State inspectors agreed to change their schedules to handle the more than 1,000 truckloads of goods that can cross the border during peak harvesting in mid-January, February and March, said Lance Jungmeyer, president of the FPAA based in Nogales, Arizona. But Jungmeyer added the real squeeze will be as the harvest hits full swing. "There is really no room for error and very little time for getting up to speed."

Tom Yawman, International Produce Training

## **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

### **FAA's Privatization Program Makes Possible a Potential Perishable Cargo Hub in Hendry County**

When he first heard about the plan to create "an international cargo hub" at the Hendry County Airglades Airport in Clewiston, Roger Harrison dismissed the idea as a "pipe dream." But now Harrison, president and CEO of the Hendry County Economic Development Council, thinks the project has a good chance to succeed, especially since the facility's application to join the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Privatization Pilot Program has received preliminary approval.

The FAA's pilot program would allow Florida Cargo Fresh, a company backed by a cooperative of Florida agribusinesses, to manage the airport and qualify for federal funds to pay for needed renovations, such as a new runway, hangars, a warehouse designed to store perishables and other infrastructure improvements.

"This is a potential game changer," Harrison says. "This is the type of project that could affect this county for generations to come."

Fred Ford, Florida Cargo Fresh president and spokesman, says the improvements could require as much as \$350 million. Ford says his company will use the airport's inclusion in the FAA's pilot program to apply for federal funds and start building "economic models" to make sure the project is feasible. For now, he envisions a perishable cargo hub, where around 30 flights a day will deliver produce from Latin America. From there, the produce would be trucked to other parts of the state and the Northeast along U.S. 27.

The project would likely siphon some cargo that would otherwise be shipped to Miami, the busiest international produce hub in the country. Ford thinks there's enough produce for both.

"It could be something huge for Hendry County but probably not a major economic hit on Miami," Ford says. "The airport has a great location, right on the spine highway that runs up the middle of the state." The project, Ford says, would initially generate between 300 and 400 jobs. He adds that Florida Cargo Fresh is "probably 18 months to two years away from saying, 'OK, we're going forward or we're not.' "

By Art Levy – Floridatrend.com 1/1/2011

### **Spray Smart Rodeo**

Palm Beach and Hendry County Extension are teaming up with Jeff Summersill to host the first ever Spray Rodeo Day at the Everglades REC. Everyone is invited to watch this event unfold!!

Spray Rig Owners/Operators ... this is YOUR chance to get your spray rig completely calibrated before the start of the new spray season. You will take your spray rig through four stations: 1) ground speed calibration in the field, 2) nozzle spray patterns and volume calibration, 3) pump pressure testing, and 4) chemical/equipment safety discussion.

For your convenience, you can park/leave your spray rig overnight at EREC (please drop your rig off between 3-5 pm on January 11). Due to logistics, we can only handle 20 different spray rigs at Spray Rodeo Day so please RSVP and we will sign you up on a first-come first-serve basis.

We ask that you bring no more than 2 spray rigs from your farm/company (contact us if you have a question on this). We also ask that you bring CLEAN equipment since people will be calibrating your spray tips (triple-rinse your tank and boom nozzles, fill your tank half-full with freshwater, and spray down your boom with freshwater). We will have more water available to re-fill tanks if necessary.

In your RSVP, please give us information on your equipment set-up (tractor model, pull behind vs attached boom, boom size, number of tips on boom, tip sizes, pump model).

RSVP to Ron Rice [rwr@ufl.edu](mailto:rwr@ufl.edu) or 561-996-1656 (office)

### **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 [gmcavoy@ufl.edu](mailto:gmcavoy@ufl.edu)

### **Up Coming Meetings**

#### **Manatee County**

**January 4, 2011**

**Core and Private Applicator Classes**

9AM -11 AM Core  
11 AM -1 PM Private

Manatee County Extension Service  
Kendrick Auditorium Location:  
1303 17th Street West  
Palmetto, FL 34221

Two sessions will be held in the areas of Core and Private applicator pesticide training. Registrants may attend classes for exam preparation or to gain CEUs if he/she already has a license. Registrants may attend one or

both sessions. Exams will be offered following the sessions for those interested. Calculators, pencils, and scratch paper will be provided to test takers.

Register online at: <http://coreprvmanatee.eventbrite.com/> or contact Jennifer at (941)722-4524 or [jeglass@ufl.edu](mailto:jeglass@ufl.edu)

\$10.00 per person registration fee per class. (Example \$20.00 per person for CORE and Private, \$10.00 per person for CORE or Private only) – includes materials and light refreshments.

Bring cash or check payable to Manatee Friends of Extension to the class

CEUs:           Class 1: 2 CORE  
                  Class 2: 2 Private

## **Palm Beach County**

**January 12, 2011**                   **Spray Smart: Spray Rodeo Day**                   8:00 am – Calibrations start

Everglades Research and Education Center  
Belle Glade, Florida

CEU's and CCA credit applied for

Please RSVP to Ron Rice [rwr@ufl.edu](mailto:rwr@ufl.edu) or 561-996-1656

## **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

**Vietnam Wall** –this site provides a link to a virtual wall with the names of all those lost during the Vietnam war as well as bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals. <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

**Weather Underground** - In addition to the UF/IFAS FAWN site – here is another good source of temperature information with readings from public and private weather stations in the area. You can scroll the map to any location in the state. – Go to <http://bit.ly/hZneow>

## Quotable Quotes

If a man's character is to be abused there's nobody like a relative to do the business. - Alexander Pope

Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all. - Sam Ewing

Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there. - Stevie Wonder

The happiness of every country depends upon the character of its people, rather than the form of its government.

- Thomas Chandler Haliburton

A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **On the Lighter Side**

### **Secret Service**

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

The Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

### **What is Celibacy?**

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, My Husband and I, listened to the instructor declare, 'It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other..'

He then addressed the men, 'Can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower?'

My Husband leaned over, touched my hand gently, and whispered,

'Gold Medal-All-Purpose, isn't it?'

And thus began his life of celibacy.

### **Say what, Cowboy!**

An old, blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake. He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?'

The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, 'Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weight lifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy. Do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?'

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, 'No, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times.'

**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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