



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

**March 8, 2010**

**As the old saying goes March came in like a lion with many interior locations reporting frost an unprecedented 5 – 6 mornings in the first seven days of the month.** Frost was heavy on a couple of mornings and significant crop damage was reported around Belle Glade on corn and beans and some melons were frosted across interior sections but overall damage was minimal in most places.

**All areas received significant precipitation ranging from ¾ inch to around an inch and a half over the past few weeks.** Daytime highs have ranged in the 60 and 70's with nighttime lows in the 30's and 40's.

**Prolonged cold has hardened plants and greatly reduced growth with everything small and way behind schedule.** Around LaBelle some watermelons have been in the ground for 6 – 8 weeks and the vines are scarcely 4 inches across. The National Weather Service records indicate that this has been the coldest winter since the early 1980s over south Florida.

## FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	30.84	78.96	0.77	70	0.08
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	33.09	81.03	0.87	73	0.09
<b>Clewiston</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	33.49	82.76	0.60	71	0.09
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	40.26	83.19	1.50	69	0.09
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	32.57	78.96	1.64	70	0.09
<b>Homestead</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	32	80.82	1.14	76	0.09
<b>Immokalee</b>					
2/15 – 3/8/10	33.08	83.16	1.36	71	0.09

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**Cabbage, escarole, herbs, lettuce, oriental greens, radishes and strawberries are coming to market as well as very light volumes of green beans, eggplant, pepper, tomato, and sweet corn. Tomato volume in February was reportedly 20% of normal.**

**The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami calls for warmer weather this week with daytime highs in the 70's and 80 and nighttime temps moving into the 50's and 60's (a veritable heat wave!). Beyond the next few days forecast models are in fairly good agreement on increasing rain and thunderstorm chances as three distinct upper lows will develop into a broad upper low encompassing much of the central and eastern US by the end of the week.**

**By Wednesday, deep-layer moisture will be sufficient to support the development of afternoon showers/storms and thunderstorm chances will continue to increase from Thursday night...through Friday night. Depending on how the system develops rains could be heavy. Drier and cooler weather is expected to return from Saturday night into Sunday.**

**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 activity has been low.**

### **Aphids**

**Around Immokalee, aphids are moving around and reports indicate that colonies have been building in some locations and growers have made treatments.**

**In the Glades, respondents note that aphid remain active on brassicas and leafy vegetables.**

**Over in Palm Beach County, reports indicate that aphids are moving around and are showing up on a variety of crops including peppers, tomatoes, eggplants and greens. Some colony formation has been noted in cilantro and herbs as well.**

**Reports from Manatee County indicate that aphids are mostly low with only a few here and there.**

### **Worms**

**Around Southwest Florida, growers are finding a few worms including southern armyworms, beet armyworms, fruitworms and loopers but number are very low overall.**

**On the East Coast, reports indicate that worm pressure has been very light some scattered southern armyworm egg masses.**

**Pressure is also low around Manatee County.**

### **Leafminers**

**Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that leafminer pressure has been low and populations are below threshold levels in most locations.**

**Reports from the East Coast and Manatee areas indicate that leafminers are low in these locations as well.**

**Some leafminer activity has been reported on beans around Homestead and Belle Glade.**

### **Whiteflies**

**Around SW Florida, whiteflies remain low.**

**Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that whiteflies numbers are low.**

**Respondents from the Manatee Ruskin area report that whiteflies are almost non-existent.**

**Very low numbers of whitefly are present on leafy vegetables in the Glades.**

### **Spider mites**

**Around Plant City, two-spot and cyclamen mites are increasing on strawberries depending on location.**

**Grower and scouts around SW Florida report that spidermites are showing up in several areas, mostly on watermelon.**

### **Pepper Weevils**

**Around Palm Beach County pepper weevils are active in a number of locations.** Reports indicate that numbers range from low to moderate.

**Around Southwest Florida, pepper weevils are also increasing in some younger pepper and the population is building in some older re-growth.** Pepper weevils are searching for food and are at moderate levels in some younger fields feeding on buds and blooms.

### **Thrips**

**Around Palm Beach County, thrips remain mostly low but a few hotspots with higher populations have been reported on peppers and eggplants.**

**In Hillsborough County, thrips are starting to come in, and scouts report finding chili thrips again in isolated areas.**

**In other areas thrips remain very low.**

## **Diseases**

### **Bacterial leaf spot**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that bacterial spot remains high on peppers and some growers have thrown in the towel and are mowing down badly infected fields.** Bacterial spot is also present in tomatoes and incidence and severity ranges from low to high depending on the location.

**Resistant varieties with resistance to races 1-5 are performing well around Palm Beach despite heavy pressure.**

**Around Immokalee bacterial spot continues to be a problem in many tomatoes and some pepper fields.** Despite the cooler than normal temperatures growers are finding new lesions developing on upper foliage

following the short warm periods as the plants are growing slowly from the cold and unable to grow ahead of infections which are working their way into the crowns of these plants.

**Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicate that bacterial spot is low and has just started to show up here and there at low levels.**

**Around Hillsborough County reports indicate that strawberry growers continue to experience problems with bacteria.**

**Around the Glades, bacterial spot of lettuce has been reported on head and leaf lettuce and in some locations it is severe.**

**Bacterial leaf spot of lettuce (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vitians*) has been one of the most serious diseases of lettuce in Florida, affecting both leaf and head lettuce varieties.** There appears to be some differences in susceptibility among cultivars. Romaine-type lettuces generally are most susceptible, and butter head varieties are least susceptible.

**Early symptoms of bacterial leaf spot are small, water-soaked spots on the outer leaves.** As the lesions mature, they become brown to black and greasy looking. The lesions are typically bordered by leaf veins and angular in shape. In some instances, mature lesions on the underside of leaves may retain a water-soaked appearance. Lesions quickly turn black, which is diagnostic of this disease. If disease is severe, numerous lesions may coalesce, resulting in the collapse of the leaf. Older lesions dry up and become papery in texture, but retain the black color. Lesions rarely form on newly developing leaves.

**As with most bacterial diseases, this disease is highly dependent on wet, cool conditions for infection and development.** Symptoms develop only if rain or sprinkler irrigation is present. Splashing water moves the bacteria from plant to plant. Although the pathogen is seedborne, research in California indicates that most commercial seed used is relatively free of the pathogen. When transplants are used, the pathogen may become established on plants in the greenhouse. The bacterium can survive on lettuce residue and be spread to subsequent lettuce crops. It also has been found growing on weed plants, but the significance of this in disease development in lettuce is not known.

**Cultural methods are the primary means of controlling this disease.** The use of disease-free seed is the first step in disease management. Seed should be treated with bleach or other disinfectant before pelletizing. Overhead irrigation should be avoided where possible.

**Working in fields where plants are wet can spread the disease and should be avoided.** Avoid planting back-to-back lettuce crops if the first crop had a confirmed outbreak of bacterial leaf spot and infected lettuce residue is present.

**Copper sprays in the field applied for other diseases may provide some control of bacterial leaf spot, since most strains recovered to date are fairly sensitive to copper.** To be most effective, copper fungicides must be applied before infection occurs.

### **Gummy Stem Blight**

**Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report that gummy stem blight is present at low levels in several watermelons and there has been a little new activity over the past week.**

**Respondents in the Manatee Ruskin area report that they are starting to find some gummy stem blight on watermelons.**

### **Late Blight**

**Around Hendry County late blight is present in a few tomato and potato fields but is not very active and respondents indicate that most lesions have dried up over the past week.** In a number of cases lesions are on stems only and not on the leaves so growers should be observant and watch out for stem infections.

### **Target Spot**

**Target spot is present on older tomatoes around Immokalee where it is working on the interior canopy.**

### **Downy Mildew**

**Downy mildew is present on squash around Homestead.**

**Downy mildew is present on cabbage and other cole crops around the Glades this past week.**

**Downy mildew remains active in basil.**

### **Powdery mildew**

**Powdery mildew is heavy on some eggplant around Palm Beach County. Some powdery mildew is also present on peppers and squash.** In squash, incidence and severity increases with age of the crop.

**Around Homestead powdery mildew is present on squash.**

**Respondents around Immokalee report that powdery mildew is high in squash in some locations.**

**Powdery mildew is also present on pepper at low levels around Devils Garden.**

### **Sclerotinia**

**Respondents in Palm Beach report that Sclerotinia is common in eggplant and can also be found at low levels in pepper and cabbage in some places.**

**Around Immokalee, growers and scouts report finding low levels of Sclerotinia in tomato and potato.**

### **Early Blight**

**Around Southwest Florida, early blight is present on tomato but has slowed down in recent weeks.**

**Early blight is present in some locations around Plam Beach where some fruit lesions have been noted.**

### **Phomopsis**

**Some phomopsis is showing up on eggplant around Palm Beach County.**

### **Pythium**

**In a number of watermelon fields, plants stunted by the cold and injured by salts are succumbing to pythium.**

**Pythium is also taking out some early seeded okra around Homestead.**

## TYLCV

**Tomato yellow leaf curl virus remains low in all areas.**

## **News You Can Use**

### **Chilly February Caps Coldest Winter in Three Decades over South Florida**

A colder-than-normal February wrapped up the coldest winter since the early 1980s over south Florida. Almost all main weather reporting sites recorded the coldest December-February average temperature since 1981, except for Miami International Airport which recorded its coldest average winter temperature since 1986. December to February temperatures ended up about 2 to 3 degrees below normal, which is remarkable considering that December was 2 to 3 degrees above normal. These values resulted in the following all-time recorded rankings: Miami Beach recorded its 2nd coldest winter on record; Naples recorded its 6th coldest winter on record; Moore Haven its 8th coldest and West Palm Beach its 10th coldest winter on record.

The extended periods of cold temperatures in January and February resulted in average temperatures during that two-month period of 4 to 5 degrees below normal. This resulted in all four main climate stations recording among the top 10 coldest January-February temperatures on record. Miami Beach set a record for its all-time coldest January-February on record (previous record set in 1958). In West Palm Beach, it was the 2nd coldest January-February on record; Naples recorded its 3rd coldest January-February, Moore Haven its 3rd coldest, Fort Lauderdale its 8th coldest and Miami its 10th coldest January-February average temperature on record. Only in the winters of 1940, 1958, 1977 and 1981 did January-February average temperatures come close to what was observed in 2010. The coldest period observed this winter was between January 2nd and January 13th when south Florida experienced one of its coldest 12-day periods on record (read more about this exceptional cold episode [here](#)).

Why was it so cool this winter compared to normal? The main contributing factor was a rather persistent low pressure area in the middle and upper levels of the atmosphere centered over eastern Canada and the northeast United States. A trough associated with this low extended down across much of the southeastern U.S., including Florida. This pattern was most noticeable in January and February (Figure 1). The result of this upper level pattern was a number of strong cold fronts moving south from the upper Midwest all the way through Florida. Air masses of Canadian and Arctic origin followed these fronts, plunging temperatures to much below normal levels for rather extended periods of time.

What about El Niño and its expected role in the cool and wet winter? El Niño indeed has made its presence felt, primarily in the way of several low pressure systems, or “storms”, moving across Florida from the Gulf of Mexico. This provided most of south Florida with higher than normal winter rainfall, along with a few episodes of very heavy rain and strong thunderstorms. During most moderate to strong El Niño episodes, intense cold outbreaks are not common due to the prevailing influence of the Pacific subtropical jet stream which keeps Canadian and Arctic air masses from penetrating too far south. However, an atmospheric circulation known as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) was the dominant feature during large portions of the winter. During the negative phase of the NAO which predominated this winter, the polar jet stream, which generally determines the primary winter storm track, dipped farther south than normal into the central and eastern United States. This more southern storm track brought increased precipitation and snowfall to areas not typically accustomed to seeing a lot of snow, as well as driving cold air masses from the northern latitudes farther south into Florida and the subtropics.

Here are average December 2009-February 2010 temperatures, departures from normal and ranking for select locations: Location (beginning of period of historical record)	Dec 2009- Feb 2010 Avg Temp	Departure From Normal	Rank
Miami (1895)	67.21	-2.8	34th coldest
Fort Lauderdale (1912)	66.47	-1.9	15th coldest
West Palm Beach (1888)	64.1	-3.2	10th coldest
Naples (1942)	63.08	-2.2	6th coldest
Miami Beach (1927)	65.17	-5.6	2nd coldest (tied)
Moore Haven (1918)	60.38	-3.3	8th coldest

### Precipitation

Winter precipitation was above average over most south Florida locations. Most areas received about 2 to 4 inches above normal rainfall for the December to February period, with isolated areas in southeast Florida receiving in excess of 6 inches above normal. The above normal winter rainfall is typical of moderate to strong El Niño episodes in which south Florida is impacted by more storminess and moisture-laden frontal systems. Two rain events punctuated this pattern; the December 17th floods in southeast Broward and northeast Miami-Dade counties in which 8 to 14 inches of rain were observed; and the February 1st event when 6 to 8 inches of rain fell over metro southwestern Broward County including Cooper City, Pembroke Pines, Southwest Ranches and Weston. Both of these rain events were caused by warm fronts moving north across the area and ahead of mid to upper atmospheric low pressure systems.

Following are December 2009-February 2010 rainfall totals, departure from normal in inches and ranking for selected locations: Location (beginning of period of historical record)	Dec 2009 - Feb 2010 Rainfall	Departure From Normal	Rank
Miami (1855)	8.59	+2.46	21st wettest
Fort Lauderdale (1912)	15.32	+7.03	6th wettest
West Palm Beach (1888)	13.80	+4.36	12th wettest
Naples (1942)	6.66	+0.95	22nd wettest
Miami Beach (1927)	13.53	+6.97	3rd wettest
Moore Haven (1918)	6.12	+0.39	27th wettest
The Redland (1942)	12.74	+6.80	
Clewiston (1948)	5.88	-0.03	
Hollywood (1963)	26.95	+18.82	

### Outlook for March-May

The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for March through May calls for a continuation of cooler and wetter than normal conditions as El Niño continues to influence weather patterns across the Western Hemisphere. March in particular looks to be cooler than normal due to the expected persistence of this winter's pattern of northwest flow over the eastern United States described earlier.

Additional Gulf of Mexico storm systems could impact Florida during this period, primarily during March and April, with the potential to produce severe weather, including tornadoes, as was the case during the El Niño episodes of 1998 and 2003.

Long-range models suggest that the current El Niño will weaken significantly by May and dissipate to neutral conditions this summer.

For the latest south Florida weather information, including the latest watches, advisories and warnings, please visit the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office's web site at [weather.gov/southflorida](http://weather.gov/southflorida).

### **EPA Wrong on Proposed Pesticide Rule, If You Get My Drift**

Guess what? Fighting pests on the farm might become a lot harder.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to change the way you spray pesticides. Changing the rules to correct a wrong is right. Changing the rules just to change the rules, or to satisfy the agenda of an unrelated group, is wrong. The unintended consequences can be a killer.

In the current Pesticide Registration Notice (PRN), the Worker Protection Standard for agricultural products directs the applicator to not apply the product in a way “that will contact workers or other persons, either directly or through drift.” The proposed change from the EPA to the PRN adds the following statement: “In addition, do not apply this product in a manner that results in spray drift that could cause an adverse effect to people or other non-target organism or site.”

In other words, don't apply the pesticide if there's any chance of drift that might cause a problem with people, pets, property, aquatic life, wildlife or the environment. Under a strict interpretation, be safe and don't spray anything.

Looks to me EPA would rather you not use pesticides, which is fine, I guess if the aim is to wreck a system of checks and balances used to safely produce our nation's abundant food supply. You have to wonder about the intent of their proposals and/or who is pushing EPA in this direction.

There is so much wrong with this action that it's hard to know where to begin. EPA and state pesticide policies have acknowledged for years that some small level of pesticide drift is unavoidable and does not pose “unreasonable adverse effect.”

The new proposal basically sets a zero drift standard, which any farmer or rancher will tell you cannot be achieved. Wind and temperature can change in a moment's notice, many times during an application. Even following application guidelines to the letter will result in some drift.

The real kick in the butt, however, is the “could cause harm” proposal, which is a senseless shift from the “unreasonable adverse effect” doctrine and would be a legal tinderbox for agriculture. A simple headache—even non-related allergies—could subject a farmer to a lawsuit, just because someone claimed it was caused by the farmer's use of a pesticide. For all intents, the “could cause harm” proposal might as well read “might cause harm,” there is a “remote possibility of harm” or “there's a billion to one chance it may result in harm.” “The language is that vague, and changes the function of an enforcer to a risk assessor. The safety of a pesticide application will be subject to the interpretation of an untrained farm cop. The legal and regulatory ramifications will make farming even riskier.

Current standards for protecting human health and the environment belong with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) approved and enforced labels for pesticide products. This pesticide labeling—developed from years of testing to determine the adverse effects the pesticide might hold for humans,



wildlife and the environment—include directions for use which are based upon risk assessment and which incorporate mitigation and application techniques that are specifically designed to minimize drift.

EPA is dreaming the impossible dream with their new no drift and “could cause harm” proposals, which could produce vivid nightmares for agriculture producers. If adopted, the potential for heavy-handed regulation and frivolous lawsuits is all too real.

EPA will accept public comments until March 5. Folks, this is one issue you should probably talk to them about. February 23, 2010 00:53 by Mike Barnett, Texas Agriculture Talks

### **Tomato squeeze: Supply down from the freeze**

It's not a mistake if your Whopper arrives without the usual two slices of tomatoes.

Burger King Restaurants across the country have been running out of tomatoes sporadically for the past week, and that's likely to continue in the aftermath of the freeze that devastated Florida's tomato crop last month.

The freeze hit growers at a time when the state normally would be supplying tomatoes for the majority of the East Coast.

The shortages have left fast-food chains, supermarkets and restaurants scrambling. So far, the tomato shortage is having limited impact on the consumer. But that could change in coming weeks as competition for scarce tomatoes heats up.

Subway's solution has been to reduce the size of the tomatoes it uses and switch the source from Florida to Mexico. But it hasn't been easy. The company's purchasing cooperative is chasing down trucks and shifting the product among distribution centers to keep up with demand.

Subway workers find themselves having to play quality control experts, weeding out tomatoes that don't meet the company's standards.

“You order 12 trucks and you get eight,” said Jan Risi, president and chief executive of Subway's Independent Purchasing Cooperative, based in Kendall. “When you ask where are the others, the answer is they're on the way. The supply is sketchy at best.”

While grocery stores such as Publix, Winn-Dixie and Whole Foods haven't run out, counters are no longer piled high with fresh tomatoes straight from Florida fields. Instead, the supply is low, many of the tomatoes are traveling from Mexico and it's not uncommon to see bruised or overripe stock.

“While our displays may not be as full, we're getting enough to get us through each day,” said Russ Benblatt, Florida spokesman for Whole Foods, which is getting most of its tomatoes in Mexico. “We're having to look to other sources in warmer climates, which is a strange thing in Florida.”

### **THE COST**

But the shortage comes with a price. What's left of the Florida tomato crop had jumped to a wholesale price of \$23.95 to \$25.95 per 25-pound box Friday. That's nearly twice the average price.

Trucking tomatoes from Mexico to Florida also is more expensive.

So far, retailers and restaurants say they are absorbing most of those costs.

Traditional Florida round tomatoes were selling at Publix on Monday for \$2.29 per pound, while plum tomatoes from Mexico were on sale for \$1.29 per pound.

“This was an unforeseen circumstance and if we can absorb the costs on our end, we want to help our customers as much as possible,” said Kim Jaeger, South Florida spokeswoman for Publix, which has increased prices to consumers by less than a dime since last year.

Supply problems are likely to continue until Florida's tomato production returns to normal levels, which may not be until late March or early April.

Even those fields that growers in Homestead and Palm Beach County were able to salvage are not producing at anywhere near the normal levels. Continued cold weather is slowing the growth cycle of new tomatoes.

Florida tomato production for the period since the freeze is off about 70 percent, compared with the same period last year, said Reggie Brown, executive vice president of the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange.

“Tomatoes are relatively scarce,” said Brown, whose group represents the majority of the state's tomato growers.

“You're probably looking at three or four weeks of not a lot of supply. We haven't seen anything like this in 20 years. We're just waiting for Mother Nature to give us some better weather to grow some tomatoes.”

### Dropping

DiMare Farms, the largest grower in Homestead, is only picking between 10 percent and 20 percent of its normal volumes, Paul DiMare said. “We're probably as light as we've ever seen,” said DiMare, who only recalls a similar drop in the late 1970s after it snowed in South Florida.

Michael Borek, who lost about half the crop at his Redland farm to this year's freeze, has also watched his yields drop another 50 percent.

“Each week we're filling orders but it's getting harder and harder,” Borek said. “We're just trying to keep the customers we have.”

### Chef's Woes

Chef Michael Schwartz, of Michael's Genuine Food & Drink, a restaurant in Miami's Design District, is one of those customers.

While he's still getting what he needs, the tomatoes take up to a week of ripening before they're ready to serve with a burrata cheese dish or a salad. That's why Schwartz had to increase his inventory by almost 30 percent.

Schwartz's restaurant now has two rooms stocked high with nearly 80 cases of beefsteak and heirloom tomatoes. His restaurant uses 1,000 pounds of tomatoes a week, so the restaurateur wants to be ready.

“We're kind of juggling them around,” Schwartz said.

“It's a big commitment of time, labor and money. But we're known for our tomatoes. If we missed one delivery, we'd be out.”

The reason Burger King has already faced supply outages is because the Miami fast food chain decided not to follow the route of other retailers and restaurants that have turned to Mexico to fill the void. Burger King didn't want to take the chance because of a lack of systems to ensure the quality of its round tomatoes.

Instead, Burger King is asking for customers' understanding with signs in some restaurants that explain why a good tomato is sometimes hard to find. By: Elaine Walker: Miami Herald

### **“Farm-To-School Tour Proves Educational”**

The School District of Collier County’s Nutrition Services Department is looking to develop a working relationship with 6 L’s Farm under the farm-to-school program. As a way to see what’s happening “down on the farm,” folks from the department recently toured one of the farms in Collier County.

Nutrition Services staff were joined by Miami-Dade County Public Schools Nutrition Services staff and local produce distributors. The tour included a visit to the lab where new and improved varieties of tomatoes are cultivated and crossed with wild varieties of tomatoes to develop new disease-resistant plants. The wild varieties are also more prolific. Tomato plants from around the world are being grown in the state-of-the-art greenhouse and crossed with domestic varieties in search of the best and most flavorful tomatoes.

After touring the lab and greenhouse, the group toured the farm. They witnessed new fields being planted with sweet pepper seedlings and acres of potato plants that had survived the recent freeze. They also saw firsthand the devastation that had occurred when the entire tomato crop was destroyed in the freeze.

Thousands of acres of tomato plants covered with tomatoes were decimated by the unprecedented cold weather, giving the tour group an opportunity to see just how unpredictable the farming business can be when temperatures drop.

The USDA is encouraging farm-to-school programs throughout the United States, and the Nutrition Services Department is working with local farmers and produce distributors to create a farm-to-school bid. This would allow the district to purchase locally grown, seasonal, fresh produce from Florida farmers – many located within Collier County – enabling the Nutrition Services Department to serve the highest quality produce to students throughout the school year, and help support local farmers at the same time.

To learn more, please contact Director of Nutrition Services Dawn Houser at 239-377-0280.

### **U.S. Supreme Court Declines to Review Redundant Pesticide Ruling**

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a lower court’s ruling related to pesticide application permits. The lower court ruled that farmers must secure Clean Water Act approval to use pesticides that already are permitted under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

EPA is now reviewing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to devise a permitting system that complies with the ruling. Farm groups say the lower court's ruling would create redundant bureaucracy, harmful delays and additional expense.

### **IPM Grants Emphasize Education and Extension**

A U.S. government funded cluster of IPM-related research grants is taking a clearly different approach in 2010 and soliciting education- extension focused components as integral elements in grant proposals to be submitted, according to an official communication describing the program's new emphasis.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA, a branch of the U.S. Dept. of Agric.) conducts three

specific IPM programs; Crops at Risk (CAR); Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP); and, Methyl Bromide Transition (MBT), which together total an estimated US\$8.45M in program funding.

Applicants intending to submit proposals for any of the three main IPM grant headings are encouraged to view the procedure "with a fresh eye toward developing the next generation of extension professionals and/or pest managers," notes W. Hoffman, national program leader for agriculture, in his recent email message to pest managers across the country.

Within each of the three programs, the called for education and extension integrated projects will conduct practicum or educational internships directed toward preparing undergraduate or graduate students to be future extensionists or pest managers. The resulting exposure is envisioned to enhance participants' ability to foster IPM approaches that are consistent with the goals of the CAR, RAMP, and MBT programs.

For more detailed descriptions of each of NIFA's IPM programmatic trio see:

<http://tinyurl.com/ctbg6b> (scroll down the list). -> W. Hoffman, [WHoffman@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:WHoffman@nifa.usda.gov). Phone: 1-202-401-1112.

### **Iowa State's Jack Payne to Head IFAS**

University of Florida President Bernie Machen announced recently that Jack Payne, vice president for extension and outreach at Iowa State University, will become the new head of the UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Payne, 63, will take the post of senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources beginning June 1.

Payne succeeds interim Senior Vice President Larry Arrington, appointed last year when Jimmy Cheek left to become chancellor of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

### **Pesticide PotPourri**

**Portal** - miticide/insecticide received a registration for strawberries in December. There is also a 2EE recommendation for cyclamen mite.

**Requiem** – Dennis Long of AgraQuest advises of several label changes:

- The previous Supplemental Label for okra is no longer necessary as we revised the REQUIEM label which now includes okra.
- REQUIEM Supplemental Label for use on legumes in FL has been renewed again this year.
- The new REQUIEM 25EC label now clearly defines the Preharvest Interval: "REQUIEM can be applied up to and including the day of harvest. However, note that the restricted entry interval (REI) is 4 hours".
- For more information, growers can go to [www.Requieminsecticide.com](http://www.Requieminsecticide.com)

**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

- March 11 – 12, 2010**      **Spanish Pesticide License Training and Testing**      **8 AM – 2 PM**
- Core**      **March 11, 2010**  
**Private**      **March 12, 2010**
- Hendry County Extension Office  
1085 Pratt Boulevard  
LaBelle, Florida  
Call 863-674-4092 to register - \$20 fee per day with lunch included
- 
- March 19, 2010**      **Vegetable Growers Meeting**      **12 PM - 2 PM**  
**Nutrient Management – Controlled Release Fertilizers**
- UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center  
SR 29 North  
Immokalee, Florida
- Call 863-674-4092 to register
- 
- March 19, 2010**      **Vegetable Growers Meeting**      **12 PM - 2 PM**  
**Nutrient Management – Controlled Release Fertilizers**
- UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center  
SR 29 North  
Immokalee, Florida
- Call 863-674-4092 to register
- 
- March 30, 2010**      **IFAS CEU Day - Teleconference**      **8:30 PM - 4 PM**  
Earn up to **6 CEU's**
- UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center  
SR 29 North  
Immokalee, Florida
- No preregistration required.
- 
- April 14, 2010**      **CCA – CEU program**      **8:00 AM – 5:30 PM**
- Earn 5 CEUs each in Nutrient Mgt and IPM
- Primary site at CREC/Lake Alfred  
Teleconference sites include UF/IFAS RECs including  
UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center  
SR 29 North  
Immokalee, Florida
- Registration is \$100 – go to [www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/cca](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/cca) for more information and to register

## Opportunities

### Seed Sales Rep Needed

Harris Moran Seed Co. is seeking a sales representative to manage customers in the South Florida area. A bachelor's degree and five years in the agriculture industry lead the list of requirements.

Please send resume to Harris Moran Seed Co., P.O. Box 4938, Modesto, CA 95352 or via e-mail to [hr@hmclause.com](mailto:hr@hmclause.com).

### Farm Land for Lease

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

Quality agricultural land with easy access to SR 710 and SR 76. 1000+/- acres, available in Martin County for lease, or possible joint venture production of vegetable crops, bio-fuels, etc. Call John Merritt at 863-699-6090.

## Websites

**The Perishable Pundit** – where the subject may be perishable but the insight isn't  
<http://www.perishablepundit.com/#3>

**2008 Farm Bill Programs and Grants** - this website provides a “quick-guide” to federal programs and grants for farmers, ranchers, food entrepreneurs, and the researchers, educators and community groups who serve them. Go to <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/farm-bill-programs-and-grants/>

## Quotable Quotes

“Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That’s the problem!” - AA Milne

“Natural ability without education has more often attained to glory and virtue than education without natural ability.” - Cicero

“Wisdom doesn't automatically come with old age. Nothing does - except wrinkles. It's true, some wines improve with age. But only if the grapes were good in the first place.” - Abigail Van Buren

“Life is a long lesson in humility.” - James M. Barrie

“Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.” - Calvin Coolidge

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

“The future ain't what it used to be.” - Yogi Berra

## **On the Lighter Side**

### **To Those of Us born from 1930 - 1979 - the kids who survived the 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!!**

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-base paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps not helmets on our heads.

As infants & children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes.

Riding in the back of a pick- up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And, we weren't overweight... WHY?

Because we were always outside playing...that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And, we were OKAY.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill; only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo's and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms.

**WE HAD FRIENDS** and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We would get spankings with wooden spoons, switches, ping pong paddles, or just a bare hand and no one would call child services to report abuse.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not poke out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever.

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

If YOU are one of them, CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good.

While you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave and lucky their parents were.

**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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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.

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