



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

April 9, 2010

The last ten days or so has finally cut growers in South Florida a break with some good growing weather for the first time this year.

Temperatures were near ideal with high temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to the upper 80s. Night time low temperatures were mostly in the 50s with couple mornings in the 40s to ward the beginning of the period. Many crops put out more growth in the last 10 days than they have in the last 8 weeks!

Mostly dry conditions also helped growers recover from an extremely wet March with a number of locations recording over 9 inches of rain for the month. Warm dry conditions were a major factor in allowing growers to gain ground on bacterial diseases which impacted a range of crops last month.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
3/22 – 4/9/10	42.27	86.41	3.73	75	0.1
Belle Glade					
3/22 – 4/9/10	43.95	85.46	1.54	78	0.12
Clewiston					
3/22 – 4/9/10	46.58	85.57	1.76	76	0.12
Ft Lauderdale					
3/22 – 4/9/10	49.89	83.59	1.74	72	0.11
Fort Pierce					
3/8 – 3/22/10	46.54	85.64	2.51	77	0.11
Homestead					
3/8 – 3/22/10	--	85.12	1.73	78	0.11
Immokalee					
3/8 – 3/22/10	44.78	87.03	3.43	75	0.12

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Snap beans, squash, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, peppers, radishes, strawberries, and tomatoes moved through the market last week. Volumes of most warm season crops are still well below normal with some growers reporting 5 bins or less per acre on first pick tomatoes.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that weak mid level trough will develop across the peninsula late in the weekend into early next week. This along with an increasing low level easterly flow would see an increase in cloud cover along with scattered to possibly even numerous showers by mid week.

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

Insects

In general, insect activity remains fairly low with some increases noted.

Aphids

Growers and scouts on the East Coast report heavy aphid pressure particularly in the Fort Pierce area where pressure is said to be tremendous are widely present on a variety of crops including peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, greens and specialty items.

Around Southwest Florida, aphids are horrible and continue to move around and scouts report finding colonies building in tomato, pepper, potato, watermelons, squash, eggplant, cucumber – just about everything out there can host aphids and scouts are finding all kinds – including green peach, red potato aphid and some melon aphids.

Reports indicate that many pepper and squash and watermelon fields have been sprayed for this pest. Some growers report they knock them down but still finding some throughout the plant canopy even behind Thionex/pyrethrin combos which they have resorted to because nothing else seems to work. One farm reported plastic mulch blackened by honeydew.

Around the Glades, aphids remain active on brassicas and leafy vegetables.

Respondents in Manatee County indicate that aphid pressure is heavy with one farm reporting up to 30 winged aphids on every plant on one farm where plants had only been in ground about 2 weeks. Growers are also having issues with nymphs on older plants.

Thrips

Around Palm Beach County, respondents report that thrips are building in eggplant, pepper and tomato blooms.

Thrips monitoring efforts by David Sui showed a jump in western flower thrips – two samples collected from bell peppers (Boca and Delray): had 4.8 - 5.5 WFT per flower, 61 - 73% of total population. You can see the WFT population is starting to replace native thrips species and becoming dominant species now. David advises that growers need to keep an eye out as the weather turns warmer.

Reports from around Immokalee indicate that thrips are starting to increase behind the citrus bloom and have really picked up in the last 10 days. So far, numbers have remained fairly low and not yet a real threat.

Respondents in Manatee report very few thrips but expect them to pick up following the citrus bloom.

Around Hillsborough County, a few thrips are blowing around.

Pepper Weevils

Around Palm Beach County, pepper weevil pressure is moderate to heavy in a number of locations especially along the 441 corridor.

Around Southwest Florida, pepper weevils are active and are increasing in several pepper fields but overall the population is low, and below normal for early April.

Worms

In the past couple of days, growers and scouts around Southwest Florida, have found a few armyworm eggs, fruitworm eggs and newly hatched worms, but overall worm pressure is still low. A few tomato pinworms have been detected on eggplant but none so far in tomatoes.

In Devil's Garden and the Glades, respondents reported a very light flight of Diamondback moth last week on Chinese cabbage and on green cabbage.

On the East Coast, reports indicate that worm pressure is starting to pickup with scouts finding beet armyworms and egg masses as well as loopers in tomato and pepper. Worms are also active in Chinese vegetables and growers are finding diamondback moths, imported cabbage worms and loopers.

In the Manatee/Ruskin area a few armyworms are showing up but pressure remains light.

Whiteflies

Around SW Florida, whiteflies remain mostly low but scouts are beginning to report an increase in numbers but note that they still remain far below typical mid-March levels.

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that a few more whiteflies are being seen in places.

Respondents from the Manatee/Ruskin area report that whiteflies remain almost non-existent.

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

Leafminers

Growers and scouts around Immokalee report that leafminers remain very low but scouts have noticed an increase in some watermelons and tomatoes.

Respondents report only light leafminer activity around Manatee and Hillsborough Counties.

Reports from the East Coast indicate that leafminers remain mostly low.

Some leafminer activity continues to be reported on beans and other crops around Homestead and Belle Glade.

Spider mites

Grower and scouts around SW Florida report that they are finding some spider mites in squash and watermelon.

Diseases

Bacterial Speck

A major bacterial speck outbreak devastated a significant number of tomato fields around Immokalee in March. Growers and scout began to see unusual symptoms in early March but the epidemic took off after the heavy rains that battered the area. Undoubtedly the primary driving factor behind the outbreak was the unusually, cool wet weather and high winds experienced in March. Weak plants and retarded plant growth due to extended cold weather is also contributing to the severity in that plants have been unable to outgrow infections.

Warm weather over the past 10 days has helped growers gain control of the situation and a flush of new growth has helped turn many fields around but infections are still widely present and new lesions are still developing on new leaves.

Respondents from the East Coast, Homestead and also in the Manatee Ruskin area are also reporting problems with speck.

Bacterial speck of tomato, caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. tomato, is a disease of increasing importance to Florida fresh-market tomato production. Although the disease was reported in 1933 in the Bradenton area, there have been few reports of the disease in Florida, possibly because this problem is easily confused with the more common bacterial spot disease. A serious outbreak of bacterial speck discovered in the winter of 1977 - 78 in the Homestead area resulted in serious losses and speck has subsequently reported in other parts of the state, including outbreaks in the mid 80's and in St. Lucie County in 2003.

Tentative field diagnosis of bacterial speck is best accomplished by inspection of fruit symptoms. Speck lesions on green fruit are small, sunken, black spots surrounded by darker green haloes. On ripe fruit, spots are dark brown to black, superficial flecks.

Foliage symptoms of bacterial speck are much more difficult to distinguish from other diseases. The leaf spots are small, black lesions surrounded by prominent chlorotic (yellow) haloes. These haloes are quite large, averaging twice the size of the necrotic tissue they surround. Bacterial speck lesions are very superficial and do not crack or become scaly like spot. Note: that in the current outbreak leaf spotting is severe and numerous and in advanced infections have coalesced in to a leaf blight with subsequent death of lower leaves.

Lesions in the stems are dark brown to black and shaped like elongated ovals.

Bacterial speck is favored by cool, moist environmental conditions and this winter has been one of the coolest and wettest in over 60 years.

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 – remember March 10 -13. The disease will develop rapidly at 75°F. However, disease development is readily apparent at 63°F. At 89°F, pathogen populations are so severely depleted that typical symptoms are not evident.

The longer that tomato leaves remain wet, the more likely bacterial populations will build to levels sufficient to cause leaf and fruit infection. Six hours of continual leaf wetness will promote bacterial speck development.

At present few chemicals are registered specifically for bacterial speck. Materials 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.

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.

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.

Bacterial leaf spot

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that bacterial spot remains a big problem on peppers and recent rains has brought on new infections in many areas.

Around Immokalee, bacterial spot continues to be a problem and is increasing in many pepper fields and is present in tomatoes as well often as mixed infections with speck.

Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicate that bacterial spot has taken off in many tomatoes along with speck.

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

Bacterial blight is also present on beans in Homestead and the Glades.

Angular leaf spot

Around Southwest Florida, growers are reporting some problems with angular leaf spot on watermelons and squash. Angular leaf spot is caused by a bacterial pathogen, *Pseudomonas syringae pv lachrymans*. The bacterium affects both leaves and fruit. On the leaves, lesions begin as small water-soaked circular black spots surrounded by a yellow halo. The center of the spots may become white. As they enlarge, lesions become angular in shape and may involve an entire lobe of even larger portions of the leaf. This is a cool-weather pathogen. The pathogen is seedborne and seedlings may exhibit watersoaked lesions on the cotyledon while still in the transplant house.

Under humid conditions, bacteria may ooze from the leaf in clear to milky tear-like drops (lachrymans means "tear" in Latin), which dry to a white residue.

On squash, the leaf spots may be ringed in yellow and be surrounded by a watersoaked area. Female blossoms and young fruit may drop from infected vines

On watermelon, the leaf spots are small round and black. They are usually ringed in yellow. The center of the spot may be white. The spots enlarge to cover much of the leaf, and are irregular in shape.

On fruits, lesions begin as small circular water-soaked areas a few millimeters in diameter and enlarge with age to cover larger portions of the melon surface. Lesions do not penetrate deeply into the fruit. On large lesions the cuticle ruptures and peels free from the melon surface. Rotting of the fruit may occur if other bacteria enter the fruit through the cracks

Start with disease-free seed or transplants. Do not work plants when wet, and destroy crop debris. Proactive application of copper hydroxide and mancozeb, or other copper formulations, may help manage this disease.

Phytophthora

Growers and scouts on the East coast indicate that phytophthora continues to work on fields hard hit by March rains taking squash, peppers and eggplants, with 10 -15% stand loss in some places. Tomatoes have also been affected to a lesser extent.

Respondents around Southwest Florida indicate that phytophthora is causing problems in some squash and pepper fields hit by heavy rains.

Powdery mildew

Powdery mildew is heavy on squash around Palm Beach County. Powdery mildew is low to moderate on eggplant depending on location.

Around Homestead powdery mildew is starting up on squash.

Respondents around Immokalee report that powdery mildew is present on several watermelons, cucumbers and squash mostly at low levels.

Downy Mildew

Downy mildew is present on squash around Homestead. Incidence is low and occurrence spotty

Downy mildew is also present on older squash around Immokalee.

Around Palm Beach County, scouts are reporting low levels of downy mildew in cucumber.

Downy mildew remains active in basil.

Late Blight

Around Hendry County late blight is still present in a few tomato and potato fields but is not doing much.

Dr. Carrie Harmon, Plant Pathologist at UF/IFAS Gainesville reports some late blight is showing up around St Lucie County.

Respondents indicate that some late blight is present on organic tomatoes in Palm Beach County.

Target Spot

More target spot is showing on tomatoes around Immokalee and is affecting fruit in some places.

Target spot is also starting on tomatoes in the Manatee Ruskin area.

Sclerotinia

Respondents in Palm Beach report that Sclerotinia is still around on pepper and eggplant.

Alternaria

Around Southwest Florida, early blight is increasing on tomato and potato.

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

Alternaria is also causing problems on beans in Homestead and around the Glades.

Fusarium

Growers and scouts report some problems with fusarium on tomatoes in all areas.

TYLCV

Tomato yellow leaf curl virus remains low in all areas.

Some increases have been noted around Immokalee with most tomato fields are still below 5% infection but there are scattered small hotspots with over 25% plants showing symptoms.

News You Can Use

Everglades Land Deals and Big Sugar Battles Head to Florida Supreme Court

Land buying in the name of Everglades restoration already amassed more than 233,000 acres — twice the size of Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Tampa combined.

That cost taxpayers about \$1.6 billion, and the real estate shopping continues.

While construction on several long-promised Everglades restoration projects remains stuck in bureaucracy, Gov. Charlie Crist is pushing a \$536 million deal to pick up 73,000 acres from U.S. Sugar Corp.

On Wednesday, the Florida Supreme Court wades into the legal fight over the cost of Crist's plan to reshape Everglades restoration. The high court will decide whether the South Florida Water Management District can borrow the money to buy the land.

The plan calls for using U.S. Sugar's farmland to build reservoirs and water-treatment areas to help revive Florida's famed River of Grass.

Even if the Supreme Court or growing cost concerns torpedo the U.S. Sugar deal, state officials are considering keeping it alive with a scaled-down, less-expensive version.

That could mean buying 25,000 acres from U.S. Sugar, without having to borrow as much money at taxpayer expense during an economic downturn.

"We are looking at all sorts of 'What ifs?'" said Eric Buermann, chairman of the South Florida Water Management District, which leads Everglades restoration and is trying to cobble together the deal with U.S. Sugar.

Buermann said the district remains intent on completing the 73,000-acre deal, but that diminishing tax revenues due to the struggling economy remain a hurdle.

Selling off or trading land in the restoration inventory are among the other options being considered for making

the U.S. Sugar deal more affordable.

"Yes, we want it," Buermann said of U.S. Sugar land. "Now the decision is, can we afford it or not?"

Critics — led by U.S. Sugar competitor Florida Crystals and the Miccosukee tribe — say the \$536 million deal costs taxpayers too much and takes money away from already overdue Everglades restoration projects.

Those include an unfinished reservoir in western Palm Beach County that already cost the public \$280 million.

Opponents say a watered-down version of the deal would just mean more wasted time and money that could have been used for building restoration projects. Florida Crystals and the Miccosukees on Wednesday will call on Florida's high court to scrap the U.S. Sugar deal.

"They can't afford to buy the land and build projects," Florida Crystals Vice President Gaston Cantens said about the water management district. "They have got to save face somehow. ... They have got to buy something."

Gov. Crist in June 2008 first announced a blockbuster, \$1.75 billion deal to buy all of U.S. Sugar's more than 180,000 acres, along with the company's sugar mill, railroad lines and other assets.

The far-reaching goal was to phase out U.S. Sugar's operations and use the land to help reconnect water flows from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades. U.S. Sugar land not needed for restoration was to be sold or traded for property in the targeted area.

The national economic nosedive that ensued since that announcement twice prompted the governor to scale back the proposed deal.

It now calls for paying \$536 million for 73,000 acres, with a 10-year option to buy another 107,000 acres from U.S. Sugar. The land eventually would be used to build reservoirs and treatment areas to restore water flows to the Everglades.

U.S. Sugar would get to lease back much of its land, for \$150 an acre, for as long as 20 years while water managers phase in restoration construction.

The South Florida Water Management District plans to borrow the \$536 million, with South Florida taxpayers paying off the long-term debt.

So far, restoration construction has not kept up with land acquisition.

A 16,700-acre Everglades restoration reservoir in western Palm Beach County was supposed to be completed this year, but instead was shelved in the wake of the U.S. Sugar deal.

Taxpayers already have invested \$280 million in the reservoir, west of U.S. 27, but the district in 2008 halted construction to explore how getting the U.S. Sugar land could reshape restoration needs.

District officials now propose building reservoirs on the U.S. Sugar land, closer to Lake Okeechobee, and turning the unfinished reservoir into a treatment area that would filter pollutants from water headed to the Everglades.

Last week, a federal judge agreed with the Miccosukee tribe that the U.S. Sugar deal delayed the stalled reservoir long enough. U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno ordered the district to resume construction.

Buermann maintains that the reservoir ruling, and potentially having to pay to finish the structure, isn't the end

of the U.S. Sugar deal. First comes the Supreme Court's decision and then budget talks this summer to determine whether the district can close the deal with U.S. Sugar, Buermann said.

By Andy Reid, Sun Sentinel, April 6, 2010

Above-Average Hurricane Season Predicted

Colorado State University's hurricane forecast team is predicting an above-average season for the Atlantic basin in 2010, which includes all tropical storms and hurricanes in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

The forecast calls for 15 named tropical storms, of which eight will become hurricanes. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when its sustained wind speeds surpass 74 mph. Of those eight, four are expected to develop into major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5) with maximum wind speeds of 111 mph or greater. Looking at averages that go back to 1950, a typical Atlantic hurricane season sees 10 named storms — six of them hurricanes, with two major. "We expect current moderate El Nino conditions to transition to neutral conditions by this year's hurricane season," says Phil Klotzbach, lead forecaster on the Colorado State hurricane forecast team. "The dissipating El Nino, along with the expected anomalously warm Atlantic ocean sea-surface temperatures, will lead to favorable dynamic and thermodynamic conditions for hurricane formation and intensification."

Colorado State's Tropical Meteorology Project is the nation's longest-running and most well-known forecast team. Begun by William Gray in 1984, these seasonal forecasts are used by insurance companies, emergency managers and the media to prepare Americans for the season's likely hurricane threat. "Based on our latest forecast, the probability of a major hurricane making landfall along the U.S. coastline is 69% compared with the last-century average of 52%," Gray says. "While patterns may change before the start of hurricane season, we believe current conditions warrant concern for an above-average season."

Last month, private forecasting firm AccuWeather predicted that 16 to 18 tropical storms and hurricanes would form in the Atlantic hurricane basin, of which seven will make landfall on U.S. shores. The federal National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration is scheduled to release its hurricane forecast on May 20. Contrary to popular belief, hurricane forecasters don't "always" predict an above-average season that then doesn't come to pass. In fact, since 2000, the opposite is true: In the past decade, CSU's April forecasts have been wrong more than they've been right, but primarily because they've underestimated the threat.

In a USA TODAY analysis of the team's forecast data since 2000, CSU has under-forecast the number of named tropical storms and hurricanes four times, over-forecast the number three times, and been almost right (within two storms) on three occasions. In 2009, the CSU team's April prediction of a near-average season was slightly over-forecast. They predicted that 12 named storms would form, of which five would become hurricanes. In reality, nine named storms formed, of which three were hurricanes.

The hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The first named storm will be Alex, followed by Bonnie and Colin.

By Doyle Rice / USA Today

EPA POSTPONES SOME FLORIDA WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

EPA Secretary Michael Sole met with FFVA's Executive Committee March 17. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is delaying some of the water quality standards it has proposed for Florida waters. In a March 17 letter to Michael Sole, secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the agency said it is postponing the "downstream protection values," or DPVs, which are designed to protect

estuaries. The DPVs and the model on which they are based were strongly criticized during public hearings on the proposed standards held in Florida in February.

The agency also said it will seek third-party review of the scientific basis for the standards to protect downstream estuaries and coastal waters.

“We will work together with the Florida DEP to ensure we have the best science and analyses to support developing water quality standards to protect downstream estuarine and coastal waters,” wrote assistant administrator Peter Silva.

EPA is still on track to impose numeric standards on lakes, rivers and springs by October. FFVA’s executive committee met with DEP Secretary Sole on March 17 to hear his perspective and discuss agriculture’s serious concerns over the standards. Sole told the group that scientific staff from EPA and DEP are to meet March 26.

“It appears the EPA heard the anger expressed at the hearings,” said Dan Botts, FFVA’s vice president of industry resources. “Despite these developments, pressure on the agency needs to continue.”

The EPA standards are overly broad and fail to take into account the diversity and unique nature of Florida’s lakes, rivers, streams and canals. As a result, bodies of water that now are deemed healthy will be considered impaired.

In addition, necessary upgrades in equipment and technology would be exorbitant and could put many growers out of business.

“It’s highly doubtful that our farming communities would be able to weather the financial burden that would result from attempting to comply with this proposed ruling,” said Kerry Kates, FFVA’s director of water and natural resources.

EPA has extended the deadline for comments to the proposed standards by 30 days, to April 28. FFVA is preparing its comments and urges its members to do the same.

Background information and helpful tips on writing comments are available on FFVA’s Web site.

Hearings will be held:

April 13, 2010: Fort Myers

Harborside Event Center
1375 Monroe Street
Fort Myers, Fla. 33901
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

April 14, 2010: Tampa

Hilton Tampa Airport
2225 North Lois Avenue
Tampa, Fla. 33607

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

April 15, 2010: Jacksonville

Clarion Hotel Airport Conference Center
2101 Dixie Clipper Drive
Jacksonville, Fla. 32218

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Unpaid internships may be illegal - Officials warn they are stepping up labor law enforcement

With job openings scarce for young people, the number of unpaid internships has climbed in recent years, leading federal and state regulators to worry that more employers are illegally using such internships for free labor.

Convinced that many unpaid internships violate minimum wage laws, officials in Oregon, California and other states have begun investigations and fined employers. Last year, M. Patricia Smith, then New York's labor commissioner, ordered investigations into several firms' internships. Now, as the federal Labor Department's top law enforcement official, she and the wage and hour division are stepping up enforcement nationwide.

Many regulators say that violations are widespread, but that it is unusually hard to mount a major enforcement effort because interns are often afraid to file complaints. Many fear they will become known as troublemakers in their chosen field, endangering their chances with a potential future employer.

The Labor Department says it is cracking down on firms that fail to pay interns properly and expanding efforts to educate companies, colleges and students on the law regarding internships.

By Steven Greenhouse, The New York Times

Florida Land Values Continued Fall in 2009, UF Survey Shows

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The steep decline in the state's rural land values continued in 2009, but may level off later this year, according to the annual Florida Land Value Survey from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

After years of price growth spurred by a population boom between 2002 and 2006, some areas of Florida lost as much as half their value in 2008.

The survey, which does not evaluate urban land values, sought to determine average rural land values as of May 2009. Results show that farmland in North Florida dropped between 3 and 17 percent in value from 2008, while areas in South Florida dropped between 10 and 31 percent.

The exception to this drop in value is wooded farmland, which experienced a marginal increase of just over 1 percent, although it's not clear what contributed to this rise.

The value of pasture lands rose 22 percent, but this was interpreted as a market correction to a disproportional devaluation in 2008, said Rodney Clouser, the UF professor of food and resource economics who coordinated the survey.

The value of some transitional land — rural areas outside of cities that may be converted to housing or other nonagricultural use — actually rose more than 4 percent in North Florida in 2009. However, transitional land in South Florida fell by nearly 46 percent.

These findings fall within the range predicted by the 2009 survey, Clouser said, which may bode well for next year. Survey responses from individuals involved in the Florida real estate market predict that, although land values will continue to drop in 2010, the decline will be much less severe than that of 2008 and 2009, likely around only 6 or 7 percent.

“The steepest decline is likely over, but it will most likely be a few more years before we see an overall increase in values,” Clouser said. “Even after the bigger economic picture improves, there will be a surplus of land in Florida that will need to be sold before the values begin to go up again.”

The report can be viewed at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FE833>.

Florida Farm Bureau White Paper on Proposed New Water Quality Regulations for the State of Florida

Florida Farm Bureau has been monitoring a proposal that could have catastrophic effects on agriculture if adopted into rule. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are proposing to enact new stringent numeric nutrient water quality standards in lakes, flowing waters and Class III waters by January 2010 and in coastal waters by January 2011. Florida Farm Bureau members have adopted policy that supports efforts to protect Florida’s water quality. FFB has been instrumental in working with the state’s model Total Maximum Daily Loads program and have developed the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) program to recognize agricultural operations that are actively participating in the program. However, the proposed numeric nutrient criteria that the DEP published in June 2009, and potentially even more restrictive criteria that may be forthcoming from the EPA, are 1) technically and scientifically debatable; 2) economically unattainable, creating major hardships for Florida’s agricultural economy; and 3) potentially adverse to the health of flora and fauna (i.e. freshwater and marine-based plant and animal life).

See White Paper at http://floridafarmbureau.org/files/resources/issues/WaterQualityRegs_09.pdf

Pesticide Potpourri

Certis USA has a new copper product - **Cueva** is a new very safe copper product for the control of (among other diseases) bacterial leaf spot of tomatoes and peppers. Its unique copper soap formulation provides superior spreading and coverage, and allows more of the active copper to be available for disease control. It is OMRI approved for organic use.

Dow AgroSciences has a new label on **Quintec** for the suppression of bacterial spot in pepper.

Bayer advises that EPA issued the Final Cancellation Order for **Movento** and **Ultor** which states that it is legal for the distribution channel to sell and distribute Movento and Ultor which is currently in their possession. This order supersedes EPA’s Interim Cancellation Order issued on March 12, 2010.

Additionally, the order reaffirms that growers can continue to use Movento and Ultor according to the previously approved labeling. A copy of EPA's final cancellation order can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/factsheets/spirotetramat-final-cancl-order.pdf>

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

Southwest Florida

April 26 -28, 2010

Restricted Use Pesticide Exam Prep Classes

Right of Way/Natural Areas – April 26
Core/Private – April 27
Row Crop/Tree Crop/Aquatic – April 28

Hendry County Extension Office
PO Box 68
LaBelle, Florida.

Registration is \$20 per day, call Debra at 8630674-4092 to register

Other Meetings

April 14, 2010

CCA – CEU program

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Earn 5 CEUs each in Nutrient Mgt and IPM

Primary site at CREC/Lake Alfred
Teleconference sites include UF/IFAS RECs including
UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
SR 29 North
Immokalee, Florida

Registration is \$100 – go to www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/cca for more information and to register

June 6 - 8, 2010

**Annual Meeting - Florida State Horticultural and
Florida Soil and Crop Science Societies**

The Plantation Inn
9301 W Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, Florida.

For more information about the Florida State Horticultural Society, including meeting details, on-line registration and FSHS membership, please visit www.fshs.org

Opportunities

Seminis Greenhouse Supervisor – LaBelle, FL

Monsanto is seeking an experienced individual in greenhouse and controlled environment plant growth management to join the Vegetable organization as a Greenhouse Supervisor. The individual will support our Research Pathology Greenhouse Facilities and be responsible for working with team leads to ensure success of our Vegetable Seed research programs, while maintaining product stewardship of our research materials. The successful candidate will collaborate with station management to identify and/or develop applications intended to improve efficiency and efficacy in pest control, fertilization and irrigation for the Felda crops with a primary focus in greenhouses and growth rooms; identify and/or develop applications to improve efficiency in safety, regulatory, and experimental design for farming and greenhouse operations; and assist in conducting safety, environmental and regulatory training for staff to ensure compliance with regulations and site protocols.

Qualifications:

- B.S. in Agricultural related course of study. 3 years experience in agricultural crop research environment.
- Demonstrated experience in plant growth and development that are critical to greenhouse management including plant response to photoperiod and environmental control as well as plant nutrient and water requirements.
- Proficient using Microsoft Office and database platforms (Environmental Controls).
- Proven leadership and interpersonal skills fostering the ability to work and contribute in a diverse team environment.

Please apply online to: www.monsanto.com and reference requisition #000KR or contact Sara Schwabe sara.t.schwabe@monsanto.com if you should have any questions.

Farm Land for Lease

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

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

Wanted

Sakata Seed America, Inc. is looking for used pepper and tomato sizing equipment, specifically a Kerian Sizer, but might be interested in other options.

If you have a sizer that might fit what they are looking for - contact Cory Dombrowski Eastern Trial Coordinator & Pepper Product Manager Sakata Seed America at (239-464-3329)

Websites

UF/IFAS Watermelon Diseases – good color photos and descriptions – go to <http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/watermelons/diseases/diseases.htm>

National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) Training Site - training for first detectors and resources in several forms. Features modules on chili thrips and bacterial wilt - visit <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>

America's Heartland celebrating our nation's agriculture – check it out at <http://americasheartland.org/>

Quotable Quotes

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." - Dr. Seuss

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." - Mae West

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." - John Lennon

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." - Groucho Marx

"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." - Douglas Adams

"Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car." - Garrison Keillor

"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens" - Jimi Hendrix

On the Lighter Side

Man's Best Friend

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble.. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?'

'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered. 'Wow! Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked.

Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up. 'The man gestured, and the gate began to open. 'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveler asked.

'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.'

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog. After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence.

As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?'

'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in.' 'How about my friend here?' the traveler gestured to the dog.

'There should be a bowl by the pump.'

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it.

The traveler filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

'What do you call this place?' the traveler asked. 'This is Heaven,' he answered.

'Well, that's confusing,' the traveler said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.'
'Oh, you mean the place with the gold streets and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?'

'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'

HIGH SCHOOL - 1960 vs. 2010

Scenario 1: Joe goes quail hunting before school and then pulls into the school parking lot with his shotgun in his truck's gun rack.

1960 - Vice Principal comes over, looks at Joe's shotgun, goes to his car and gets his shotgun to show Joe.

2010 - School goes into lock down, FBI called, Joe hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers...

Scenario 2: Johnny and Mark get into a fist fight after school.

1960 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

2010 - Police called and SWAT team arrives -- they arrest both Johnny and Mark. They are both charged with assault and both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario 3: Jeffrey will not be still in class, he disrupts other students.

1960 – Jeffrey sent to the Principal's office and given a good paddling by the Principal. He then returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2010 – Jeffrey is given huge doses of Ritalin. He becomes a zombie. He is then tested for ADD The school gets extra money from the state because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario 4: Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1960 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college and becomes a successful businessman.

2010 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. The state psychologist is told by Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy's mom has an affair with the psychologist.

Scenario 5: Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1960 - Mark shares his aspirin with the Principal out on the smoking dock.

2010 - The police are called and Mark is expelled from school for drug violations. His car is then searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario 6: Pedro fails high school English.

1960 - Pedro goes to summer school, passes English and goes to college.

2010 - Pedro's cause is taken up by state. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. ACLU files class action lawsuit against the state school system and Pedro's English teacher. English is then banned from core curriculum. Pedro is given his diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario 7: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from the Fourth of July puts them in a model airplane paint bottle and blows up a red ant bed.

1960 - Ants die.

2010 - ATF, Homeland Security and the FBI are all called. Johnny is charged with domestic terrorism. The FBI investigates his parents and all siblings are removed from their home and all computers are confiscated. Johnny's dad is placed on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario 8: Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him.

1960 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing...

2010 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in State Prison. Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

Send this on to your friends to show how stupid we have become.

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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