May 21, 2010

After a long cold winter and spring, summer came on like gang busters over the past few weeks bringing hot steamy conditions to the area.

Daytime highs have been ranging from upper 80s with most days reaching the low to mid 90’s in many places. Night time low temperatures have been in upper 60’s to low 70’s. The first part of the month was on the dry side but many areas of southern Florida have seen from 2 – 4 inches of rain for the period mostly in the last week or so. The exceptions being Balm and Fort Pierce both with less than an inch.

Snap beans, cantaloupe, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, pepper, radish, squash, tomato and watermelons moved through the market last week. The deal is rapidly finishing up in southern production areas as production shifts to the Manatee/Ruskin area. Watermelons volume is picking up around the area and tomato prices dropped in recent days as volumes increase.

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<th>Rainfall (Inches)</th>
<th>Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)</th>
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The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami forecasts a drying trend across south Florida reducing the chance of showers over the weekend. Chance of showers will begin to increase by midweek as low level moisture begins to return to the area.

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

Insects

Worms

Growers and scouts around Immokalee, report that they are finding lots more worms on everything still in the field with lots of loopers, beet and southern armyworms. Melonworms and pickleworms are also increasing. A few pinworms are showing up in tomatoes and melon farmers are picking up some worms are moving onto watermelon rinds, mostly just low damage right now.

In the Manatee/Ruskin area worm pressure remains relatively light with a few armyworms and light looper activity.

On the East Coast, reports indicate that worm pressure is starting to pickup with scouts finding a few more beet armyworms and loopers in tomato and pepper.

Pepper Weevils

Around Immokalee, pepper weevils have reached high levels and are actively seeking out remaining pepper plantings.

Around Palm Beach County, growers are mowing pepper fields pushing weevils to seek remaining crops.

Thrips

Around Palm Beach County, David Sui reports his last thrips survey in early May found an average 4.5 western flower thrips and 8.1 Florida flower thrips were found per pepper bloom in Delray; on Bidens in Boca Raton, 0.4 WFT and 7.1 FL native thrips were found. For those farms that still finishing up north in Martin and St Lucie counties, he advises them to keep up with the scouting services in monitoring WFT, as the warmer weather favors the WFT. Dr. Joe Funderburk advises growers not to stretch out the season, as a crop free period is important factor in reducing the risk of thrips and many other pests and diseases in next season.

Respondents in Manatee report mostly light thrips pressure except for the US 41 corridor where they remain problematic.

Around Hillsborough County, high thrips pressure has been reported in a variety of crops.

Aphids

Growers and scouts on the East Coast report that aphids are still widely present on remaining crops including peppers, eggplant, and melons.

Respondents in Manatee County indicate that aphid pressure has declined in recent weeks.
Mites
Grower and scouts around SW Florida report that spidermite pressure is increasing, especially in tomato, eggplants and melons.

Around Palm Beach County respondents indicate that spidermites are building in eggplants.

Whiteflies
Around SW Florida, whiteflies remain lower than normal but are starting to build in many areas and nymphs are also developing on several crops and are heavy in eggplants.

Respondents in Palm Beach County indicate that whiteflies are being seen in places.

Reports from Manatee County indicate that whitefly populations remain low.

Leafminers
Reports from growers in the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that leafminers are widely present and remain a key pest in tomato and other crops.

Stinkbugs
Around Immokalee, stinkbugs are fairly common now in tomato fields and have required treatment in several areas.

Over the past few seasons we have had increasing reports of stink bug problems as growers move to softer more targeted insecticide applications

Stinkbugs once routinely controlled with organophosphate and pyrethroid insecticides, may be pests that growers will need to manage more carefully in the future due to dramatic drop in the use of pyrethroid and organophosphate insecticides.

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot
Around Immokalee, wet conditions have kept bacteria spot active in remaining tomato and pepper fields.

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that bacterial spot remains active and wide spread on remaining peppers.

Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicate that bacterial spot has flared up in a number of fields.

Phythophthora
Phythophthora continues take out plants on the East coast in areas hit by recent rains taking squash, peppers and eggplants, with significant stand loss in some places.
Respondents around Southwest Florida indicate that phytophthora is continuing to cause problems in some eggplant, squash and pepper fields hit by recent heavy rains. Some problems have also been reported in watermelon and tropical pumpkin.

**Powdery mildew**

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

**Powdery mildew is widely present on watermelons around South Florida over the past week or so.**

Symptoms of powdery mildew of watermelon appear as yellow blotches on the oldest leaves first. If untreated the fungus quickly spreads to completely affect the entire leaf. As the disease progresses these blotches become bronzed and turn dark brown or purplish. Eventually the leaf dies and has a crisp texture.

**White masses of sporulation that are frequently seen with other powdery mildews are not commonly seen with the powdery mildew of watermelon.** In some cases affected leaves may display the typical yellowing, bronzing, and a fair amount of white powdery fungal growth. Often little or no white powdery mycelia is present and in these cases microscopy may be necessary to find a limited amount of the powdery mildew fungus in the yellowed areas. In some instances, powdery mycelia may be absent on the leaves but present on the fruit.

Growers should check 10 plants per field and 5 leaves per plant for a total of 50 leaves. Initial infections often occur on older leaves near the crown of the plant. Be sure to check both the upper and lower side of each leaf.

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

In University trials, Rally or Procure, which have similar modes off actions, rotated with Quintec have given best results.

**Downy Mildew**

**Downy mildew is widely present on squash and cantaloupe around Immokalee.** Low levels of downy mildew are present on some watermelons around SW Florida.

Around Palm Beach County, scouts report that downy mildew has become common place in cucumber, squash and melons.

Downy mildew remains active in basil.

**Gummy stem Blight**

Recent heavy rains have increased gummy stem blight in watermelon around Southwest Florida and in the Manatee Ruskin area. Around LaBelle, gummy stem blight is really moving in many watermelons, nearly defoliating some fields but fortunately the crop has been made.
Northern Corn Leaf Blight

Dr Rick Raid reports that northern corn leaf blight is widely present on sweet corn in the Glades possibly aided by cool wet conditions this spring.

This disease is characterized by long, spindle-shaped lesions which are at first pale green, gradually turning gray-brown with age. Lesions may eventually be up to ½ inch wide by 4-6 inches long. Under favorable conditions, numerous lesions may coalesce to kill large amounts of foliage. The disease usually starts on the oldest leaves and works its way up the plant. The causal agent produces tiny stalks that emerge from the stomates located within the lesion area to give rise to long, multi-celled spores. These may be observed using a hand lens after periods of high humidity.

Northern leaf blight is favored by moderate temperatures (65-80° F) and periods of prolonged leaf wetness. It is slowed by periods of extended dryness. If the disease is well established prior to silking, economic losses may ensue. Lesions on ear husks also reduce marketability of sweet corn intended for the fresh market.

While sterol-inhibitor and strobilurin fungicides are more effective than protectant fungicides in the control of northern blight, these should be used in a program with the broad-spectrum protectants to reduce the risk posed by the development of resistance.

Common Rust

Dr Raid reports that common rust is also widespread on sweet corn in the Glades.

Common rust is a fungal disease characterized by small, circular to elongate, reddish brown to dark brown pustules on the leaf surface. Common rust pustules are frequently erumpent on both the upper and lower leaf surface. Pustules give rise to tens of thousands of cinnamon brown spores which are easily dislodged during periods of reduced humidity. When severe, common rust may cause extensive yellowing and premature desiccation of corn foliage, resulting in leaf necrosis. In extreme cases, heavy rust infestations may result in stunting, incomplete ear tip fill, and pustules on ear husks, reducing marketability.

Common rust, because it is favored by cool to moderate temperatures (60-73° C), is most prevalent during Florida’s spring growing season. New varieties, specifically bred for rust resistance, have proven to be very beneficial in the control of this disease.

Early detection is extremely important in initiating a chemical control program for rust. Since the fungus produces millions of spores which are wind-disseminated over large areas, rust may build up to high levels in a very short time. The newer strobilurin and sterol-inhibiting fungicides, which have some systemic properties, are more effective in controlling rust than the broad spectrum protectants. However, they should be used in a program (either tank-mixed or alternated) with the protectants to minimize the development of resistant strains of the rust fungus and to maximize efficacy.

Target Spot

More target spot is increasing on tomatoes around in the Manatee Ruskin area and is affecting fruit in some places.

Alternaria

Around Manatee County, reports indicate that early blight is increasing on tomato.
Fusarium

Growers and scouts report increasing 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

Sanitation, Sanitation, Sanitation...

Once again as we near the end of the deal, growers are reminded of the importance of sanitation in an integrated pest management program. Disease and insects do not magically materialize to plague growers. Many require a living host to carry them from one season to another.

Field sanitation is one of the most important tactics in vegetable pest and disease management. One of the best things that growers can do for themselves and their neighbors is to clean up crop residues promptly after harvest. Sanitation is an important IPM technique that should not be over looked as an effective, preventative tool against many vegetable pest and disease problems. Sanitation includes any practice that eradicates or reduces the amount of pathogen inoculum, pests, or weed seeds present and thus helps reduce or eliminate subsequent pest and disease problems.

Prompt crop destruction at the end of the season will immediately end the production of disease inoculum and insects and eliminate the spread of diseases and pests to any other host plants in the vicinity. Downy and powdery mildew on melons can spread via wind from older, diseased plants to plants in surrounding fields that are still maturing. These diseases are obligate parasites. This means that they can only grow and multiply on living host tissue. Some plant pathogens, such as the bacterium that causes bacterial spot of tomato and pepper, are unable to survive for extended periods of time outside of the host tissue. Plowing or disking under infected plant debris helps not only by covering up the inoculum but also speeds up the disintegration of plant tissue and kills the pathogen. Good sanitation will help control a number of important vegetable pathogens.

Cull piles should not be neglected as several scouts over the past few years have reported that they have found both insects and diseases such as TYLCV, late blight, whiteflies and others in volunteer plants springing up around cull piles.

Soil tillage can destroy insects and expose them to birds and other predators. It can also speed the breakdown of plant residues that harbor insects and plant pathogens. By either allowing the organic matter in a field to decompose completely before you plant the next crop and/or allowing a fallow period between crops, you can enhance the control of a number of insects and diseases.

Destruction of tomato vines will kill off white fly populations and eliminate transmission of the tomato yellow leaf curl virus to subsequent crops and also eliminate inoculum from late blight and other fungal diseases. This is particularly important in the case of TYLCV, as sanitation, a crop free period, and whitefly control are the only tools currently available for the management of this disease. A crop-free period is also considered a necessity for the control of a number of other important vegetable pests such as pepper weevil, tomato pinworm, and Thrips palmi and is recommended for management of all vegetable pests.
A little extra effort spent in cleaning up old fields at the end of the season may well prevent or reduce a number of potential problems next fall!

Summer weed management can be a challenge and will become increasingly important in the post-methyl bromide era. Growers should check field margins to make sure that pest species are not building up there and migrating out into cropping areas. Many insects over summer on weeds, so efforts to control them can be profitable by reducing their movement into the crops next growing season.

Weeds are also known reservoirs of nematodes as well as a number of viral, fungal and bacterial pathogens. Weeds and volunteers should be removed to prevent the survival and over-summering of pathogens that could serve as inoculum reservoirs for the next crop. Techniques such as mowing off pepper should not be relied upon as this often results in re-sprouts, which can harbor pests and disease problems over summer.

The use of cover crops and summer fallowing of fields are also effective tools in reducing weed populations that can cause problems in the subsequent crop. The role of summer fallow in weed management is often overlooked and again promises to become more important in the absence of methyl bromide as a component of a comprehensive methyl bromide alternative strategy. Summer fallow keeps new weed seeds from being added to the soil seed-bank. It also reduces the increases in asexual propagated plants such as nutsedge. Yellow nutsedge can put out 70 new tubers (nuts) every two months. Keeping the weeds from propagating will reduce the weed problems encountered during the next cropping season and help reduce insects and diseases that may over summer in weedy fields.

Chemical fallowing is a twist on the traditional method of fallowing that depends on disking fields through out the summer period to reduce weed pressure in subsequent crops. One approach uses glyphosate to kill weeds during the crop free period. Note with some combinations of high use rates, heavy weed infestation, soil fumigation, short plant back times and other factors growers have experienced carryover resulting in phytotoxicity and plant damage in subsequent crops on sandy soils.

Cover crops planted prior to the main cash crop can also improve soil fertility and provide a valuable source of organic matter.

With pending new regulations for fumigants, building soil organic matter content with summer cover crops can help provide credit which will allow reductions in the proposed required buffer zones which will come into effect in 2011. For example by raising soil organic content to the 1 - 2 % level in the fumigated block you can reduce buffer zones by 20%, increase soil organic content to 2 - 3 % and you get a 30% buffer zone reduction.

When devising a crop rotation strategy, a grower should also be aware of which crops and cover crops might increase disease problems. Sunn hemp can increase soil populations of Pythium and Rhizoctonia damping-off fungi. Some varieties of cowpea may host of root-knot nematode. These factors should be considered before selecting a cover crop.

Soil solarization is the use of plastic tarps placed on the soil surface to increase soil temperatures to a level that kills soilborne pathogens, weeds, and other crop pests. Soil solarization works best when summer temperatures are uniformly high. These conditions don’t always occur in Florida. Soil solarization will not eradicate a pathogen from a field, but it may lower pathogen populations.

Soil flooding is a related means of creating conditions—in this case, saturated soil over an extended period - that might result in a decline of soil-borne pathogens.

Integrated pest and disease management is a year round commitment that should incorporate a combination of cultural, biological and chemical pest management techniques.
Crist's vetoes Agriculture Bills

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Charlie Crist on Saturday shot down two bills sent to him by state lawmakers, a move that could strain an already tense relationship with the GOP-controlled Legislature.

He also signed one, giving final approval to Florida Atlantic University's medical school. The inaugural class is expected to begin in the fall of 2011.

Crist vetoed measures being pushed by the state's agriculture industry, including a bill that would have made it harder to take away tax breaks enjoyed by farmers and other large landowners across the state.

One of the prime sponsors of the bill was Sen. JD Alexander, R-Lake Wales, the powerful Senate budget chairman. But the bill had come under fire from some of the state's property appraisers, especially since the legislation would have applied to ongoing legal disputes affecting millions of dollars in property taxes.

In his veto message, Crist said he had "concerns about making it easier for developers to take advantage of a program intended to protect Florida farmers from facing financial pressures to sell their land."

Liz Compton, a spokeswoman for Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson, said that Bronson was disappointed in both vetoes and that Crist may have been confused over what the property tax bill did.

The vetoes Saturday mark the third time in recent weeks in which Crist, who is now running as an independent for the U.S. Senate, has scuttled bills pushed by top Republicans. He also vetoed earlier this year a campaign finance law change sought by legislative leaders and a controversial bill that would have stripped job protections from the state's teachers.

This could be the start of a series of vetoes in the next few weeks, as Crist has already said he plans to veto spending items in the state budget and has suggested he will veto a health care bill that requires women seeking abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy to get an ultrasound.

Yet the vetoes could make it harder for Crist to win any concessions from legislators if he calls them back in a special session to consider a constitutional ban on oil drilling in Florida waters.

Crist could also risk getting his veto overturned by the Legislature because both bills he vetoed Saturday passed with overwhelming Democratic and Republican support. It takes a two-thirds vote to override a veto.

There has not been a veto override since 1998, when the late Gov. Lawton Chiles was in office.

The property tax bill, HB 981, dealt primarily with Florida's greenbelt law.

Florida first passed the law in 1959 as a way to help farmers so they would not be pressured to sell off their land for development.

Property appraisers are required to value the property based on the agricultural value of the land, not its potential for development. State law says that whenever agricultural land is sold for three times its value, it automatically creates a "presumption" that it not be used for "bona fide agricultural" purposes and that the landowner has to prove that the tax break should be kept.

That is what happened to a large timber company, Rayonier, when it sold land in Bradford County to a real estate subsidiary for 12 times the value. The subsidiary lost the tax break and unsuccessfully challenged it in both circuit court and appeals court.
The bill Crist vetoed spelled out that offering property for sale does not constitute a primary use of land if the land continues to be used for agriculture while it is on the market.

The bill would have applied not only to future land sales, but, through a retroactive clause, to all land for which a court order had not yet been entered. Supporters of the bill said the measure was an effort to clarify the law and protect farmers from losing their tax breaks even if they were still farming.

But one of the critics of the bill said the retroactive clause could have wiped out $5.2 million worth of tax bills being challenged in court. Crist in his veto message said he was concerned the bill could "subsidize private real estate speculation at the expense of the taxpayer."

The push for the bill came initially from the state's citrus growers concerned about the impact of the Rayonier case. They approached Alexander, a grandson of citrus baron Ben Hill Griffin Jr. and the top executive at two companies that own as much as 200,000 acres in the state.

Mike Sparks, executive vice president and CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual, said his organization was disappointed in the veto because the bill also included a provision meant to bolster research for the citrus industry.

The other bill, HB 7103, vetoed by Crist on Saturday would have blocked local governments from regulating land used for farming if there was already a state law in place. It also would have forced developers to sign a form and acknowledge when they were building next to a farm. The bill stemmed from a Polk County dispute between a developer and the owner of a blueberry farm. The Ledger, May 17, 2010

Tomato Vendors in Immokalee cited for violating Florida’s Food Safety Rules

The vendors face misdemeanor charges for not properly sanitizing and packing tomatoes. Those facing charges are: Frank L. Romero, 26; Jorge Rojas, 46; Juan O. Sanchez, 52; Salvador Arreguin, 55; Elizar P. Pineda, 41, and Jose Partida, 73.

The violations were discovered Monday May 17 during a sweep by regulatory inspectors and law enforcement officers with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at a market off New Market Road. The new safety rules were enacted in 2008. Last year, the Department of Agriculture did sweeps, but only gave out warnings, said agency spokesman Terry McElroy.

“Those were like the dress rehearsals,” he said.

Now, enforcement is getting tougher. “We plan on visiting all kinds of places,” McElroy said.

The vendors in Immokalee will have to appear in court. A misdemeanor conviction can carry a sentence of up to six months in jail, and fines as high as $5,000, McElroy said.

“I don’t know that anyone would advocate jail time for anyone here,” he said. “But when you issue rules, if they are going to mean anything, you’ve got to enforce them.

“I think it will certainly get people’s attention,” he said.

The state’s tomato growers pushed for the new safety rules to protect themselves.

“If there is a food-borne illness issue, our whole state will be impacted, much as it was two years ago when we were mistakenly identified as the possible culprit in the salmonella outbreak, which was ultimately traced back
to peppers in Mexico,” McElroy said. “Our tomato growers lost $400 (million) or $500 million dollars during a four- or five-month period when the FDA was advising people not to eat tomatoes from Florida.”

The new rules require that tomatoes are sanitized to reduce microbial contamination and harvested into plastic boxes.

“We’ve got the most stringent regulations in the country for this kind of thing,” McElroy said. “It’s very important that people follow these rules, both for safety and for the economic future of the industry.”

By Laura Layden, Naples Daily News

2010 Census: Local Census Workers to Visit Homes as Door-to-Door Phase Begins

The 2010 Census is in full swing and even if households haven’t mailed in Census questionnaires, there’s still time to ensure that our community counts. Stand up, be counted and, for the next decade, benefit our community.

Households that haven’t yet participated in the 2010 Census will receive a visit from a Census “enumerator”. These census workers are from our community and will ask citizens the same questions that are on the 2010 Census questionnaire. The visit should take no more than 10 minutes. It’s safe, easy and confidential. All information gathered is protected by law and no one, not even the President, has access to it.

Census numbers are used to determine local funding for public works projects like roads and bridges, school funding and representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Local leaders also use Census numbers to determine where to put facilities like job training centers.

Every year, about $400 billion in federal funds are distributed to local and state governments based on Census data. During fiscal year 2008, federal assistance programs that rely on census-related statistics distributed more than $3 million to rural education.

The bottom line: An undercount in the Census could mean that our community receives less funding than it deserves.

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit sunshinecensus2010.com or 2010census.gov.

Pesticide Potpourri -

- On April 29, the FDACS accepted the revisions to the Chateau® (flumioxazin) herbicide SLN FL-080007 registration from Third Party Registrations Inc. The revision is the change in use from melon subgroup 9A to cucurbit vegetables. (FDACS letter, 4/29/10).
- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide cyromazine (Trigard®) on succulent (green) bean. (Federal Register, 4/28/10).
- Based on a request by Syngenta, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide difenoconazole (Inspire®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include head and stem brassicas (subgroup 5A), leafy green brassicas (subgroup 5B), citrus, bulb/green onion, and cucurbit vegetables (group 9). (Federal Register, 4/28/10).
- Based on a request by Bayer CropScience, the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide imidacloprid (Admire®). A group tolerance of importance to Florida is bulb vegetables (group 3). (Federal Register, 4/28/10).
- Syngenta Crop Protection received EPA approval for a shorter Restricted Entry Interval (REI) for Revus (mandipropamide) fungicide. Revus®, which previously required an REI of 12 hours, now has an REI of four hours. (Plant Health Progress, 4/14/10).
The EPA published its acceptance from the manufacturers for the voluntary cancellation of the final maneb product (Manex®) sold in the U.S. Existing stocks can be sold and used as labeled until supplies are exhausted. (Federal Register, 4/16/10).

The EPA has received requests from the registrants to voluntarily cancel all product registrations containing methyl-parathion, a restricted use organophosphate insecticide and acaricide used primarily on cotton, corn, and rice, as well as on other agricultural crops. These requests would terminate the last methyl-parathion products registered for use in the U.S., effective December 31, 2012. End-use products will not be sold after August 31, 2013, and end-use products cannot legally be used after December 31, 2013. All end use product labels will be amended to reflect the last legal use date.

The Registration Review docket for methyl-parathion opened in June 2009 and a Final Work Plan was signed in October 2009. The Agency’s registration review decision will be based on the cancellation of all registered products. Any party wishing to pick up the registrations will be responsible for submitting all required data. Methyl-parathion is named in the Washington Toxics Coalition v. EPA Endangered Species Act lawsuit, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is scheduled to issue a Biological Opinion on methyl-parathion and other pesticides later this year. Methyl-parathion is also included in the group of 58 pesticide active ingredients that are to be screened initially under the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program.

In addition to cotton, corn (field, pop, and sweet), and rice, methyl-parathion is currently registered for use on alfalfa, almonds, barley, canola/rapeseed, grass (forage), oats, onions, potatoes (sweet and white), rye, soybeans, sunflowers, walnuts, and wheat. The three registrants are Cheminova A/S, Cheminova, Inc, and United Phosphorus, Inc. In an April 28, 2010, Federal Register notice, the EPA is inviting comment on the voluntary cancellation requests until May 28, 2010. Additional information on methyl-parathion and the voluntary cancellation requests is available in registration review docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0332. (EPA OPP Update, 4/30/2010).

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 27, 2010    **CORE and Private Applicator Training:** Core: 8 AM - 10 AM,  
                 Private: 10 AM - 12 PM.

Manatee County Extension Office
Palmetto, Florida

These classes will prepare attendees to take Core and Private Applicator exams. CEUs are also available for those who already hold pesticide licenses. To register or for more information please visit: [http://coreprvmanatee.eventbrite.com/](http://coreprvmanatee.eventbrite.com/)

If you need help with registration call Jennifer or Crystal at (941)722-4524. There will be a $10 per class fee collected at the door.
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

July 31 - Aug 1, 2010  Florida Small Farms Alternative Enterprises Conference

Osceola Heritage Park
Kissimmee Florida

Visit http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu for more information

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.
Haifa Nutritech, Inc. is seeking a Field Research Technician position

Apply by June 14, 2010

Career Type: Research & Development
Job Type: Full Time
Minimum Years Experience Required: 5
Salary: $40,000-$50,000

Field Research Technician
Company: Haifa Nutritech (HNT) Inc.
Website: http://www.haifachem.com

Status: Full Time Employee
Location: Orlando Area, Altamonte Springs, 32701
Job Cat: Agricultural/Horticultural

See http://agcareers.com/job.cfm?task=view&id=169034 for details and to apply

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.

For sale

Ag-Tronix provides a product line of security cameras that are water proof and are vandal proof, built for Agriculture applications. I.R. vision up to 75 feet at night. The cameras can record activity 24/7 or be motion activated. Contact Sonya Carns at 239-657-5519 office or cell 239-825-4965 or email sonya@ag-ronix.com for more information.

Websites

UF/IFAS SWFREC Vegetable Horticulture Program - Want to get the latest trial results from Dr Monica Ozores Hampton’s vegetable horticulture program, go to http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/veghort/

UF/IFAS SWFREC Entomology Trial Reports - can be found at http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/entlab/pubs/sta_rpts/

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

Quotable Quotes

When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty. - Thomas Jefferson

That government is best which governs least. – Thomas Paine
It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job; it's a depression when you lose yours. – Harry Truman

When an elderly and distinguished scientist tells you that something is possible, he is very probably right. When he tells you that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong. - Arthur C. Clarke

I like pig. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals. - Winston Churchill

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. - Winston Churchill

Genius is one per cent inspiration, ninety-nine per cent perspiration. - Thomas Alva Edison

**On the Lighter Side**

**Just a Minute**

Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God.

Looking up, he asks the Lord... “God, what does a million years mean to you?”

The Lord replies, “A minute.”

Smith asks, “And what does a million dollars mean to you?”

The Lord replies, “A penny.”

Smith asks, “Can I have a penny?”

The Lord replies, “In a minute.”

**What’s Up Doc?**

A man goes to a shrink and says, “Doctor, my wife is unfaithful to me.”

“Every evening, she goes to Larry's bar and picks up men. In fact, she sleeps with anybody who asks her! I'm going crazy.”

“What do you think I should do?”

“Relax,” says the Doctor, “take a deep breath and calm down. Now, tell me, exactly where is Larry's bar?”

**In Passing**

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, “When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?”

Artie said: “I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man.”

Eugene commented: “I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives.”

Al said: “I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving.'
This will be the last regular Pest and Disease Hotline issued for this season. Publication will resume with the start of the 2010 –2011 vegetable season. I would like to acknowledge and extend my sincerest thanks to all of the many contributors who graciously shared valuable information, which has made the hotline so successful and also for the generous support of all our sponsors with out which publication of the hotline would not be possible.

HOPE YOU have a GREAT SUMMER and get some well deserved Rest and Recreation!

Note: State and local budgets cuts are threatening to further reduce our funding – if you are receiving currently receiving the hotline by mail and would like to switch over to electronic delivery – just drop me an email. It is much quicker and you will get the hotline with in minutes of my completing it and help conserve dwindling resources at the same time. Thanks to those that have already made the switch.

Contributors include: Joel Allingham/AgriCare, Inc, Jeff Bechtel/Syngenta Flowers, Bruce Corbett/West Coast Tomato Growers, Fred Heald/Farmers Supply, Sarah Hornsby/AgCropCon, Cecil Howell/H & R Farms, Loren Horsman/Glades Crop Care, Bruce Johnson/General Crop Management, Barry Kostyk/SWFREC, Dr. Mary Lamberts/Miami-Dade County Extension, Leon Lucas/Glades Crop Care, Mark Mossler/UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Gene McAvoy/Hendry County Extension, Alice McGhee/Thomas Produce, Dr.Gregg Nuesly/EREC Chuck Obern/C&B Farm, Dr. Monica Ozares-Hampton/SWFREC, Dr. Ken Pernezny/EREC, Dr. Rick Raid/ EREC, Dr Ron Rice/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr Pam Roberts/SWFREC, Dr. Nancy Roe/Farming Systems Research, Wes Roan/6 L's, Dr. Dak Seal/ TREC, Kevin Seitzinger/Gargiulo, Ken Shuler/Stephen’s Produce, Crystal Snodgrass/Manatee County Extension, John Stanford/Thomas Produce, Mike Stanford/MED Farms, Dr. Phil Stansly/SWFREC, Dr David Sui/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr Gary Vallad/GCREC, Mark Verbeck/GulfCoast Ag, Alicia Whidden/Hillsborough County Extension, Dr Henry Yonce/KAC Ag Research and Dr. Shouan Zhang/TREC.

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