



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

April 30, 2011

Weather has been hot, dry and windy through most of April. High temperatures have hastened maturity in many crops and indications are many crops will finish up ahead of normal schedules this season.

Daytime highs have been hitting the low to mid 90's for the past few weeks with nighttime lows mostly in the 60's. This week, widely scattered showers have dropped significant amounts of rain in some places.

Despite some widely scattered showers over the past week or so, extreme drought conditions continue in Broward, Palm Beach and northern Miami-Dade counties along with portions of western interior areas of south Florida, with severe drought conditions across the rest of south Florida.

Hot windy weather the past few weeks has dropped water levels in ditches around South Florida and wind and rain has battered plants and scarred fruit in the Manatee/Ruskin area.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
4/2 - 4/30/11	46.33	93.02	0.93	74	0.17
Belle Glade					
4/2 - 4/30/11	53.64	93.92	0.45	78	0.18
Clewiston					
4/2 - 4/30/11	54.99	95.83	1.84	76	0.18
Ft Lauderdale					
4/2 - 4/30/11	61.52	93.16	2.04	74	0.17
Fort Pierce					
4/2 - 4/30/11	51.66	92.07	1.42	78	0.14
Homestead					
4/2 - 4/30/11	57.74	91.09	0.88	78	0.18
Immokalee					
4/2 - 4/30/11	51.66	97.32	3.73	73	0.18

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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

Watermelon harvest is hitting full gear across South Florida. Other vegetables coming to market included snap beans, cantaloupes, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and various specialty items. Prices have been declining on many items and movement is slow.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that a mid level ridge will build between Sunday and Tuesday with the winds beginning to turn easterly by Monday. On Wednesday, southeasterly winds will dominate ahead of another weak front, which is forecast to bring a few showers Wednesday evening into Thursday.

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

Insects

Whiteflies

Around SW Florida, whitefly numbers are increasing, dramatically in some fields. Just about any field around with new growth, either late planted crops still growing or old fields with new flushes of growth have serious whitefly adults. Many growers have simply stopped spraying as the crop is nearly over. Growers should remember the roll of sanitation in an IPM program and attempt to destroy blocks and clean things up as soon as feasible after crops are harvested.

Growers and scouts in Homestead whiteflies are widely present and causing some issues in okra and other remaining crops.

Reports from Manatee/ Ruskin area indicate that whiteflies remain mostly low however there are some hotspots with higher populations being reported.

Respondents in Palm Beach report variable whitefly numbers depending on the location.

Some growers have reported some phytotoxicity following the use of Requiem on watermelons for thrips and/or whiteflies. Note that according to the label for cucurbits: Use of REQUIEM in tank mixes with some products including, but not limited to, those containing strobilurins or chlorothalonil may result in phytotoxicity. Do not apply products containing chlorothalonil within 4 days after application of REQUIEM. Do not apply REQUIEM for 30 days following an application of chlorothalonil.

Pepper Weevil

Growers and scouts around South Florida report that pepper weevils are building everywhere and causing trouble in a number of locations, especially in older pepper fields and in specialty peppers.

Thrips

Growers and scout report that thrips numbers seem to be declining across most of south Florida.

Dr Gregg Nuessly, Entomologist at EREC reminds bean growers to keep a close eye on thrips populations, because in addition to causing feeding scars and egg-laying blemishes on pods, they transmit bean red node. Symptoms appear at the branches of flowers stalks and vegetative growth, but also on pods.

David Sui, Vegetable Extension Agent in Palm Beach reports that adult western flower thrips in the bell pepper fields in Boca and Delray still remain above UF/IFAS economic threshold, which is 6 adult WFT

per flower, and 2 larvae per young fruit but growers are less concerned as the crop is coming to an end. Growers are reporting some damage on pepper fruit including halos and distorted fruit, plus some TSWV symptoms on new growth. Scouts report that thrips are also present in tomato and eggplant and are especially heavy in cucurbits.

Where peppers field are nearing final harvest, Mustang and Lannate are options for knock-out. However, these knock-out chemicals are not recommended options if the pepper is not approaching termination as using Lannate and Mustang will likely take out other natural enemies that help control worms and leafminer flies.

Prompt field sanitation especially after the last harvest by disking or otherwise destroying old plants to get rid of thrips is important to prevent movement to adjacent fields and farms. Be a good neighbor.

Aphids

Around Palm Beach County, aphids remain active and are present in a variety of crops including melons.

Around Southwest Florida, aphids are still going strong in some places and colonies are producing honey dew in places affecting fruit quality.

Leafminers

Leafminers remains a problem in some fields around the Manatee Ruskin area especially where growers are on seep and did not apply Coragen.

Spider mites

Around Southwest Florida, spider mites are widely present on a variety of crops (tomato, cucurbits, eggplant, and pepper) and numbers are increasing in many places.

Respondents from the Manatee/Ruskin area report that mites remain mostly low but are widespread and are beginning to increase in some crops.

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that spider mites are present in a variety of crops especially eggplant and grape tomatoes.

Worms

In the Manatee/Ruskin area, worms pressure remains steady, with a mixed bag of species including beet and southern armyworm, loopers, hornworms, fruitworms and a few very light pinworms.

Around Southwest Florida, growers and scouts report that worm pressure has been fairly low but scouts are finding a few new hatches around in different crops, including southern, beet and fall armyworms as well as fruitworms and loopers. Melonworms and pickleworms are starting to cause some problems in cucurbits. Diamondback moths are active in crucifers.

Reports from the Glades note large increases in fall armyworm pressure in sweet and field corn over the last couple of weeks.

In Palm Beach and the Glades, reports indicate that diamondback moths remain active on Chinese vegetables and other leafy brassicas. Reports indicate that pressure has been increasing.

Growers should rotate insecticides and should not use any insecticide more than one time. Good results have been obtained with the following materials: Xentari, Radiant, Synapse, Avaunt, Coragen, Voliam Flexi, Voliam Xpress, Rimon, and Proclaim.

Corn Silk Fly

Respondents in the Glades indicate that silk flies are rapidly increasing in number as sweet corn production peaks. When scouting, look for adults on the east side of the corn field in the morning between 8 - 10 AM. At tasseling, check top part of corn plants after 5 pm for adults. Recommended insecticides include: Sevin, Penncap, Thiodan, and pyrethroids in rotation.

Milkweed assassin bugs and minute pirate bugs are potential predators of corn silk fly. Growers should keep these naturally occurring beneficials in mind when spraying insecticides.

Stinkbug

Around Southwest Florida, growers continue to report some issues with stinkbugs and leaf-footed bugs in several crops including tomato, pepper, cucumber, watermelons and potatoes. Organic growers in particular are having difficulty in obtaining control and are experiencing significant damage.

Yellow margin leaf beetle

Yellow margin leaf beetles have been particularly bad in the Glades this season; taking the place of diamondback moth in many leafy brassica vegetable fields this spring. Adults and larvae are common on plants and quickly eat their way into heads. Eggs are frequently deposited deep in the heads out of notice unless you dissect the plants. Larvae emerging from such eggs and quickly turn these plants into “Swiss cheese” cabbage.

The yellowmargined leaf beetle, *Microtheca ochroloma* Stål, is a pest of cruciferous crops and was first recorded in the United States from Mobile, Alabama, in March 1947, where it was found feeding on turnip, cabbage, collard, mustard, and radish.

The beetle is now distributed along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas as well as in Georgia and North Carolina. It can devastate high value crops such as Napa and other oriental crucifers.

The adult beetle is about 5 mm long and predominately dark brown, bronze or black. The margins of the elytra or hardened forewings characteristic of beetles are marked with a margin of yellow or brown, a characteristic which gave this species its common name. Each elytra also has four rows of deep punctures.

The egg is bright orange, elongate, and laid singly or in small groups on plant stems, under fallen leaves or on the soil surface. The egg stage lasts about four to five days.

The larva is grayish to yellow-brown, covered with a fine layer of hairs and has a dark, sclerotized head capsule that is brown or black. The mature larva spins a peculiar blackish network around itself prior to pupation.

Pupal cases are attached to the undersides of leaves, and their dark color stands out against the green foliage. The pupal stage lasts five to six days. New adults stay in the pupal case for about two days before emerging.

Under favorable conditions, the beetle can complete its life cycle in less than one month. In Florida, adults remain active throughout the winter and more than one generation may occur per year during mild Gulf Coast winters

Larvae are gregarious during their early instars, but become solitary later. Mature larvae spin loose net-like pupal cases on foliage.

The normal hosts for this species are all in the plant family Cruciferae. Vegetable crops that are damaged include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, mustard, radish, turnip, and watercress. Yellowmargined leaf beetle is a particular problem on Chinese cabbage and other leafy Brassicas in the Glades, especially for organic growers

Most damage occurs in the spring when both the larvae and adults are found feeding on crucifers, where they feed on the foliage and leaf margins, making small holes. Adults and larvae often defoliate the host. Larvae, especially early instars, work in groups to strip individual stems.

There are several reasons why the yellowmargined leaf beetle is such a problem to growers in Florida: the beetle's host plants thrive in the cool months from October to April, and this period comprises the growing season for leafy brassicas in South Florida. During these months, hard frosts or freezes are rare and the adult beetles can continue to feed and reproduce throughout the winter on an ample food supply. Finally, the yellowmargined leaf beetle is an introduced pest and has no known predators or parasites in the U.S.

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot

Growers and scouts around South Florida report that bacterial leaf spot is active on tomato in a number of places where it continues to increase and move higher into the canopy.

In the Manatee/Ruskin area heavy winds and rains in April provided optimum conditions for the development of bacterial spot. Growers and scouts report that the western sides of plants are “shredded” due to prevailing wind and rain. Sunscald has also become an issue in pepper and tomato due to the loss of canopy.

Around Homestead, Dr Shouan Zhang reports that bacterial diseases remain a major problem in beans.

Bacterial speck

Growers and scouts in central Florida report that many fields have mixed infections with bacterial speck mixed in with bacterial spot.

Bacterial speck is favored by cool, moist environmental conditions. The virulent bacteria are spread mechanically and by wind-driven rain. A period of stormy weather; followed by overcast days with cool temperatures increases risk of outbreaks.

At present few products are registered specifically for bacterial speck. Pesticides applied for bacterial spot control, should also provide some bacterial speck control. Resistance to copper exists, and therefore copper/manzate may be only partially effective in reducing the impact of susceptible strains. In the current outbreak, there has been little or no visible control on plants treated with copper.

Dr Jeff Jones advises that Actiguard (Syngenta) may help reduce or prevent infections in uninfected fields. Recommended rate is 1/3 oz per acre and should be applied weekly. In fields where infections are widespread and severe, it may provide little or no benefit.

Oxidate may provide some assistance in drying up bacterial speck lesions when used in a rotation. REI and PHI once sprays dry.

Omnilytics produces a strain of AgriPhage specifically formulated for speck.

Regalia is also labeled for tomatoes and peppers for both Xanthomonas (bacterial spot) and Pseudomonas (bacterial speck) control. Regalia has a 0 day PHI and a 4 hour REI, is NOP compliant and OMRI approved.

Growers should also practice good sanitation as movement of people, equipment and harvest aids between infected fields and none infected fields could potentially move infections from field to field.

TYLCV

Around Manatee County, respondent report that TYLCV remains an issue in a number of areas.

Around most of South Florida TYLCV is widely present at varying (mostly low levels) but is no longer a major issue as the fruit is set and the crop is nearing termination.

Common rust and northern corn leaf blight

Dr Rick Raid reports that common rust and northern corn leaf blight had been getting severe, but the high temperatures have put both diseases in decline over the last week or two. Both diseases could rebound if it cools or rains, so growers should stay alert. On varieties that are even moderately susceptible to either disease, a solid fungicide management program is recommended.

Dr Raid advises that a strobilurin is definitely the compound of choice for if rust is the predominant disease and either a triazole or strobilurin are effective against northern corn leaf blight. Pre-mixtures of the two classes are excellent choices against both. It is wise to spray somewhat preventatively if you know a variety is particularly susceptible to disease, keeping disease and inoculum pressures low. The aforementioned fungicide classes should be alternated with each other, or with a broad spectrum protectant such as mancozeb or chlorothalonil.

Alternaria

Growers and scouts should be on the lookout for an increase in Alternaria on beans following recent rains, and a bit of prevention may help growers having loads rejected at the packing house.

The most serious symptoms of this disease occur on bean pods, since damage to the marketable portion of the plant can render the produce unfit for sale. 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.

Leaf symptoms first appear as small, water-soaked flecks that rapidly develop into circular to irregular spots with pale-brown centers and reddish-brown borders. Faint, concentric rings may occasionally be visible in older lesions. As the disease progresses, leaf lesions may merge together leading to large, blighted areas and premature leaf drop.

For scouts and others with access to a microscope, the multi-celled, pigmented spores that have both transverse and longitudinal septa (cell walls) and a short "tail" or "beak" are diagnostic of the disease.

Beans that are nutritionally deficient in nitrogen and/or potassium are most susceptible as are those planted at high densities with can result in more frequent disease incidence and greater disease severity.

Management of Alternaria leaf and pod spot consists of maintaining adequate crop nutrition and avoidance of close between-row and within-row plant spacing. Fungicides also play a major role in the integrated management of this disease.

It is particularly important that effective fungicides be applied when pods are small (pin pod stage) in order to avoid infections that will be evident later as pods mature. Strobilurin fungicides have given good results but should be applied according to the label and rotated with materials with other modes of action to avoid potential problems with resistance.

Phytophthora

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County continue to report problems with phytophthora in pepper and eggplant as well as squash, herbs and parsley. Severely affected fields have suffered a 30-40% stand loss or higher.

Around Southwest Florida, phytophthora has also picked up following rains in April causing some problems in pepper and cucurbits.

Groundnut ringspot virus

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

Tobacco Streak Virus

Around the Glades, tobacco streak has been observed on escarole, endive, and frisee, causing the typical target-like appearance, with alternating rings of green and necrosis. This malady can be quite common in the late spring and is most notable along ditches and ends of fields. On beans, bean red node, caused by the tobacco streak virus has also been observed at low incidence.

Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is being reported in squash around South Florida. Pressure is high in some older plantings.

Around SW Florida, powdery mildew has been increasing in pepper and in a few locations there has been some defoliation due to powdery mildew.

Growers and scout around Immokalee, that powdery mildew is now the most common disease in watermelons in many areas.

Around SW Florida, powdery mildew is present on beans cucumber, and cantaloupe in several locations.

In Palm Beach County, growers are reporting that powdery mildew has become a problem on a number of crops, including squash and other cucurbits, parsley, and beans.

Downy Mildew

Basil growers in all areas continue battle downy mildew.

Around Southwest Florida, downy mildew is widely present in cucumbers, squash, and cantaloupe as well as in some watermelons.

Downy mildew has been reported on cucumbers in Homestead.

In Palm Beach County, growers and scouts are reporting some problems with downy mildew in squash.

Downy mildew is also causing some problem on a variety of crucifers in Devils Garden and Palm Beach County. Fortunately high temperatures have reduced pressure and incidence and severity has not been as heavy as in some other years.

Target Spot

Growers and scouts around Immokalee and in Manatee County report that target spot is remains active on inner foliage of tomatoes. Incidence and severity is low to moderate depending on the location. Some fruit infections have been noted.

Early Blight

Respondents from around Immokalee report early blight has really increased in a number of tomato fields equally bacterial spot in incidence and severity.

Around Palm Beach County, reports indicate that early blight is increasing in tomato.

Fusarium

Growers and scouts in Immokalee and in Palmetto report that Race 3 fusarium as well as fusarium crown rot has flared up in a number of tomato plantings.

Disclaimer: Pesticide applicators must follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not mentioned. The author and University of Florida IFAS Cooperative Extension Service assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

News You Can Use

Judge's Order Empowering EPA will cost South Florida Growers

Saying the state and the South Florida Water Management District have not been "true stewards of protecting the Everglades," a federal judge has effectively transferred responsibility of enforcing the Clean Water Act to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

U.S. District Judge Alan Gold wants to move forward with a plan to transfer Clean Water Act permitting, including current NPDES permits for the water management district's stormwater treatment areas, from the state to the EPA.

For water entering the Everglades to meet Florida's phosphorus limit of 10 parts per billion, the plan would require at least 40,000 more acres of stormwater treatment areas with an estimated \$1.5 billion price tag. The

ruling has negative implications for producers in the SFWMD. The agency has repeatedly said it can't afford to pay for additional treatment areas. But if they are built, current farmland will be forced out of production to accommodate construction. If the project becomes federally mandated, South Florida growers can expect to see dramatic increases in permitting fees and Agricultural Privilege Taxes. Even if the total proposed treatment area acreage is offset by additional source controls, agriculture will be forced to implement additional, costly Best Management Practices.

SFWM Reports Driest October-to-February Period in 80 Years

The South Florida Water Management District reported in its April 25 *Water Shortage Watch Briefing* that the district's 16-county region experienced the driest October-to-February period since recordkeeping began nearly 80 years ago. "While regional rainfall for March was average, April's rainfall has so far been less than half of the historical average. Long-term forecasts call for extreme dry conditions through the rest of the annual dry season," the report says.

The dry season rainfall for the period was 9.54 inches, 7.85 inches below average. The Lake Okeechobee level on April 25 was 11.12 feet, 2.64 feet below average.

Gas 27% Higher in Last 4 Months and Increasing

There is a lot of concern about the rise in gas prices and how this will change the way customers make spending decisions. When you have a sudden change in the cost of any product deemed necessary for your daily activity they will change their purchasing priorities and what products have to be eliminated.

Unfortunately the price of gas is only one area of price increases we will see as oil prices affect transportation and manufacturing cost. These costs will increase our inflation rate, which in real terms will be around 10% for the year.

Now for the rest of the story, we are knocking on the door of \$4.00 per gallon for the lowest gas grade and it certainly looks like we will see \$4.50 to \$5.00 by the end of 2011 and \$6.00 is a possibility by the end of 2012.

Some people think the unrest in Libya is the problem but there are much bigger factors at work, namely other countries such as Saudi Arabia reducing their production and China imposing a new regulation not to export any oil except to its own territories (Hong Kong and Macao). The truth is that oil companies are looking for opportunities to increase the price of oil and gas wherever they can find an excuse to do so. Oil is not a renewable resource and will continue to increase in price. You hear some discussion on the news about the price of gas going down but this is just a dream and is not realistic. We may see some leveling off or even some minor decreases from time to time but measured over a 12 month cycle the price of gas will increase 15 to 30% per year.

Within the next 12 to 24 months you will see an increase in companies offering alternate energy sources, wind, geothermal and solar for the greenhouse industry. One of the main ways to counter the price of oil is to reduce your dependence on oil related sources of energy.

HortiCulture B2B News April 2011

USDA: Produce prices headed for biggest gain in years

U.S. supermarket fruit and vegetable prices in 2011 are expected to post the largest increase in three years, according to a government forecast, reflecting harsh winter weather and rising fuel costs that have contributed to Americans' escalating grocery bills.

Nationwide, retail prices for fresh fruits and vegetables are projected to rise 3.5% to 4.5% this year on average compared to 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said April 25 in an update to its food inflation forecasts. The projected increase, up from a USDA forecast in March for a 3% to 4% rise, compares to a 0.2% increase in 2010 and would be the biggest annual gain since fruit and vegetable prices jumped 5.2% in 2008.

“Prices will rise, relative to 2010, for all major food categories,” Richard Volpe, an economist with the USDA’s Economic Research Service, said in an April 26 e-mail. “While meat and dairy is projected to see the sharpest increases, fruits and vegetables are going up significantly as well.”

Retail prices for some fresh fruits and vegetables surged earlier this year after freezing weather destroyed crops in key growing areas of Mexico, Arizona and Florida, leading to shortages of some products.

Additionally, a weak dollar is fueling agricultural exports, making U.S. products cheaper for some foreign buyers, Volpe said.

“Fuel prices are up, which increases production as well as shipping costs,” Volpe said.

Based on a broader index that includes produce as well as meat and other categories, prices for food consumed at home are forecast to rise 3.5% to 4.5% this year, the USDA said. That’s up from a 0.3% increase in 2010 and would be the largest full-year gain since prices rose 6.4% in 2008.

By Bruce Blythe, the Packer Online
Published on 04/26/2011 02:29PM

Follow SW Florida Vegetable Grower on Facebook

SW Florida Vegetable Grower is now on Facebook providing up-to-date news for vegetable growers and industry reps on the go!

This is the place to find what you need to know about growing vegetables in SW Florida. Bringing you the most up-to-date news; about varieties, pest control tactics, tips and breaking news, to help make you a more successful grower.

Relevant, timely information and discussion topics that help the fruit and vegetable industry understand how to succeed in this dynamic and ever-changing business.

Follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/SW-Florida-Vegetable-Grower/149291468443385>

Facebook is a social networking website with more than 500 million active users in July 2010, which is about one person for every fourteen in the world. In the US, almost over 100 million people use Facebook. For the younger crowd (whether in age or spirit), its use is nearly universal. Your kids are on it, many of your friends too. Check it out and get with the times!

South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline – if you get the hotline second hand from another source you may be missing the Quotable Quotes and the Lighter Side – to subscribe direct – email gmcavoy@ufl.edu

Up Coming Meetings

Manatee County

May 12, 2011

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs):

8:30AM - 4:30 PM

Developing a Food Safety Program for Vegetable and Fruit Growers/Packers

Manatee County Extension Service, Kendrick Auditorium
1303 17th St West
Palmetto, FL 34221

Cost: \$70.00 per person to cover lunch, materials, and travel expenses for guest speakers

Registration: <http://manateefoodsafety2011.eventbrite.com/> or call Jennifer at 941-722-4524

Palm Beach County

May 11, 2011 **Fumigation Management Meeting** **10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Palm Beach County Fire Station
14276 Hagen Ranch Road
Delray Beach, Florida

Southwest Florida

May 6, 2011 **UF/IFAS SWFREC Vegetable Field Day** **9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
2685 SR 29 N
Immokalee, Florida

Call 863-674-4092 to RSVP or more information.

May 10, 2011 **Fumigation Management Meeting** **5:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
2685 SR 29 N
Immokalee, Florida

Call 863-674-4092 to RSVP or more information.

Other Meetings

July 15 -17, 2011 **Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference.**

See the following link for further details: www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms

Opportunities

Farm Land for Lease

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

Farm Land for lease on Babcock Ranch, Hwy 31, Charlotte County. Rotational fields or permanent locations, phone 941-639-3958

Bean Grower Wanted

C & E Farms, Inc specializes in green beans:
P.O. Box 315
Cheriton VA 23316-0315

They have a Florida operation outside Parrish and are looking for an Immokalee area farm or farmers to grow 400 acres of beans for the winter market (Feb-Mar harvest).

If you are interested or need more information the contact person for Florida is Bob Colson at 757-710-5272.

Help Wanted:

Syngenta is looking for a Farm Specialist – Naples, FL

Role Purpose – To support on-station and off-station Syngenta vegetable breeders in the field production and crop evaluation of experimental vegetable hybrids at the Naples Research station. To provide the station Farm Operations Lead with detailed day-to-day support of the irrigation/fertigation operations and various crop production functions

Accountabilities

On-station breeder trial support

- Emphasis will be on support of all breeding programs.
- Assist farm operations lead in developing and maintaining best production practices for both field and Greenhouse vegetable production at the Naples station.

Off-station breeder trial support

- Emphasis will be on coordinating experimental watermelon and cantaloupe hybrid trials grown at the Naples station
- Providing regular reports to off-station breeders on crop development.
- Support Farm Operations Lead in developing best production practices for these crops at the Naples station.

Farm Operations Lead Assistant

- Provide day-to-day supervision of drip irrigation/fertigation system.
- Supervise and manage Field and Greenhouse chemical sprays.
- Keep a chemical inventory and application record.
- Actively partake in the safety committee and training programs.
- Supervise seasonal staff in breeder support trials and nurseries.
- Other duties as assigned.

Knowledge, Experience & Capabilities

Critical knowledge

- Bachelor's degree in agriculture
- Knowledge in vegetable production and breeding.

- Knowledge in greenhouse production

Critical experience - Five (5) plus years in agricultural related field required

Critical technical, professional and personal capabilities

- Demonstrated knowledge of vegetable farming practices.
- Demonstrated knowledge of vegetable breeding practices and small plot trial evaluation
- Become proficient in using Tiger Jill spray program.
- Proficient in farm Implement and sprayer calibrations.
- Must hold current Florida spray applicator license.
- Effective personnel management skills
- Record keeping skills.
- Safety training and supervisory skills.
- Effective communicator
- Computer knowledge (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Fluency in Spanish required

Critical leadership capabilities

- Management - Ability to manage personnel from different functions that have separate demands and priorities.
- Problem solving – bringing innovative farming solutions to breeders and breeding programs

Additional Information –

Physical demands of the essential functions: Ability to lift 100 pounds, climbing, bending of torso

Working conditions while performing essential functions: Hazards: Pesticides, solvents, paints, powered equipment; Environment: Dust, heat, cold, noise, wet and slippery conditions. Peak activity periods require long shifts – greater than 8 hrs.

- All applicants must be eligible to work in the US.

Syngenta offers a competitive salary and benefits package, including market-based pay, health/dental insurance, a generous 401(k) program, paid time off, tuition reimbursement and relocation assistance. EOE

Qualified candidates should apply today! Please submit your application online at <http://bit.ly/eUIXjw>

http://jobs.syngenta.com/job/Naples-Farm-Specialist-Job-FL-34101/1222933/?utm_source=careersite&utm_campaign=Ops_2280VH

Field Research Position

Job Responsibilities: Work with the US team of research and development scientists in agricultural production, seed testing and environmental sciences to:

Plan, design, and execute bioefficacy (Pest Control and Crop Variety-GMO testing) and GLP (Good Laboratory Practices) Studies, such as Plant and soil residue, soil dissipation, foliar, crop rotation, residue build-up, import tolerance.

Select sites for conducting trials and apply all necessary agronomic practices. Take soil samples, plant samples, spray various pesticides, regulators and fertilizers for pest/weed control and crop growth.

Establish crops, manage irrigation and applications of plant food and crop protection pesticides on a timely basis as requested by protocol.

Take assessment of agronomic parameters related to growth and health of crops, collect needed plant samples, harvest plots and keep plots clean of pests.

Enter data into computer programs, generate reports and prepare plant and soil samples for shipment and laboratory testing.

Be physically able and willing to work in field conditions of FL/South East US.

Requirements and Skill

Minimum of M.S. in Agricultural sciences (preference in Pest Management, Agronomy, Plant Sciences, Weed Science, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Pesticide residue, soil science and Seeds). Preference will be given to those with experience in testing agrochemical and seeds products in Agricultural or Environmental Sciences.

Have a good knowledge of the computer and data entering.

Have a good writing reports skill.

Fluent in English writing, reading and speaking.

Be flexible and willing to work with the team

Compensation: Will be based on qualification and experience of applicant.

Location: Florida

To Apply: Email resume to Kate Eiford at kate@mrllynden.com

Websites

Produce Safety Alliance website - Providing fundamental, science-based, on-farm food safety knowledge to fresh fruit and vegetable farmers, packers, regulatory personnel and others interested in the safety of fresh produce. Go to <http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/psa.html>

Tomato Best Practices Manual – a Guide to Tomato Good Agricultural Practices (T-GAP) and Tomato Best Management Practices (T-BMP) – revised in 2010 – check it out at <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/fruits/documents/5G%20Tomato%20Best%20Practices%20Manual%20November%202010.pdf>

Brynn Bruijn: Photographer – awesome photographs. Visit <http://www.brynnbruijn.com/default.asp>

UF/IFAS County Reports – Click on any county in the state to see the impact of agriculture on the county's economy as well as a summary of Extension activities - <http://ifas.ufl.edu/reports.html>

Quotable Quotes

Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery. - Winston Churchill

You cannot build world peace on empty stomachs. - Norman Borlaug

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not. - Thomas Jefferson

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them. - Thomas Jefferson

It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first. -- Ronald Reagan

On the Lighter Side

Five Lessons About the Way We Treat People

1 - First Important Lesson - Cleaning Lady.

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson...I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. - Second Important Lesson - Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 P.M., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride.

Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960's. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached.

It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along, because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away...

God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nat King Cole.

3 - Third Important Lesson - Always Remember those Who Serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

"Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.

"Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away the boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies...you see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4 - Fourth Important Lesson. - The Obstacle in Our Path...

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's' wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand!

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5 - Fifth Important Lesson - Giving When It Counts...

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away". Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Shake-Up

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goofball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

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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