



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Hendry County Extension

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

April 24, 2009

**Another cool down across South Florida this week, as temperatures dipped into the upper 40's in some normally cooler areas on Tuesday morning.** It didn't last long though and by Thursday temperatures in many areas topped out in the 90's.

**Most areas reported little or no rain for the period. Fort Lauderdale was the exception with one inch.** Most other locations reported only trace amounts. Many growers continue to experience salt issues as the drought continues and water tables drop. Some growers have reported poor crop growth and reduced yields this spring with tomatoes in many places only reaching 1/2 - 3/4 of the way up the stake. Much of this appears to be related to the unusually cold conditions experienced all season and possibly compounded by salts and leaching issues in some cases.

### FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	47.82	91.49	0.00	71	0.14
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	50.7	91.02	0.15	72	0.16
<b>Clewiston</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	50.94	90.94	0.06	69	0.16
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	56.16	90.57	1.07	66	0.16
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	49.33	87.28	0.26	71	0.16
<b>Homestead</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	49.98	91.51	0.38	71	0.16
<b>Immokalee</b>					
4/12 – 4/24/09	47.08	93.34	0.08	70	0.16

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, SEA GRANT AND 4-H YOUTH, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING

**Crops coming to market include beans, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloupe, celery, cucumber, eggplant, endive, lettuce, peppers, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, and tomatoes.** Volumes are increasing seasonally but reports indicate that culls are higher than usually in many crops with zippering and cat facing and other weather related rejects being common. Watermelon harvest is beginning around Southwest Florida. The season is winding down in Homestead while growers around Manatee County should start picking next week.

**The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami calls for quiet weather conditions for South Florida through tomorrow.** Easterly winds will gradually increase over the weekend and temperatures will range from the lower 70s at night and approach 90 degrees each afternoon. Shower activity will be limited.

**Global forecast models do not offer much hope for significant change in this weather pattern through most of next week.**

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

## **Insects**

### **Thrips**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that thrips are becoming a bigger problem in tomato where they are causing flecking on fruit.** Respondents indicate that western flower thrips are high to moderately high in the Boynton/ Delray area and lower in the Stuart, St. Lucie, and Ft. Pierce areas.

**Growers are also reporting problems in squash, cucumber and eggplant as well as cilantro and herbs where foliage damage is an issue.**

**Dr. Joe Funderburk UF/IFAS Entomologist and Palm Beach County Agent David Sui are sampling western flower thrips for bio-assay; the objective is to obtain scientific proof that populations have lost resistance to spinocins before Spinosad/Radiant products can be re-introduced back to the area.**

**UF/IFAS Entomologist, Dr Greg Nuessly reports that he has been finding western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) in snap beans in Belle Glade.** He reports that currently the numbers are fairly low (1 to 2 per 20 blooms) compared to Florida flower thrips (*F. bispinosa*, 2 to 8 per bloom).

**Around the Glades, thrips are active in snap beans and other crops.**

**Around Southwest Florida, thrips are still present in a nearly all crops but haven't been causing many problems, and scouts indicate that westerns are very low in most areas.** Some problems with western flower thrips have been reported in a few fields and in some greenhouse situations.

**In Manatee County, thrips are still a problem on a variety of crops.** Dave Schuster reports that everything he has seen so far has been western flower thrips and he encourages growers to be judicious in their use of Radiant/SpinTor to avoid possible resistance and, when possible, to stop spraying broad spectrum insecticides like pyrethroids, etc. to conserve thrips natural enemies, especially minute pirate bugs.

### **Pepper weevils**

**Reports from the East Coast indicate that pepper weevil are widespread and are showing up in all areas.** A number of hotspots have been reported particularly in areas with in older plantings and some growers indicate they are worse than they have been in several years. Where numbers are high adults are feeding on growing

points as well as attacking fruit. Growers are also reporting problems in eggplant in some places and note that weevils are present in fruit and under the calyx.

**Around Southwest Florida, scouts report pepper weevils are increasing significantly in many areas.**

### **Whiteflies**

**Scouts in the Manatee Ruskin area reports indicate that whiteflies remain quiet and some reports indicate that numbers declined somewhat following recent rains.**

**In Collier and Hendry counties, whitefly vary widely from fairly low levels to 100/plant, depending on what is around.** Where growers are cleaning up beans and squash, the whitefly are horrible with plenty of pupae. In other areas, numbers are averaging around 2-3 per plant. Highest numbers have been reported in eggplant and cucurbits and older tomato fields as growers back off on spraying. As whitefly numbers are increasing in watermelon and growers are advised to be attentive to prevent possible issues with vine decline.

**Respondents around Palm Beach report mostly low whitefly numbers with some scattered problems on tomato and squash.**

**Respondents in Homestead report as always, whitefly is a problem on many crops.**

### **Worms**

**Reports from east coast production areas indicate that worm pressure is mostly low.** A few pinworms are beginning to show up in tomato and eggplant primarily on organic operations.

**Diamondback moths are increasing and are widely on Chinese vegetables and other leafy brassicas.** Respondents indicate that diamondbacks are present in moderately high numbers along the 441 corridor and up north into Ft. Pierce.

**Around Southwest Florida, worms still around and scouts report finding eggs on a continuous basis – predominately southern armyworm and loopers with a few pinworm, hornworms, and beet armyworm thrown in for good measure.** Respondents indicate that melonworm and pickleworm are widespread and note that worm pressure in cantaloupe is high. Diamondbacks are building in brassicas. In watermelons, scouts report seeing some rindworms starting, mostly beet armyworms but also some fall armyworms and southern armyworms.

**Growers around Manatee County report that worms are around but pressure is light overall.**

**Fall armyworm counts are increasing in corn and other crops in the Glades.** Diamondback moths are active in the various brassica crops. Silk fly pressure in the surviving sweet corn fields following the frosts has been relatively light to date.

### **Spider mites**

**Growers in scouts across south Florida report that spider mites continue to increasing on a variety of crops and numbers are jumping up in a number of areas.** Reports indicate that they are threatening cucurbits in several locations. A few russet mites are also being reported on tomato around Immokalee.

**Respondents in Palm Beach note that spider mite pressure is horrible.** Spidermites seem to be everywhere and are causing problems cucurbits, eggplant, and tomato.

**Around Plant City reports indicate that spider mites are moving into tomatoes and melons faster than usual.**

### **Broad mites**

**Reports from East Coast growers indicate that broad mites are around in mostly low numbers.**

**Respondents report that broad mites are rebounding in a number of areas around Southwest Florida.**

**Scouts in Manatee County continue to find broad mites in peppers.**

### **Aphids**

**Growers and scouts around South Florida, indicate that aphids are slowing down and pressure is light in most crops.**

**In the Glades, a variety of aphids remain widely present in crops.**

### **Leafminers**

**Respondents from the Hillsborough/Manatee area indicate that leafminers are still active in tomato and other crops. Scouts report that pressure appears to be declining.**

**Growers and scouts in other areas of South Florida report that leafminer pressure remains mostly low and continues to decline in most places.**

### **Stinkbug**

**Stinkbugs are present and causing scattered problems in some locations around South Florida.**

## **Diseases**

### **Powdery Mildew**

**Respondents in Palm Beach report that powdery mildew is rampant in pepper and in some areas almost every leaf is affected. It is also causing problems in a number of crops including dill, parsley, mint eggplant, cucumber, squash and tomato. Ken Pernezy reports observing quite a bit of powdery mildew on powdery mildew-tolerant cucumbers.**

**Growers and scouts around Immokalee that powdery mildew is present on many crops and has reached significant levels in squash, cantaloupe and is the most common disease on watermelons this season. They are also reporting low levels of powdery mildew on tomato and peppers.**

**Around Homestead, respondents indicate that powdery mildew remains a problem on squash and other cucurbits.**

**Powdery mildew has been reported on cucurbits around Manatee County.**

**Powdery mildew of watermelon is a fairly recent phenomenon in Florida possibly because of the combination of dry spring seasons with the conversion of much of the watermelon acreage to drip irrigation which maintains dry foliage.**

**Powdery mildew of watermelon appears as yellow blotches on the oldest leaves first.** Later these mosaic-like blotches become bronzed and turn dark brown or purple and may be mistaken for wind burn. Ken Pernezny, UF/IFAS Pathologist reports this is a tough diagnosis on watermelon as growers usually only see light yellow, non-descript spots on the upper leaf surface with diffuse, light-brown areas on the under leaf surface and little evidence of the white masses of sporulation that are commonly seen with other powdery mildews are not seen commonly with the powdery mildew of watermelon. Using low power magnification it may be possible to see a little hint of fungal growth. Examination of this tissue under the microscope is essential to observe the characteristic PM spores that look like loaves of bread.

**Control of powdery mildew of watermelon can be achieved with chlorothalonil, the high rates of mancozeb, the strobilurin fungicides such as Amistar, Cabrio, Flint and others, and sterol inhibitors like Nova.** New materials like Procure, Pristine and Quintec have also shown good efficacy.

**Resistance management involving the rotation of fungicides of differing modes of action is especially important in combating powdery mildew as this disease has historically proven quite adept at developing resistance to fungicides with a specific mode of action such as benomyl, triadimefon and the strobilurins.** Growers should be sure to follow labeled instructions regarding the number of applications per season and rotate between different fungicide classes.

**Sulfur, potassium bicarbonate and copper products may provide some control for organic producers.** Micronized sulfur can be quite effective but may burn foliage under the high temperatures experienced in the late spring in south Florida.

**The biological fungicide AQ-10 can also be effective against powdery mildew.** The bio-fungicide AQ10 parasitizes powdery mildew and can, when applied properly, provide good control at several stages during the season. Research shows that AQ10 can be used as long as disease incidence does not exceed a threshold of 3% on leaves and clusters. At higher levels of pressure, AQ10 must be applied in rotation with sulfur or other products to assure acceptable control. Good spray coverage is critical to success.

**Powdery mildew of pepper is caused by *Leveillula taurica*, which is a very different powdery mildew fungus from that causing powdery mildew on cucurbits.** The fungus which affects cucurbits *Podosphaera xanthii* (*Sphaerotheca fulginea*) or, occasionally, *Erysiphe cichoracearum*, grows on both surfaces of a leaf and forms haustoria within some epidermal cells to absorb nutrients and produces spores on both surfaces.

**In contrast, *Leveillula taurica* grows only within a leaf until it produces spores, a growth habit which is similar to *Alternaria* and most other foliar plant pathogenic fungi.** *Leveillula taurica* is a species complex that infects over 1000 plant species in 74 families, including tomato and eggplant as well as pepper.

**Detecting powdery mildew on pepper can be difficult.** The white powdery growth characteristic of powdery mildew diseases occurs primarily on the underside of leaves with diffuse yellow spotting on the upper surface but in severe infections white powdery mycelia will be present on both sides of the leaf. Affected leaves tend to drop off the plant, as occurs with bacterial leaf spot.

## **TYLCV**

**On the East Coast, tomato yellow leaf curl virus is present and increasing in a number of areas.** While incidence remains mostly low respondents report some older grape tomatoes are at 100% infection.

**Reports from Homestead indicate that TYLCV is present on tomatoes but incidence remains low.**

**Growers and scouts in the Manatee Ruskin area report TYLCV remains mostly low and the only area with high incidence of virus is along the 41 corridor around Sun City.**

**Around Southwest Florida TYLCV incidence remains low, mostly below 5% with some hotspots going much higher.**

### **Fusarium Crown Rot**

**Around SW Florida, fusarium crown rot is bad some older tomato fields planted to susceptible varieties.**

**Reports from Palm Beach indicate that the situation with fusarium remains static with little change over the past few weeks.**

**In Manatee County growers and scouts report that fusarium crown rot is causing some problems in field with a history of the disease.**

### **Downy Mildew**

**Around Palm Beach County, downy mildew is severe on cucumbers and is reaching high levels in many squash fields. It is also present on winter squash in some places.**

**Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report that downy mildew is still active in cucumbers and hitting them hard in a number of places. It is also present at lower levels in some squash.**

**Respondents from Homestead report that downy mildew is around on squash, but is not too bad due to the dry weather.**

**Across South Florida, downy mildew is widely present on basil.**

**Since its appearance in South Florida downy mildew has emerged as an important disease on basil and growers should be on a regular, preventative spray program for this important disease of the herb. Failure to apply a phosphonic fungicide in a program with azoxystrobin (the only fungicides currently labeled) could cost result in severe losses. Spray intervals should be no more than 7-days, with 2 times per week preferable. Once plants are infected, it is very difficult to control. Research is being conducted on additional chemistries with IR-4 and soil applications for early disease control are also being researched.**

### **Downy mildew of lettuce**

**Dr Rick Raid, Pathologist at UF/IFAS EREC notes finding some powdery mildew on leaf this year, only about the second time in 20 years that he has seen it. It has shown up on both iceberg and romaine lettuce. Sulfur and the strobilurin fungicides would be the compounds of choice.**

**Downy mildew on lettuce has been hit hard by the warm dry conditions and should not pose much of a threat for the remainder of the season. Rick reminds lettuce growers should remember to incorporate their old lettuce debris to keep it from going to seed and to observe the host-free period during the summer for LMV management.**

### **Northern corn leaf blight**

**Rick Raid reports that northern corn leaf blight and common rust are both on the increase in sweet corn, with northern corn leaf blight in particular picking up over the past week. Foliar blights and rust may be successfully controlled using fungicides, if host-plant resistance is insufficient. Strobilurin and triazole**

fungicides are most efficacious against these diseases and should be used in a program with the broad-spectrum protectant mancozeb. Folicur (a triazole) now has a Florida label. Note that the REI for most crops is 12 hrs but for sweet corn it is 19 days. (PHI is 7 days.) This can pose an obstacle for some small growers.

### **Bean Rust**

**Reports indicate that there is some rust around on beans.**

### **Late Blight**

**Around Immokalee growers and scouts report that late blight seems to be giving up but there are still scattered reports of active lesions around with the cool humid conditions of the past few weeks.** Reports indicate that recent genotyping studies concludes that the race present around Immokalee is actually different from the race that was present in the area last year which was initially thought to be the case based on PCR and electrophoresis bands.

**Around Palm Beach, growers and scouts report that late blight pressure is tapering off in the face of warmer drier weather.**

**Respondents in Manatee County report some localized flare up of late blight following recent rains.**

**Reports from Homestead indicate some late blight is still present on tomato in places.**

### **Bacterial leaf spot**

**Respondents around southwest Florida report that bacterial spot activity is mostly low although there has been some increased activity in pepper and tomato over the past few weeks.**

**Reports from Manatee County also note an up-tick in bacterial spot activity in pepper following recent rains.**

**Dr Ken Pernezny reports that isolations from the bacterial spot lesions in the UF/IFAS Immokalee Pepper Variety trial indicate that all recovered strains were bacterial spot race 4.** This is in keeping with what we've been finding over the last couple of years

### **Target Spot**

**Target spot is mostly low around South Florida but reports indicate it is flaring up in a few places.**

### **Early Blight**

**A few reports of Alternaria on tomato are starting to come in from several locations around South Florida.** Incidence is increasing in some scattered east Coast locations which received recent heavy rains.

### **Gummy Stem Blight**

**Around Southwest Florida, gummy stem is increasing in watermelon but remains mostly low although a few more reports are coming in.**

**Dr Gary Vallad also reports a few gummy stem samples coming in on watermelons from around the Manatee area.**

**Symptoms appear as light to dark brown circular spots on leaves or as brown to black, lesions on stems.** Leaf spots are variable in shape, red-brown in color and initial infections are generally seen on leaf margins and veinal areas. Wilting, followed by death of young plants may occur. Stem lesions enlarge and slowly girdle the main stem resulting in a red-brown-black canker that cracks and may exude a red to amber gummy substance. Vine wilting is usually a late symptom. Use of a hand lens will reveal small, clear white (when young) to black (when old), pycnidia embedded in older diseased tissue.

**Because other plant disorders can cause exudation of a gummy substance, “gummy-ness” should not be relied upon for diagnosis of gummy stem blight.** Anthracnose and inadequate liming can both cause stem lesions and gumming.

### **Phytophthora**

**Some problems have been noted with *Phytophthora capsici* around SW Florida primarily on cucurbits and peppers where growers are over irrigating.**

**Grower and scouts around Palm Beach County report some issues with aerial phytophthora on pepper in places that experienced higher rain fall totals in the past few weeks.**

### **Mosaic**

**Mosaic virus is present on squash around South Florida.**

## **News You Can Use**

### **Dr Monica Ozores-Hampton Joins UF/IFAS Faculty**

Dr Monica Ozores-Hampton officially joined the ranks of the UF/IFAS Faculty as the vegetable horticulture specialist at the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee, effective April 17, 2009. Please welcome Monica on board, she is certainly a welcome addition to the faculty and promises to be a valuable asset to the vegetable growers of South Florida.

### **Budget update.....**

The Senate and House still remain at an impasse over the budget. Higher education spending remains a major area of conflict between the House and Senate, with nearly \$400 million separating them on universities alone.

If you value the services provided by IFAS, please consider calling your state representative to express your support for IFAS.

### **Obama Administration Proposes New Immigration Raid Policy**

In a newspaper article released March 31, 2009 - (link to article <http://www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-tc-nw-immigration-0331.artmar31,0,4823465.story>), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials confirmed that DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano will order federal agents to target employers for arrest and prosecution rather than the workers who are in the country illegally. This change is keeping pace with comments made by President Barack Obama in his 2008 campaign in which he stated that past enforcement efforts have failed because they focused on illegal immigrants, rather than those who hired them.

Agriculture in Florida employs over 750,000 workers, many of whom are migrant workers. While employers are used to seeing enforcement efforts aimed towards illegal immigrants, the new changes set forth by President Obama will seek to shift the focus of raids from the employees to the employers.



Employers should be aware of this shift in policy and continue to take proper actions to ensure their compliance with existing and future employment regulations.

Source: Florida Farm Bureau Agricultural Policy Bulletin– April 18, 2009

### **Industrial Agriculture & Sustainability**

“Industrial agriculture” and “factory farming” are terms used with increasing frequency; thanks to activists on a rampage to put food production in the worst light possible to further their own agendas. What is a factory farm? How do you define one? And, WHO is responsible for defining that?

Have you really thought about those questions and been on a modern farm enough to answer that with firsthand knowledge? Don't recite statistics you've been handed unless you've taken a realistic look at the issue and considered the sustenance needs of a global population - and the economic viability agriculture brings to a local community. Thanks to the dialogue at Farm to Table to point out this need, rather than posturing by a few pundits.

According to Farm Policy Facts, 95% of American farms are still family-owned. Many of those have formed corporations; just the same as small businesses have formed LLCs or S-Corp for legal and tax reasons. Should you really judge a farm because “Corporation” is now a part of the name? It's still the same people, working hard to do the right thing and provide you with affordable food. These family businesses certainly don't look like they did in previous generations, but do most homes and businesses look like they did in the 70s? And, have you considered the lessening environmental impact of modern agriculture?

Take a look back and you'll see cattle wandering through waterways, few conservation practices, pigs wallowing in mud while eating garbage and tractors making multiple trips across smaller fields. EPA's 2006 report showed only 6 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions came from agriculture (this includes cotton, almonds, wheat, broccoli, soybeans and anything else grown in the ground). According to Consumer Freedom, livestock production accounts for 2.58% of total greenhouse gases. Food production practices have been improved, just as today's methods will be advanced for the next generation. That's called progress and frankly, it's tiring to have it labeled “industrialization.”

Since its Earth Day, I could point to the many practices employed by entrepreneurs in agriculture to create a truly sustainable society, one that includes food for people living in poverty beyond your imagination. Shouldn't true sustainability put food production back in its rightful place of providing for basic human needs? The U.N. has called for 100% increase in world food production to feed an expected population of 9 billion by 2050. I fully believe that we need to leave the world a better place and protect our environment, but also believe in utilizing technology to meet human needs - and not just those closest to the Whole Foods Market. Agricultural friends, Earth Day is an opportunity to communicate these types of messages in your community - and point to the interests you share with environmentalists such as recycling, doing more with less, creative use of resources, helping rejuvenate soil through sustainable practices or supporting wildlife habitat. Don't allow groups with little (if any) firsthand experience with food production define agriculture as a “factory” or “industrial.” Put a face on food production and you might be surprised at the positive response when people learn about your environmental practices!

From Michelle Payne Koper, April 22, 2009

### **I-9 Form Changes**

Changes to the I-9 form (employment eligibility verification) rule will now take effect April 3. These changes represent another attempt by the Department of Homeland Security to intensify the regulations which apply to

employers and prospective employees. Information about the changes as well as a copy of the Employer's Handbook are available online at: <http://www.uscis.gov/>.

## **Horticulture Bump's for Water Conservation and Treatment Workshop**

Are you interested in water conservation, managing diseases and algae in water, or using recycled or reclaimed water in your nursery or field crops? The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and The Water Education Alliance for Horticulture will host a program focusing on onsite recycling and treatment of irrigation water on April 29 at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The goal is to encourage and enable growers to recycle irrigation water and/or adopt BMPs for water conservation, which will reduce water demand. Greenhouse, nursery, foliage, strawberry and vegetable growers will learn about diagnosing and treating diseases, algae, and salt problems in recycled and recycled/reclaimed water. This regional workshop will feature presentations from industry and university experts from throughout the U.S. Best Management Practices (BMPs) to conserve irrigation water will also be discussed.

There is an optional tour of the Riverview Flower Farm earlier that morning, from 10- 11:30 a.m., at 5363 Bonita Drive, Wimauma, which will highlight new research and practical aspects of water conservation.

To register for the free tour and workshop, visit <http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/Ag/AgCalendar.html#April> the registration deadline is April 22. There is a \$15 per person for late registrations. Pesticide CEUs have been applied for the morning and afternoon sessions.

## **Pesticide Potpourri**

### **Changes to the Bravo Weather-Strip Label**

Ted McCarty sent an outline of recent changes as well as the Supplemental label and the Section 3 label which includes these changes.

He notes it may be a while before these changes show up on container labels so growers should have the Section 3 on hand when using Bravo for any of these new uses. This label is now approved in Florida. The addition of pepper is probably the most significant new use.

The Bravo Ultrix label has not been updated yet and Ted will provide updates as soon as that is done – probably around late summer or early fall.

Summary of changes:

Product: Bravo Weather Stick®

EPA Reg #: 50534-188-100

Operating Unit: Crop Protection - Fungicide

Document Type: Section 3 and Supplemental Label

Document (label) Code: SCP 50534-188A-L1E 0109 and SCP 50534-188A-S5 0109

Use/ Changes:

- Added to Precautionary Statements
- Added to Agricultural Use Requirements box
- Revised/Added to the Brassica table
- Added to the Cucurbits table

- Added the following new crop tables: Fruiting Vegetables, Ginseng,
- Horseradish, Lupine and Lentil, Persimmon, Rhubarb, Yam

OTHER COMMENTS: Supplemental label SCP 50534-188A-S5 0109 includes: Brassica (head and stem), Cucurbits, Fruiting Vegetables, Ginseng, Horseradish, Lupine and Lentil, Persimmon, Rhubarb, and Yam

## **Opportunities**

### **SALES REPS**

The Roller Group is a world-wide agricultural supplies company, present in 38 countries worldwide. Our core businesses include specialty fertilizers and innovative nutrition solutions. Our products focus on high quality and are designed for creating profitable agriculture. These proprietary products are supported by ongoing research and development.

To continue our development in Florida, we are seeking TWO SALES REPRESENTATIVES within TIMAC Agro USA, a Roller Group subsidiary. We have an opening in the Ft. Pierce/Vero Beach area and one in the Belle Glade/Moore Haven area. The areas have good established business and need to be further developed. The successful candidates will have the following attributes and experience:

- Excellent communication skills with outgoing and enthusiastic personality
- Proven track record of success in driving a sales territory within the agricultural sector
- Excellent team member with a minimum of 5 years experience at such a position.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a solid network of contacts with agricultural growers in the area.

We offer a full benefit program including medical and dental, 401-K, and company vehicle. The successful candidate will receive base salary plus commission, with tremendous upside potential.

Contact:

Clancy Clark

Regional Manager

Times Agro USA

[cclark@timasusa.com](mailto:cclark@timasusa.com)

Cell - 813-917-3609

### **POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: FIELD DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE - EASTERN USA**

Certis USA, a leading manufacturer and marketer of biological and botanical products for pest management, is seeking a highly motivated and articulate professional to serve as lead technical representative in the Eastern USA (Florida/Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes areas). Position reports to the Director of Technical Development, within the Sales & Marketing Group.

Major Responsibilities:

- Working with the Product Development team, conduct field research and provide analyses to support marketing strategies for new products and market expansion of existing products.
- Technical support of the field sales team, including management of grower demonstration trials, work with key influencers, presentations to customers, and development of technical bulletins and other marketing aids.

## Requirements:

- MS or PhD in Plant Pathology, Entomology, Agronomy, or related discipline.
- 2-5 years practical experience in commercial product development, research/extension, or technical sales & marketing related to agricultural or horticultural pest management.
- Demonstrated field research skills in experimental design, statistical analysis, application technology, etc.
- Willingness to travel within the assigned geography (may exceed 50% of time depending on season and location).
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills, including proficiency with PowerPoint, Excel, Word, and other presentation/communication tools.
- Ability to work in teams in a fast-paced, rapidly changing market environment. The ideal candidate will have leadership skills necessary for future advancement into managerial positions for the company's long term strategic growth.

Location at company headquarters in Columbia, Maryland is preferred, but others may be considered for outstanding candidates already located within key market areas in the assigned geography.

Please send your résumé to [probinson@certisusa.com](mailto:probinson@certisusa.com) or mail to Human Resources, Certis USA, L.L.C., 9175 Guilford Road, Suite 175, Columbia, Maryland 21046 EOE

## Farm Land for Lease

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

Agriculture land available for a long term lease of 8-10 years. This 320 acre property is located in Martin County on Hwy 609 and 3 miles north of Hwy 710 (The Beeline Hwy). It is within the Troop Indiantown Water District (TIWD) which provides for irrigation water and free-flowing drainage. This land is free of wetlands and cleared for farming. Contact Miguel Perales: 561-718-4635.

Quality agricultural land for lease or possible joint venture production of vegetable crops, bio-fuels etc. is available in Martin County. Easy access to SR 710 and SR 76, under drip and/or overhead irrigation, Call Mitch Hutchcraft at 239-405-1694

## Up Coming Meetings

### Hillsborough County

**April 29, 2009**

### **Horticulture BMP's for Water Conservation and Treatment**

UF/IFAS GCREC  
Wimauma, Florida

To register for the free tour and workshop, visit

<http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/Ag/AgOrnProd/AgCalendar.html#April>

The registration deadline is April 22. There is a \$15 per person for late registrations.

**May 1, 2009**

**Developing a Food Safety Program for Vegetable and Berry Growers and Packers**

UF/IFAS GCREC  
Imamura, Florida

Registration required- \$20, contact Lacey Marsden at 813-744-5519 ext 128 or [lancee@ufl.edu](mailto:lancee@ufl.edu)

**Manatee County**

**May 8, 2009**

**Methyl Bromide Alternative Workshop**

**11:00AM-2:00PM**

Pope's Place  
3911 US HWY 301  
Ellenton, FL 34222

Contact Crystal Snodgrass at 941-722-4524

**Palm Beach County**

**May 5, 2009**

**NAP (Non-insured-crop-disaster Assistance Program) 12:00 – 2:00 PM & CAT (Catastrophe-crop Assistance program) Workshop).**

Palm Beach County Extension / Mounts Auditorium  
531 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Contact Maria Kelly at 561-233-1725

**May 6, 2009**

**Methyl Bromide Alternative Workshop**

**12:00 - 3:00 PM**

Massimo's Italian Restaurant  
7730 Boynton Beach Blvd  
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Contact Maria Kelly at 561-233-1725

**May 14, 2009**

**Worker Protection Standard and Train the Trainer Workshop**

**8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

UF/IFAS EREC  
3200 East Palm Beach Road  
Belle Glade, FL

Cost is \$25.00

**Southwest Florida**

**April 30, 2009**

**CORE/Private Pesticide License Training**

**8 AM – Core  
1 PM - Private**

Hendry County Extension Office  
LaBelle, Florida

Contact 863-674-4092

**April 30, 2009**

**Methyl Bromide Alternatives Update**

**5:30 PM**

UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research & Education Center  
SR 29N  
Immokalee, FL

Contact 863-674-4092 for more information or to register.

### **Other Meetings**

**June 7-9, 2009**

**Florida State Horticultural Society Meeting**

Jacksonville, Florida

For more information contact Mary Lamberts at 305-248-3311 x234, email to [lamberts@ufl.edu](mailto:lamberts@ufl.edu) or go to <http://www.fshs.org/meetings.htm>

### **Websites**

**Concerned Citizens of the Glades, Inc.** is comprised of a group of Glades-area citizens, business people, and farmers, who came together to unite our efforts in protecting the local economy, jobs, and future. They were spurred to action after the Governor's announcement on June 24, 2008, of the sale of U.S. Sugar to the State for purposes of Everglades Restoration. Their prime concern with the deal is the lack of economic transition or planning for the loss of over 1,700 local jobs and other economic impacts, including the projected loss of over \$1.5 billion GDP dollars annually and 10,000 lost jobs state wide that our economy will suffer as a result of the sale. See what they have to say <http://concernedcitizensoftheglades.net/home.html>

**Cause Matters.com** - Michele Payn-Knoper writes a variety of complimentary articles on agricultural advocacy. Go to <http://www.michelepaynknoper.com/learningresmpk.html>

### **Quotable Quotes**

If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men." -- St. Francis of Assisi

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. - Anonymous

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went. - Will Rogers

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. - Ben Williams

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. - Josh Billings

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. - M. Acklam

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. - Ann Landers

## On the Lighter Side

### 12 Things You Didn't Know You Didn't Know

Did you know...?

- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- A crocodile can't stick its tongue out.
- A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- In a study of 200,000 ostriches, over a period of 80 years, no one reported a single case where an ostrich buried its head in the sand.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.
- More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.
- Horses can't vomit.
- The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.
- If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die. And, if you keep your eyes open by force, they can pop out.
- Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.
- Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

Now you do!

### Graduation Day

As graduation day approaches, here's some advice Bill Gates dished out at a high school speech about things they did not and will not learn in school. You may wish to share this with graduates in your life.

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$40,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping -- they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll be working for one.

**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 Beethel/Yoder Brothers, Bruce Corbitt/West Coast Tomato Growers, Dr. Phyllis Gilreath/Manatee County Extension, Michael Hare/Drip Tape Solutions, Fred Heald/Farmers Supply, Sarah Hornsby/AgCropCon, Cecil Howell/H & R Farms, Loren Horsman/Glades Crop Care, Bruce Johnson/General Crop Management, 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. Aaron Palmateer/TREC, 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.

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