



UNIVERSITY OF  
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E X T E N S I O N

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

April 26, 2005

**A late season cool front dropped nighttime temperatures across South Florida into the upper 40's and low 50's Sunday night.** For the most part, Chamber of Commerce weather marked by dry sunny conditions has prevailed across South Florida for much of the past two weeks punctuated by a few showers marking the passage of cold fronts. Temperatures in most areas averaged several degrees below normal for most of the period. Daytime highs averaged in the 70s and 80s while nighttime lows averaged mostly in the 50s and 60s.

**Although most areas received significant rainfall for the period, conditions have become markedly drier over the past few weeks.** Rainfall totals ranged from 1.92 inches in Fort Pierce to .076 inches in Homestead. The lack of rain in most areas has prompted growers to irrigate as needed

**Continued cold weather has slowed growth of most vegetables with many crops two or more weeks behind schedule.** It seems like about the time plants really start growing, along comes another cold snap which cools the soil temperature and slows them down again. This season growers have noticed a greater difference this season with mulch color and growth. The silver mulch (and white with some double crops) kept the soil cooler and the growth is visibly slower. Weather related issues have also affected pollination in cucurbits and reduced fruit set in other vegetables lowering yield projections.

### FAWN Weather Summary\*

Date	Air Temp (°F)		Rainfall (Inches)	Hours Below Certain Temperature (hours)							
	Min	Max		40°F	45°F	50°F	55°F	60°F	65°F	70°F	75°F
<b>Bradenton</b>											
4/5 – 4/14/05*	56.5	83.1	0.89	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.1	0.6	33.0	7.6
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>											
4/5 – 4/25/05	54.4	87.0	1.52	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	21.1	15.1	73.5	10.9
<b>Fort Pierce</b>											
4/5 – 4/25/05	44.1	83.3	1.92	0.0	0.9	10.1	9.6	8.2	94.9	82.1	22.8
<b>Homestead</b>											
4/5 – 4/25/05	50.6	86.5	0.76	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.1	30.5	7.4	14.8	33.0
<b>Immokalee</b>											
4/5 – 4/25/05	45.0	85.0	0.98	0.0	0.0	11.3	20.2	11.3	104.7	77.4	16.1

\* Note – FAWN system weather info beyond April 14 is not available at this time for Bradenton

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**The dry conditions have kept harvesting on schedule with most southern Peninsula planting completed for the season.** Watermelon picking is underway in south Florida localities with a very light volume available. Other crops coming to market include snap beans, blueberries, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and specialty items. Lighter amounts of eggplant, endive, escarole and lettuce are also available. Strawberry harvesting is nearly done for the year.

**The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that a cold front will move into Central Florida tonight.** This will bring an increased chance of rain of the next few days with 70 percent chance of showers and possibly severe thunderstorms over northern sections tonight. These will gradually spread south as the front continues to move across south Florida bringing a 70 % chance of showers to south Florida on Wednesday. The system will clear the area on Thursday bringing drier air and clear conditions to the area.

**Another front will approach the area by the beginning of next week increasing chances for unsettled weather.** For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

## **Insects**

### **Whiteflies**

**Growers and scouts in SW Florida report that whiteflies are really starting to build in some older fields at harvest stage with counts in excess of 10 per plant and higher being reported in places.** In addition to adults, nymphs are also present in high numbers.

**Respondents in the Manatee/Ruskin area are still observing a slow increase in silverleaf whitefly – eggs, pupae and adults.** Adults showing signs of larger increase if weather warms and stays warm.

**Reports from around Homestead indicate whiteflies are present in high numbers and growers are having difficulty maintaining control.**

**Around Palm Beach County whitefly numbers have been mostly low to moderate with some hotspots being reported depending to some extent on conditions in neighbouring fields.**

**End of Season recommendations for whitefly management at crop termination:**

- 1 Two-month crop free period from mid-June to mid-August
- 2 Correct crop destruction technique means control of existing whitefly populations in addition to the physical destruction of the crop.
  - Prompt and efficient crop destruction between fall and spring crops to maximally decrease whitefly numbers and TYLCV sources available to infect subsequent crops.
  - Use a burn down herbicide such as Paraquat or Diquat in conjunction with a heavy application of oil (2-4 % solution) to quickly kill whiteflies.
  - Time burn down sprays to avoid crop destruction during windy periods, especially when prevailing winds are blowing whiteflies toward adjacent plantings.
- 3 Destroy crops block by block as harvest is completed rather than waiting and destroying an entire field.

**There have been reports of imidacloprid being used in Florida for growth/yield enhancement of watermelons.** We are not aware of conclusive research data that indicates growth enhancement in melons in Florida, but whether you are using it for yield enhancement or for insect control, please keep in mind that the more crops the nicotinoid materials are used on, the more silverleaf whiteflies are exposed to it and this may negatively impact whitefly resistance management efforts across the area.

**With news of the biotype Q whitefly which was recently found on poinsettia in Arizona and its resistance to many of our commonly used materials, growers would be well advised start paying more attention to resistance management guidelines.**

**According to Dr. Dave Schuster, Entomologist at the UF/IFAS GulfCoast Research and Education Center, Biotype Q is the biotype that has plagued the southern Spain greenhouse production area for years.** It has demonstrated high levels of resistance to everything we use here. The main threat, though, is that the resistance is highly stable, even without continued selection, for a long period, perhaps years. Dave indicates that Q biotype would be disaster for Florida and notes that section 18s would be required to obtain insecticides capable of controlling the pest.

**This is contrasted with biotype B, where tolerance dissipates in just a few generations.** The level of resistance in the biotype Q in Arizona will depend upon the origin of the invasion and the history of previous exposure. If it isn't already resistant, future resistance may be avoidable or manageable with strong adherence to resistance management recommendations. Therefore, the pressure will be even greater for growers to follow the recommendations on a regional basis.

Because biotype B was moved around the world on poinsettia and because poinsettia is a good host for biotype Q, it is likely that this latter biotype may also move on poinsettia. FDACS is currently conducting a survey to try and determine if the biotype is already present in Florida. If not already present in Florida, regulatory action may be taken to try and keep infested plant material from moving into the state.

### **Pinworms**

**Reports from the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that pinworm pressure is still fairly steady and numbers are building in some fields.**

**Tomato pinworms are starting to build in several fields around Immokalee but overall levels remain fairly low.**

**As with all pests early detection is important.** Pheromone traps help provide an early warning. At planting, place a minimum of one trap per 10 acres at least 25 paces inside of field. Growers should begin use of pheromones early, when 3 to 5 moths are caught per trap per night, then mating disruption should be initiated. If pinworms are present, increase trap numbers to ensure an accurate estimate of the population. Pinworms can be controlled with mating disruption techniques and pesticides. Mating disruption is most successful where fields are isolated or whole areas are treated.

**If using insecticides, treatment must begin when populations reach economic thresholds.** The UF/IFAS Florida Tomato Scouting Guide Tomato has recommends season-long action thresholds of 5 adults/trap/night to initiate the application of mating disruptants and an action threshold of 0.7 larva per plant for the initiation of control measures.

**Once begun, treatments may be required until harvest.** Treat again when populations return to damaging levels. If nearby infested tomato fields are terminated or abandoned, adults can immigrate into later planted fields in large numbers

**Growers should carefully monitor for this pest, especially near woods and around field borders, if scouting detects a significant movement, consider border treatments.**

**Pheromone-based mating disruptants, such as No Mate TPW spirals or Checkmate TPW dispensers provide a very effective means of combating pinworm.** These should be applied according to label instructions with good distribution throughout field.

**Chemical controls include Agri-Mek (Abemectin) and Spintor which both have the advantage of being effective against leafminers as well as the additional benefit of being soft on beneficials.** Lannate (Methomyl) and a variety of synthetic pyrethroids are also effective materials for the control of pinworm. Development of resistance to Lannate has been documented in pinworms in some parts of the country and excessive use of these broad-spectrum insecticides may result in outbreaks of leafminers and mites if they are present.

**Organically acceptable biological and cultural control methods include the use of mating disruptants, field sanitation, and pyrethrin.** Parasites can also be important in aiding in pinworm control.

### Worms

**Growers and scouts on the east Coast report finding a mixed bag of worms including loopers as well as southern and beet armyworms.** Numbers are mostly low but some reports indicate that beet armyworms have been difficult to control in some situations. A few rindworms have been reported causing problems in cantaloupes and watermelon. (**Note:** rindworm does not refer to a specific species but is loosely applied to any worms affecting the exterior rind of melons.)

**Around west central Florida a few worms are being reported mostly loopers and beet armyworm eggs and larvae.**

**Reports from Southwest Florida indicate that armyworms are around in tomato and pepper and also a few on melon rinds.** Over all worm activity has been fairly light –with a few cabbage loopers, fruitworms and beet armyworms being reported.

**Respondents in Glades indicate that fall armyworm pressure on corn remains at its lowest level in 25 years with few, if any problems being seen.** Silk fly populations are low as well.

**Reports from Dr Greg Nuessly, UF/IFAS EREC in Belle Glade indicate that the diamondback moth population growth has been slightly delayed this season by cooler than average temperatures.** He notes despite their delayed appearance they are really coming on now in late planted crucifers and brassicas.

**He also reports that imported cabbageworm butterflies have been locally very common around Belle Glade over the past two weeks.** Growers that have not been treating as frequently because of low diamondback moth populations should keep an eye out for the larger, brighter colored larval stages of this butterfly pest of crucifers and brassicas.

**Diamondback moths have also been active in cabbage in the Manatee area. Reports indicate severe problems in some locations.**

### Thrips

**Respondents on the East Coast report that flower thrips are still present in mostly low numbers in pepper and cucumber blooms.** Reports also indicate that *Thrips palmi* are present in few locations on pepper and eggplant.

**Growers and scouts in the Belle Glade area report very high levels of thrips infestations on beans in some areas.** Usually, thrips pressure drops off after bloom drop, but thrips continue to attack pods in a few areas. Areas around flowering trees show the highest levels of infestation. Lannate still provides good control, but in areas with flowering trees, re-infestation may occur in as little as three days after insecticide application. Red node virus has been diagnosed on beans in the area and can be transmitted by thrips. Thrips have also been reported causing problems in lettuce.

**Around Southwest Florida, thrips numbers have been declining over the past few weeks and no problems have been noted.**

### **Leafminers**

**Respondents in the Manatee/Ruskin area report that leafminer numbers are low overall, but note that some new activity has been reported and speculate that as harvest picks up and sprays drop off on older plantings, numbers will likely increase.**

**Reports from other areas of south Florida indicate that leafminer pressure has dropped off and is mostly insignificant.**

### **Pepper weevil**

**Growers and scouts in Pam Beach report that weevils are fairly common in pepper with counts varying widely depending on the location.**

**Reports from Southwest Florida indicate Pepper weevils are also starting to build to season highs, reaching moderate levels in several locations.**

### **Aphids**

**Respondents in Palm Beach indicate that aphid numbers remain high on leafy crops in the Belle Glade area.**

**Reports indicate that aphids are also on the increase in tomato and pepper in the Ruskin area.**

### **Spider Mites**

**Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that spider mite activity is increasing in a variety of crops including eggplant, pepper and tomato.**

**Around Southwest Florida, spider mite pressure has been on the rise in melons, cantaloupe and a few tomato fields.**

### **Russet mites**

**Respondents in the Manatee area have reported the occurrence of russet mites on tomato in isolated locations.**

**While most growers are familiar with the two spotted mites, russet mites are less commonly seen.** According to the literature, "Foliar surface feeding produces a bronzing or russeted appearance on both the stems and leaves. Infested leaves first curl up at the leaf edges, then become dry and drop from the plant. They feed readily on the upper surface of leaves and tolerate direct sunlight. Fruit and blossoms are rarely infested,

but fruit may suffer sunscald from lack of foliage. Injury is usually first observed in small patches of the field, but wind-borne dispersal of the mites soon results in widespread infestation.

**These mites are barely visible without magnification, making field scouting difficult.** Thus, most monitoring is done by watching for damage, with confirmation of mite presence accomplished microscopically.

**Mite infestations are usually detected when fruit are present but still small.** Mites are readily dispersed by people and equipment, so care should be taken to minimize traffic within infested fields. There is some indication of differences in susceptibility among commercially available tomato cultivars. Sulfur has long been used for mite suppression but other insecticides are also available. Materials labeled for russet mites include Kelthane and Agrimek. In addition, other materials labeled for mites may also have activity.

### **Broadmites**

**Respondents in Southwest Florida indicate that broadmites are becoming more active in pepper and are flaring up in a number of pepper fields.**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach indicate that broadmites are present here and there, mostly in pepper.**

### **Diseases**

#### **Bacterial Leaf Spot**

**Reports from Manatee County indicate that bacterial leaf spot still around but drier weather seems to have slowed it down to some extent.** Growers report that this seems to be an especially aggressive strain this year.

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach report that bacterial spot pressure is present on pepper and tomato and indicate that incidence and severity varies widely depending on the location.** Dr Ken Pernezny notes that bacterial spot of pepper is surprisingly high for this time of the year. He indicates that so far, we seem to be seeing a preponderance of race 4, based on the host differential studies done by Jerry Minsavage in Gainesville.

**Respondents in Southwest Florida note that bacterial spot has gone wild on tomato in a number of places, noting that it just won't seem to stop and is really starting to eat up some tops.** Reports indicate that bacterial spot is also still haunting some pepper fields and is resulting in leaf drop, which is making sunscald a problem.

#### **Downy Mildew**

**Reports from East Coast note that downy mildew remains a major problem in cucumber and squash in Palm Beach and St Lucie Counties.** Many of these fields have been devastated with a fair amount of acreage either abandoned, or extremely low yielding. Many growers have commented that it is worse than they can ever remember.

**Dr. Ken Pernezny, Pathologist at UF/IFAS EREC notes that growers and others should not be misled by the angular nature of these lesions on cukes and misdiagnose the problem as angular leaf spot (bacterial).** He continues that if one looks closely, the sporulation of the downy mildew fungus can be seen with a hand lens on the underside of the lesions. When in doubt, interested parties should try to get samples to a clinic for confirmation that downy mildew is present in cucurbits and has reached very high levels.

**Growers and scouts report that downy mildew continues to be a major problem on cucumber, cantaloupe and squash around Southwest Florida and note that it has become a very aggressive and hard to control disease this season.** Incidence and occurrence is moderate to high in a number of locations. A few cases have also been reported on watermelon where incidence and occurrence has been lower.

**Recommended fungicides include Apply Maneb 4F, Dithane F45, Manex II, Manzate, Penncozeb, Echg, Equus, ChloroGold, Ridomil Gold Copper, Acrobat, Ridomil Gold Bravo, ManKocide, Bravo, Tanos, Cabrio, Amistar or Pristine, but growers and scouts note that control is dependent on an aggressive spray program incorporating some of the newer more efficacious products.**

**Downy mildew is also present on lettuce and brassicas in Devil's Garden, around Belle Glade and in other parts of Palm Beach County.**

**Downy mildew has been reported on melons in few locations around Manatee County.**

### **Bacterial leaf spot of lettuce**

**Dr Ken Pernezny writes that bacterial leaf spot of lettuce, caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vitians*, has been confirmed in his lab on both iceberg and red leaf lettuce in the Glades.** He notes that Dr Rick Raid has reported a field observation of a fairly serious outbreak of it on red leaf lettuce.

### **Powdery Mildew**

**Respondents in Palm Beach report that powdery mildew is widely present on cucumber, cantaloupe, squash, tomato and pepper where it is said to be "bad" in some areas.** Scouts report severe problems on tomato in some places where plants are said to be white from top to bottom.

**Powdery mildew is wide spread on squash and cucumber around Southwest Florida.** Incidence and severity is moderate to high in some places. Powdery mildew is also present on pepper in a few locations.

### **Target Spot**

**Respondents in Manatee County indicate that some target spot is present in tomato but note that incidence and occurrence is mostly low.**

**Reports from around Immokalee indicate that target spot is still around in tomato but not that problems have been minimal in recent weeks.**

### **Early Blight**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County note that early blight has increased significantly on tomato and eggplant in recent weeks.**

**Early Blight has also been reported on tomato in the Palmetto/Ruskin area.**

### **Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus**

**Growers and scouts in Manatee County report that some new TYLCV showing up in a few locations, and note that problems have been worse in the northern part of the county thanks to some older fall fields and poor sanitation and burn down.**

**Reports from around southwest Florida indicate that TYLCV has reach a high level in many fields where the incidence is said to be over 70% infection is some cases. Overall across the area most fields remain in the 10-20% range.**

**Respondents in Palm Beach indicate that TYLCV incidence is mostly below what has been seen in previous seasons but some hotspots with over 10% incidence have been noted.**

**Growers are urged to take precautions to rouge plants where feasible and practice a complete program of IPM and whitefly management including attention to sanitation and crop destruction.**

### **Gummy Stem Blight**

**Reports from around south Florida indicate that gummy stem blight remains low on watermelon in most areas.**

### **Rust**

**Reports from the Glades indicates that although common bean rust remains under control in most areas, infections are sky-rocketing on beans in a few areas where it is approaching yield-limiting levels.**

### **Common rust of corn**

**Dr. Richard N. Raid of the UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center reports that sweet corn rust is extreme this spring**

**Common rust of corn, caused by the fungus *Puccinia sorghi*, has been extremely severe this spring on many sweet corn varieties.** Moderate temperatures and breezy daytime conditions have promoted the rapid spread of the airborne spores, which are produced en-mass during long nightly dew periods. Fungicide trials being conducted at the EREC in Belle Glade indicate that strobilurin fungicides are the compounds of first choice for controlling common rust. However, Dr. Richard Raid, a plant pathologist at the EREC, stresses that these should be used in alternation or tank-mixture with dissimilar compounds, such as the sterol inhibiting fungicides or a broad-spectrum protectant such as mancozeb or chlorothalonil. Raid reports that timing is extremely critical to good control.

**Growers and scouts report that rotations of Tilt and stobilurins have been most effective.** They not that mancozeb offers some control, but only after application of either Tilt or strobilurins. Mancozeb alone has proved insufficient for control.

**Growers should initiate their fungicide programs before inoculum conditions, exhibited by abundant sporulating pustules on lower leaves, get out of control.** Raid will host on field day on Friday, April 29th at 1:30 pm for all those who want to compare fungicidal efficacies. Growers and other interested parties are encouraged to meet at the EREC conference center. Following a short overview all will proceed to the field for viewing numerous fungicide treatments. Attendees will be able to view presently registered compounds plus many of the new pre-mixes that are being investigated for future registration.

### **Bean red node virus**

**Bean red node virus is popping up in snap bean fields.**

**Red node is caused by a strain of tobacco streak virus.** Initial symptom is reddening of the nodes of the stem. Discoloration and necrosis of the stem and apical tissues may follow and infected plants may bend and break at discolored nodes. Sunken reddish lesions develop on young pods and when necrosis is extensive pods become

shriveled and discolored. Affected plants are frequently stunted and mortality can be high if plants are infected in the seedling or pre-bloom stage.

**Red node can be seed borne so use of certified disease free seed is important.** The disease is also transmitted by thrips (*Frankliniella* sp.).

**Destruction of potential reservoirs of the virus such as white and yellow sweet clover may also help reduce spread of the disease.**

### **Powdery Mildew on Parsley**

**UF/IFAS Plant Pathologist, Dr. Richard Raid at the EREC has confirmed that a suspicious powdery white covering on parsley leaves spotted by an observant scout in the Belle Glades area is powdery mildew.**

**Resembling rock road dust on the leaf surface, the disease is caused by the fungal pathogen *Erysiphe heraclei*.** The fungus mycelium grows across the outer leaf surface; sending small pegs caused haustoria into the leaf's cells to extract nutrients to support its own growth. Downy mildew starts in the lower canopy and then spreads upward and outward on the crop. Abundant spores are produced on the leaf surface as the disease progresses. Air currents carry these spores to uninfected tissue, where they land and infect more foliage.

**Of registered compounds, the strobilurin fungicides Amistar (Quadris) and Cabrio would probably afford the best control.** For resistance management, these should be alternated with chlorothalonil, a broad-spectrum protectant, also labeled for use on parsley.

**Dr Raid notes that some isolates of this particular fungus may cross over to several other crops frequently grown in close proximity to parsley.** These include: celery, coriander, dill, carrots, fennel, and parsnips. Scouts and growers may want to carefully examine these additional hosts. Dr Raid indicates that he would be willing to examine any samples sent to me for positive or negative verification if powdery is suspected.

### **Fusarium**

**Around Southwest Florida, fusarium crown continues to take its toll in a number of tomato fields around the area.**

**Respondents in Palm Beach report that fusarium crown rot incidence is high in tomato in some locations.** Scouts also report some problems with fusarium crown rot on pepper.

### **Mosaic**

**Reports indicate that mosaic is widely present on squash around South Florida.** Mosaic is also present on watermelon in a number of locations across southwest Florida.

### **Alternaria Leaf and Pod Spot**

**Alternaria leaf and pod spot of beans remains widely present in beans growing areas of South Florida.** Infection on the pods has been reported as moderate to high in some areas.

**Lesions on pods usually appear as very small, dark-brown to black flecks.** When examined with a hand lens, these flecks are somewhat raised and cone-like. When only a few flecks occur on a pod, the damage may

be insufficient to result in rejection at the packinghouse. Large numbers of unsightly flecks, however, can result in rejection of the entire lot, especially at lower market prices.

### **Phytophthora**

**Growers in Palm Beach are reporting some scattered problems with Phytophthora on pepper and eggplant.**

**Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida have reported scattered problems with *Phytophthora capsici* on pepper and watermelon.**

### **Watermelon Vine Decline**

**A few confirmed cases of watermelon vine decline have been reported around southwest Florida over the past few weeks.** Incidence and occurrence is far below the levels seen at this time last year.

### **Postharvest Problems In Tomato**

**Fruit decay problems such as soft rot are continual problems in tomato packinghouses in Florida.**

**Microorganisms, both plant and human pathogens can enter produce in a number of different ways.** Fruit damage such as punctures, wounds, cuts or cracks are common entry routes and these injuries can occur both in the field and in the packinghouse. Damage can be caused by wind blown sand and other mechanical injuries. Pathogens such as soft rot are ubiquitous and normal inhabitants of vegetable fields. They multiply during moist weather. Fruit picked when the plant is wet will have a film of water covering the stem scar and pickers can spread pathogens to fruit surfaces in the field during harvest. Insects, birds and even dust can serve as vectors for both plant and animal pathogens, especially after fruit injury.

**Since the porosity of the stem-end scar increases with fruit pulp temperature, harvest during hotter months presents greater potential problems.** Once in fruit tissue, through either the stem scar or wounds, bacteria cannot be killed by chlorine or any other sanitizer/disinfectant.

**Because there are a number of variables which may affect the infiltration of water and pathogens into tomato fruit, both field and packinghouse managers must be aware of potential problem areas in order to minimize problems.** For packinghouse handling guidelines, see '*Handling Florida Vegetables – Tomatoes*' by Steve Sargent, available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH079>. In addition IFAS publication HS866, '*Identifying and Controlling Postharvest Tomato Diseases in Florida*', has been updated and expanded and is available at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS131>.

### **News You Can Use**

#### **CORE CEUs Online**

**Don't forget that as of January 1, you now need 4 CORE CEUs instead of 2 in order to renew your private pesticide license.** The total for Private applicators is still 8, but 4 must be CORE while the other 4 must be in your category.

**For those who need CORE CEUs to meet the new requirement,** CEUs are available by reading articles published in Citrus and Vegetable Magazine and completing and returning the question sets to the respective authors. If you have misplaced your magazine, you can get the articles and information on how to request the question sets at Citrus and Vegetable Magazine's website of archived issues at <http://www.citrusandvegetable.com/home/Archive.html>

**Please note that these articles are not valid indefinitely.** Some are valid for one year from the date of publication; others are valid for shorter periods, at the discretion of the author. So don't delay. You can earn these CEUs at any time prior to renewing your license. It's free, it's easy and it's convenient!

## **Section 18 extended on Topsin M WSB Fungicide**

The Section 18 emergency exemption for Topsin M WSB was recently renewed for the control of Sclerotinia (white mold) on fruiting vegetables in Florida. This Section 18 is effective from April 8, 2005 and expires on April 7, 2006. Rate is 0.5 to 1 lb of product per acre with a maximum of 4 applications per acre not to exceed 3.5 lbs of product per acre. PHI is 2 days, REI is 12 hours. Remember label must be in possession of the user at the time of application.

## **CDMS - ChemSearch**

ChemSearch is the industry's premier searchable database for agricultural chemicals. ChemSearch contains product label information for over 1,600 crop protection and specialty products including 24Cs, Section 18s and Supplemental Labels.

ChemSearch provides rapid searching of label information. Search criteria consist of any combination of:

- crop or site,
- pest(s),
- state/county,
- manufacturer,
- product name,
- type of product (herbicide, insecticide, etc.),
- application time,
- label type (24C etc.).
- 

This rapid search saves time and enables the user to narrow the list of products available to solve specific problems.

Use rates, pests controlled, re-entry, crop rotation and safety information as well as other facts can be displayed or printed in a concise, standardized, 1 to 2 page format. These informational summaries are ideal for comparing products and/or providing to growers as back up to a recommendation.

Each label has been entered in a standardized CDMS format that enables quick retrieval of pertinent information. All information is reviewed and approved by the manufacturer before it is released to CDMS users. ChemSearch also includes the full-text version of the product labels. These labels are received electronically from the manufacturer, preserving their graphics and 'look and feel'. CDMS does not re-key any of the full-text label data. When a company changes a label, you receive it the next day!

The MSDS section includes over 4,200 MSDSs for agricultural and specialty products. MSDSs are updated as often as the manufacturer changes them. MSDSs may be viewed on screen in their entirety or printed.

MSDSs can be searched by:

- First Aid Information
- Fire and Explosion Information
- Spill Information

ChemSearch also includes:

- Worker Protection Information by Product
- D.O.T. Shipping Descriptions

- Information required to comply with SARA Title III, such as CAS #'s and threshold planning quantities
- Information on which states a product is "available for distribution"

The ChemSearch/MSDS Service is available as an installed program on your computer. Updates are downloaded onto your PC via FTP update over the Internet. ChemSearch is also available as an Internet application. CDMS offers a broad range of software services with a variety of pricing. Pricing is dependent on service(s) ordered and quantity.

To learn more about pricing information contact your local sales representative, contact <http://www.cdms.net/SalesRegionsWeb.asp> or call 1-800-237-2367.

## **Call to Action**

Now is the time to act and show your support for agricultural research funding!

Congress will soon begin pulling together the agriculture-spending bill for FY 2006, which includes formula funding and funding for the Department of Agriculture's National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRI). Now is the time to act! Contact your Congressional delegation and urge them to both support the President's request of \$250 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRI), and oppose his proposed cuts to formula funding—Hatch, McIntire-Stennis and Animal Health & Disease— the elimination of which would be detrimental to the entire USDA research portfolio.

PS – thanks to all of you who called your local representative to express support for the UF/IFAS budget in Tallahassee last week.

## **Help Wanted**

A helping hand is needed! We would like your help if you drive a truck or similar large vehicle between Immokalee and Fort Myers.

The Society of Saint Andrew has been gratefully accepting donations of produce from growers and packers for donation to those in need in our community. There is no shortage of hunger in our society and in this bountiful area of Florida there is an amazing amount of fruits and vegetables that can be donated for a full market-value tax deduction.

Please consider putting yourself on our call list for delivery. No obligation--if it is convenient for you say "YES" when we call with a plea for help. If it is not a good time just say "no" and we will ask at a better time. Please call for more information and check out our website ([endhunger.org](http://endhunger.org)) to see what we can do together!

Contact Ann Maier, Fort Myers Area Coordinator at (239) 275-7815 or [seeks@aol.com](mailto:seeks@aol.com) for more information.

## **Job Opportunity**

Kelly Scientific Resources has an excellent opportunity for an Agriculture/Botany Field Technician position in LaBelle. This is an ideal position for a college student, or high school graduate in the LaBelle area with farm experience. The position is currently for 1-3 months for the summer, with the possibility of going longer.

### **Responsibilities**

Kelly Scientific Resources is currently seeking a field technician to assist with an agriculture research project

located near La Belle, FL. This position will be responsible for collection of fruits and vegetables from the field perform physical testing on the fruits and vegetables in the laboratory, assist with data collection and data entry. Other responsibilities include support of field application studies. This includes fieldwork assisting with the collection of samples under study and assisting the study coordinator as needed.

Field technicians are critical to the success of this project; reliability and attention to detail are absolutely necessary, and applicants must have own reliable transportation.

### Qualifications

College student majoring in botany, biology, or life sciences would be ideal; however, prior experience in the agricultural industry or science background is also acceptable. Must be familiar with MS Excel and have excellent documentation skills.

If you are interested in hearing more, please Marissa Parker, toll free at 888-886-5905 or email at [marissa\\_parker@kellyservices.com](mailto:marissa_parker@kellyservices.com)

## Up Coming Meetings

### Manatee County

**June 14, 2005**      **CORE/Private Applicator Ag Pesticide License Exam Preparation Class**

Manatee County Extension Service  
Palmetto Florida

For more information, contact Phyllis Gilreath at 941-722-4524 or [prgilreath@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:prgilreath@ifas.ufl.edu).

### Miami Dade County

**April 27, 2005**      **Methyl Bromide Compliance Meeting**      6 PM - 8 PM

Dade County Extension Auditorium  
18710 SW 288<sup>th</sup> Street  
Homestead, Florida

Contact the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association at 321-214-5200

### Palm Beach County

**April 13, 2005**      **General Standards/Core Test Review**      8 AM – 12 AM      4 CEUs  
Right of Way Test Review      1 PM – 3 PM      2 CEU's

Clayton E Hutchinson Agricultural Center  
559 N Military Trail  
West Pam Beach Florida, Florida

Contact Laura Powell at 561-996-1655.

## Southwest Florida

**May 3, 2005**      **Worker Protection Standard – Handler Training**  
Spanish - 9AM – Noon  
English – 1 PM – 3 PM

Hendry County Extension Office  
1085 Pratt Boulevard  
LaBelle, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details.

**May 19, 2005**      **Spring Vegetable Field Day**      10 AM – 1 PM  
**and BioSafe Systems Product Update**

UF/IFAS - SW Florida Research and Education Center  
Hwy 29 N  
Immokalee, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092

**May 25, 2005**      **Tomatoes A-Z – Results of 2004-05 SW Florida BMP Trials**      5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

UF/IFAS - SW Florida Research and Education Center  
Hwy 29 N  
Immokalee, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092

## Other Meetings

**May 16-20, 2005**      **2005 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course**  
Fort Lauderdale Marriott North  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For information: 352-392-5126. You can also register online at  
[www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw)

**June 5-7, 2005**      **Florida State Horticultural Society Annual Meeting**  
Marriott Tampa Westshore  
Tampa, Florida

**Registration information at [www.fshs.org](http://www.fshs.org) or call 863-956-1151**

## Websites

**ChemSearch** is the industry's premier searchable database for agricultural chemicals. ChemSearch contains product label information for over 1,600 crop protection and specialty products including 24Cs, Section 18s and Supplemental Labels. Go to <http://www.cdms.net/apls.asp>

## Quotable Quotes

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon. -- Napoleon Bonaparte

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing. – Redd Foxx

Against logic there is no armor like ignorance. - Laurence J. Peter

It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.- Judith Martin

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." - Robert Frost

To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk. -- Thomas A. Edison

What luck for rulers that men do not think. -- Adolf Hitler

"Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a moron."- George Carlin

## On the Lighter Side

### The Phone Connection

An Indiana farm wife called the local phone company to report her telephone failed to ring when her friends called - and that on the few occasions when it did ring, her pet dog always moaned right before the phone rang.

The telephone repairman proceeded to the scene, curious to see this psychic dog or senile elderly lady.

He climbed a nearby telephone pole, hooked in his test set, and dialed the subscriber's house.

The phone didn't ring right away, but then the dog moaned loudly and the telephone began to ring.

Climbing down from the pole, the telephone repairman found:

1. The dog was tied to the telephone system's ground wire via a steel chain and collar.
2. The wire connection to the ground rod was loose.
3. The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current when the phone number was called.
4. After a couple of such jolts, the dog would start moaning and then urinate on himself and the ground.
5. The wet ground would complete the circuit, thus causing the phone to ring.

Which demonstrates that some problems CAN be fixed by pissing and moaning.

### "THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE"

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high, and a happy heart.

I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds. Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me.

I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and his Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

Tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be ..... The Best Day Of My Life!

--Author Unknown

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

Rachel Walters  
***Bayer CropScience***

1214 Twin Palm Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
Phone 239-278-9078 Cell 239-707-1198

Glen Kaufman  
***Paramount Seeds, Inc.***

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

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***Manatee Fruit Company***

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