



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Hendry County Extension

PO Box 68 LaBelle, Florida 33975-0068

Phone (863) 674-4092

SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

May 3, 2010

What a season - looks like this will be the dry season that wasn't with most locations experiencing rainfall totals well above average for April which is normally South Florida's driest month. Many locations have received over 20 inches of rainfall since New Year. Heavy rain is keeping bacterial diseases active.

Daytime highs ranging from the mid to upper 80s with the last few days topping out in the low 90's in many places. Night time low temperatures were mostly in the 50s and 60's and 70's. Miami and Naples both had record high minimum lows this weekend at 79 and 76 degrees respectively.

Snap beans, cabbage, cantaloupe, celery, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, endive, escarole, pepper, radish, squash, and tomato moved through the market last week. A few watermelons were harvested around Immokalee. Sweet corn harvest should begin to reach seasonal highs in the Glades. Tomato and pepper yields remain low.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
4/9 – 5/2/10	55.87	92.93	2.79	75	0.15
Belle Glade					
4/9 – 5/2/10	56.93	89.2	3.63	82	0.14
Clewiston					
4/9 – 5/2/10	57.87	90.79	6.29	79	0.15
Ft Lauderdale					
4/9 – 5/2/10	62.08	88.92	8.02	75	0.14
Fort Pierce					
4/9 – 5/2/10	58.23	91.92	2.79	76	0.14
Homestead					
4/9 – 5/2/10	--	86.23	4.37	80	0.14
Immokalee					
4/9 – 5/2/10	57.67	92.53	7.21	78	0.15

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity – Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational, information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.
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

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami forecasts through Tuesday night, a deep ridge will remain in place across S Florida resulting in a very stable air mass and temperatures will remain warmer than averages for early May along with humid conditions. In the extended time frame Wednesday through Sunday, a strong shortwave through will be moving across the southern gulf states early in the period this could weaken the ridge and destabilize the atmosphere and could allow for some convective development resulting in the possibility of showers late in the week.

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

Insects

Pepper Weevils

Around Immokalee, pepper weevils are active and are increasing in many fields. Numbers are variable from low to very heavy which some growers and scouts are characterizing as one of the worst outbreaks in recent memory.

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

Thrips

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

Thrips monitoring efforts by David Sui find that western flower thrips populations in weeds such as beggarticks (*Bidens* sp.) along field ditches are 3-10 times higher total thrips population (15-16.5 per bloom) than that of peppers (1.7-4.6). Spray of pepper fields may have driven thrips to weeds along the ditches.

The numbers do not look not too bad considering the UF-IFAS economic threshold is 6 per bloom. However of thrips sampled in peppers, western flower thrips make up 30%-65% of the populations sampled in pepper which is a higher percentage than found in weeds indicating that WFT may withstand insecticide sprays better than the native thrips.

While the count per flower of WFT is between 1.1-1.4, looks artificially low after the field being sprayed.

This means -- the sprays have pretty effectively knocked down the WFT population, but the high WFT ratio indicating that the number per bloom may climb back up quickly. Growers are advised to monitor the WFT population even as we are approaching the end of pepper season.

Dr. Funderburk, UF-IFAS entomologist, recommends regular monitoring of western flower thrips to avoid panic sprays when seeing the total thrip population up (happens after the citrus blooming), putting beneficial insects (such as pirate bugs etc) to work by choosing to use soft chemicals when chemical treatment becomes necessary.

The advantage in monitoring of WFT is that the thrips population booms are usually by native thrips species which don't cause damage of peppers but serve as competitors to WFT. Therefore, no panic spray is needed during these booms as long as the WFT is below 6 adults per bloom.

Reports from around Immokalee indicate that thrips built up in citrus and growers are seeing some mass movement this week with several fields reaching 10-20 thrips per bloom. The vast majority appear to be

flower thrips with only a few westerns mixed in. In some places growers report that heavy rains appear to have had some impact on thrips activity. Minute Pirate Bugs are also showing up and growers can expect to see more of these predators following the thrips if they avoid harsh sprays.

Around the Glades, reports indicate that thrips are feeding on the petioles of bean flowers and they are also causing foliar and pod damage from oviposition scars.

Respondents in Manatee report mostly light thrips pressure except for the US 41 corridor where they have been heavy

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

Worms

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. Diamondback moths, imported cabbage worms, and loopers are active in Chinese vegetables as well as in leafy greens, as the season winding down.

In Devil's Garden and the Glades, respondents report low levels of diamondback moth activity on Chinese cabbage and on green cabbage. Fall armyworms are active in corn. One scout writes that he observed a case of bio-control by red winged black birds on fall armyworm sweet corn tassels, when he watched a dozen or so hungry birds pick apart tassels to get at the worms.

Around Immokalee, some increase in worm activity has been noted with new hatches of southern armyworms, fruitworms, pickleworms and loopers starting to appear. At SWFREC diamondback moths have been heavy in collards and cabbage. Pickleworm are active and causing some problems in squash.

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

Aphids

Growers and scouts on the East Coast report that aphid pressure is beginning to decline but aphids are still widely present on a variety of crops including peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, greens and specialty items.

Around Southwest Florida, aphids remain moderate to heavy in tomato, pepper, potato, watermelons, squash, eggplant, and cucumber.

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

Respondents in Manatee County indicate that aphid pressure is still heavy in a number of places.

Whiteflies

Around SW Florida, whiteflies remain lower than normal for late spring but have begun to increase in a number of areas. Some respondents report movement of adults from bean fields being harvested.

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

Reports from Manatee County indicate that whiteflies remain almost low but a few can be found on almost every farm.

Around Hillsborough County, respondents indicate whiteflies remain very low to non-existent.

Leafminers

Reports from growers in the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that leafminers are widely present at moderate levels and most growers are actively treating for leafminer.

Around Immokalee, leafminers are still around in watermelons and tomatoes.

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.

Stinkbugs

Around Immokalee, stinkbugs are showing up in a number of fields including tomato, squash, watermelons and cucumbers. Fruit damage has been seen in several tomato fields at low levels.

Mites

Grower and scouts around SW Florida report that spidermite pressure is low but is gradually increasing, mostly in cucurbits. Tomato russet mites have been reported in a few tomato fields. Broadmites are starting to show up in some pepper fields.

In the Manatee/Ruskin area a few spidermites are present in squash and tomato.

Around Palm Beach County respondents indicate that some broadmite damage is present in peppers and tomatoes around Loxahatchee area, as well as along the 441 corridor.

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot

Around Immokalee, recent heavy rains flared up bacterial spot in many pepper fields and in tomatoes as well often present as mixed infections with speck. In many fields, which had started to put out new clean foliage, infections are widespread on new growth after the rain. Judging by the appearance of symptoms on resistant pepper varieties – race 6 bacterial spot is widely present. Watermelon growers are reporting symptoms that appear to be bacterial spot – samples have been sent for diagnosis.

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that bacterial spot is still active and wide spread on peppers. Even race 1-5 resistant pepper varieties have been infected at moderate levels, due to the race 6 which was detected by Dr. Richard Raid and Dr. Jeff Jones earlier this season. Bacterial spot on tomato is also severe and widespread.

Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicate that bacterial spot has taken off in many tomatoes along with speck with most infections remaining low on the plant.

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

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

Bacterial Speck

Following warmer drier weather and a flush of new growth in mid-April bacterial speck has flared back up in a number of tomato fields around Immokalee following heavy rains at the end of the month.

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

Late Blight

Around Southwest Florida some new late blight has been reported in a couple of fields. Several new locations have infections while there have been new flare ups in areas that were infected months ago before the freeze.

Some late blight is also present up around St Lucie County and in Palm Beach County.

Phytophthora

Phytophthora 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. Tomatoes have also been affected to a lesser extent.

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

Powdery mildew

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

Around Homestead powdery mildew is starting up on beans and squash.

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

Powdery mildew has started to show up 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 of action, rotated with Quintec have given best results.

Downy Mildew

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

Downy mildew is also present on older squash and is starting to show up on watermelons and cantaloupe around Immokalee.

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

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.

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

Low levels of target spot are being seen on tomatoes in the Manatee Ruskin area.

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.

On Beans, 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.

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.

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.

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

Ag Chemical Theft Rampant in SW Florida

Unfortunately the theft of agricultural products around Southwest Florida is continuing.

Between 10pm Sunday night and 5am Monday morning, someone cut the locks on a gate to a farm east of LaBelle and then cut the locks to the chemical trailer. It appeared to be three people judging by the footprints. Thieves stole Ranman, Previcure, Quadris, K-Phite, Forum, Manzate, Firestorm, Intensity, and Scanner worth over \$20,000.

Another farm south of LaBelle was hit Friday night.

Growers are advised to keep farm entrances and storage areas locked and maintain surveillance. Lock up all chemicals, they are essentially like cash money for a thief.

Locate chemical storage well away from access roads.

Request that chemicals be delivered on the days you need them and not before.

Return excess chemicals to the chemical distributor. Not having a stockpile of chemicals in your shed you will decrease the opportunity for theft.

Consider installing alarms on chemical shed doors or windows.

Buy only from reputable dealers and do not be tempted to buy "cheap" chemicals from unknown sources - you are only supporting a thief and you may be next.

Look out for your neighbor and report suspicious vehicles and activities to the Sheriffs' Office.

Proposed NPDES Permit Due Soon

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue a proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process next month for pesticides used in and around water.

It will impact 5.6 million annual pesticide applications by 365,000 applicators using 500 different active ingredients.

The proposed permit “will have profound implications for American farmers,” U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack wrote EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson last month as the agency drew up the proposed permits. Failure to comply with the new EPA permitting process will result in a fine of \$32,000 per day.

The NPDES permit process is being developed in the wake of a Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling earlier this year that said pesticides are a pollutant and therefore must be regulated under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). This ruling follows a similar one several years ago in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Lee Van Wychen, science policy director for National and Regional Weed Science Societies, said the court ruling removes aquatic pesticides and pesticide applications potentially affecting water from the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

“The pesticide applications to come under the CWA have been covered by FIFRA for 30 years, but no more,” Van Wychen said. He added that with FIFRA, if someone applies a pesticide according to the government-approved label, there is no liability. That is not the case with the new proposed CWA pesticide permit process.

“The liability issue with this new permit process is the No. 1 issue with stakeholders. Even if someone follows the label, they are still subject to liability,” Van Wychen said. “That is not the law under FIFRA.”

Forty-five states must come up with a permit process to meet the new EPA regulations. About half, Wychen said, now have some sort of NPDES permit process, but whether it meets the as yet unknown pesticide/CWA compliant permit process will be part of the arduous task of getting most states to comply with the EPA permit process.

There is no money to help the states comply. Van Wychen called it another layer of unfunded government bureaucracy.

Van Wychen updated members of the Western Society of Weed Science on the NPDES permit process at its annual conference in Hawaii.

Twenty to 25 states have no NPDES permit process. “They are going to have to start from scratch,” he said.

EPA will develop and issue a general pesticide/CWA permit for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Alaska, Idaho, New Mexico, and the territories, tribal, and federal lands for which it has NPDES permitting authority.

Van Wychen said California, Oregon and Washington have NPDES permits that should comply with the new permit process. However, only recently has runoff from California agriculture come under the CWA. Previously it was exempt, but that was overturned and now nine regional water control boards are developing a CWA compliant permit process. California’s general pesticide application laws protect waterways from pesticide applications. California also has extensive groundwater protection laws administered through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, which also regulates pesticide applications impact surface water.

The proposed permit language was due out in April, but Van Wychen said this has been delayed by an interagency review. He expects it out in May.

Once the proposed permit becomes public, EPA will accept comments and begin working with all states to implement the permit by the mandated April 2011 date.

“There is some talk about asking the court for more time,” said Van Wychen. The courts have already granted one extension. Van Wychen said he would not be surprised to see the permit draw lawsuits on its language and interpretation.

“I do not think it is a done deal,” he said, noting that November elections could also bring about modifications in the CWA law exempting products from the new permit process.

Most of the major U.S. commodity groups have lobbied to minimize the impact of this CWA pesticide permitting process that no doubt could have far-reaching impact on American agriculture.

Vilsack has lined up with those commodity groups. He said in his March letter to EPA Administrator Jackson that the permit requirements “could reach almost any pesticide application, requiring farmers to navigate” a permit process that is “ill-suited to the demands of agricultural production.” The onerous permitting process could “cripple” American farmers in emergency pest management efforts and increase the risk of crop loss.

The appeals court decision “encumbers” American farmers and USDA in their ability to do business “while reaping little or no environmental benefits in exchange,” he said, adding CWA regulations duplicate FIFRA rules and “will not protect the environment.”

This issue evolved from a 1996 pesticide misapplication by an Oregon irrigation district that leaked through a waste gate and into a creek where more than 92,000 juvenile steelhead were killed.

Environmentalists sued and won all the way to the Ninth Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Eventually, agricultural groups, headed by the National Cotton Council, took the mandate that aquatic pesticide applications fall under CWA to the Sixth Court of Appeals, which also sided with the environmentalists.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case and thus began the EPA process of developing a permit.

Apr 20, 2010 12:05 PM, By Harry Cline, Farm Press Editorial Staff

New Pesticides on the Horizon

The EPA has recently published a large list of pesticide candidates awaiting registration and many are biological in nature. Ortho Group is proposing use of *Phoma macrostoma* strain 94-44B as a herbicide; OmniLytics has a bacteriophage for the bacterium *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* to manage tomato canker; BioWorks Inc. proposes use of *Trichoderma virens* strain G-41 as a fungicide to manage water molds; Natural Industries Inc. proposes use of *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* strain FE 9901 for control of whiteflies, aphids, psyllids, mealybugs, leafhoppers, plant bugs, weevils, grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, locust, and beetles on all greenhouse and nursery crops including ornamentals, vegetables, and herbs.

Others include BioProdex Inc.’s proposal for the use of Tobacco Mild Green Mosaic Tobamovirus for the control of tropical soda apple in citrus, forestry grass pastures, rangeland sod-production fields, roadsides, sugarcane, temperate and tropical fruits and nuts, turf, rights-of-way, natural areas, and conservation reserve programs. Marrone Bio Innovations Inc. proposes use of *Chromobacterium subtsugae* strain PRAA4-1 as an insecticide/miticide for foliage feeding and plant sucking pests in various edible crops and ornamental plants and turf. Agrium Advanced Technologies RP Inc. is proposing use of *Typhula phacorrhiza* strain 94671 as a fungicide in turf. Bio-Ferm GmbH proposes to use *Aureobasidium pullulans* strain DSM 14940 as a bloom-protecting fungicide for agricultural, commercial, and residential use on citrus, grape, pome fruit, stone fruit, and strawberry.

Chemicals with requested registration include ISCA Technologies Inc.'s proposal to use tetradecatrienyl acetate as pheromone for tomato leafminer, and AMVAC's proposal to use 3-decen-2-one as a potato sprout inhibitor. (Federal Register, 3/10/10).

Survey: U.S Organic Product Sales Reach \$26.6B in 2009

GREENFIELD, Mass. The Organic Trade Association revealed Thursday findings from its 2010 Organic Industry Survey, which indicated that sales of organic products continued to grow during 2009 despite the distressed state of the economy.

Organic fruits and vegetables, which represent 38% of total organic food sales, experienced the most growth, reaching nearly \$9.5 billion in sales in 2009, up 11.4% from 2008. Organic fruits and vegetables now represent 11.4% of all U.S. fruit and vegetable sales.

Sales of organic fruits and vegetables have grown from \$2.55 billion to nearly the \$9.5 billion level since the approval of the final National Organic Program rule published in 2000, the OTA said.

The mass market channel had the lion's share of organic food sales in 2009, with 54% of organic being sold through mainstream grocers, club stores and retailers. Natural retailers were next, with 38% of total organic food sales. Farmers markets, co-ops and CSA (community-supported agriculture) operations gained a lot of interest as consumers increasingly look for locally and regionally produced organic foods, the survey said, but it still represents a small share of sales.

"While total U.S. food sales grew by only 1.6% in 2009, organic food sales grew by 5.1%. Meanwhile, organic nonfood sales grew by 9.1%, as opposed to total nonfood sales which had a 1% negative sales growth rate. These findings are indicative that even in tough times, consumers understand the benefits that organic products offer and will make other cuts before they give up products they value," said Christine Bushway, executive director at the OTA.

Supermarket News, April 22, 2010

EPA May Force Pesticide Label on New Biotech Fruit - Proposal Signals Radical Change in Biotech Regulation

Washington, D.C., April 30, 2010 – The Competitive Enterprise Institute today condemned a proposed Environmental Protection Agency action plan that would, for the first time ever, require a new biotech crop to be labeled as a pesticide. In approving the new plum variety, which has been bioengineered to resist virus infection, EPA proposes to regulate trees, cuttings, and fruit from virus-resistant plants under federal pesticide laws and label them as containing a "plant incorporated protectant."

"EPA has already concluded this plant and fruit are perfectly safe for humans and the environment," said CEI Senior Fellow Gregory Conko. "Treating a mere plum as a pesticide would needlessly spread consumer confusion and add burdensome regulations on nurseries that sell the trees, farmers who grow them, and retailers who sell the fruit."

The EPA has regulatory authority over crop plants bioengineered to produce substances that kill or repel pests. But virus-resistant crops do not produce pesticidal substances, so the agency has never before regulated them under pesticide laws. To date, virus-resistant varieties of squash, potato, and papaya have been approved for commercial-scale cultivation in the United States. None has been regulated as a "plant incorporated protectant."

“Unlike insect-resistant crops, bioengineered to produce a protein that is toxic to caterpillars, virus-resistant plants fend off infection without generating new proteins,” said Conko. “Classifying this plum variety as a biopesticide is legally suspect, and it cannot be justified by any concerns about the environment or human consumers.”

The C5 Honey Sweet Plum variety was developed by the US Department of Agriculture at a research station in West Virginia, in cooperation with scientists from France, Spain, Poland, and Romania. It is bioengineered to resist plum pox virus, which is harmless to humans but destroys plum, peach, nectarine, apricot, and cherry trees by rendering them sterile.

CEI filed public interest comments on the EPA’s proposed Biopesticide Registration Action Document for the C5 plum. The Institute urged EPA to remove the plum’s classification as a biopesticide or at least to exempt trees and fruit from the labeling requirement.

Food Safety Workshop - Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs): Developing a Food Safety Program for Fruit and Vegetable Growers, to be held at the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, SR 29 N, Immokalee, Florida on Friday May 14, 2010 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

There a \$20 registration fee includes lunch; please submit your registration ASAP, so that we may ensure adequate provisions and supplies for all attendees.

To register call 863-674-4092 or email dcabrera@ufl.edu

This program is aimed a providing training and resources to growers and packinghouse managers to enable them to implement an effective food safety program and to equip them to properly train workers on all aspects of produce food safety. Having one or more of your employees certified by attending this class will ensure that your facility meets requirements of the new tomato food safety requirements.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs): Developing a Food Safety Program for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Agenda

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

Wednesday May 14, 2010

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

\$20 registration fee includes lunch

8:30 am – Registration

9:00 AM Welcome, Introductions and Setting the Stage How Do I Know What I Need? Gene McAvoy, Hendry County Extension, LaBelle

9:30 AM Microbiology for Growers: Understanding Organisms of Concern, Brief presentation of main organisms, how they grow, spread, etc., Keith Schneider, Food and Human Nutrition, Gainesville, FL

10:15 AM Break

10:45 AM Overview of GAPs Issues, Reviewing key farm, field, packing house and transportation practices, Keith Schneider, Food and Human Nutrition, Gainesville, FL

11:30 AM Worker Health and Hygiene, Addressing the need for worker training, including common stumbling blocks, resources, etc., Michelle Danyluk, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL

12:15 PM Lunch

1:15 PM The Importance of Record Keeping, Making record keeping a manageable part of the your food safety plan, Renee Goodrich Schneider, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Gainesville, FL

1:45 PM Postharvest Handling and Sanitation, Effectively communicating your food safety program and advocating for your farm, Gene McAvoy, Hendry County Extension, LaBelle

2:15 PM Break

2:45 PM Audit Perspectives: Lack of a Standardized Audit, Preparing for an audit/inspection without losing your mind, Renee Goodrich Schneider, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Gainesville

3:15 PM Educational Materials and Resources, Discussing the resources that make things easier and more effective, Keith Schneider, Food and Human Nutrition, Gainesville, FL

3:45 PM How Can UF/IFAS Extension Help You in the Next Step? Open Forum for Questions, Wrap-Up, Gene McAvoy, Hendry County Extension, LaBelle

4:00 PM Adjourn

Pesticide Potpourri

- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the herbicide clopyralid (Stinger®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include bushberry (blueberry), strawberry, and Swiss chard. (Federal Register, 3/24/10).
- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the herbicide flumioxazin (Chateau®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include leaf petiole vegetables (subgroup 4B) and cucurbit vegetables (group 9). (Federal Register, 2/24/10).
- Based on a request by Isagro S.p.A., the EPA has approved an exemption from the requirement of tolerance for the biofungicide *Trichoderma asperellum* strain ICC 012 (formerly *Trichoderma harzianum*) on all food/feed commodities when applied pre-harvest. (Federal Register, 3/3/10).
- Based on a request by Laboratories Goemar, SA, the EPA has approved an exemption from the requirement of tolerance for the natural defense stimulator laminarin (Vacciplant®) on all food commodities when applied pre-harvest. (Federal Register, 2/24/10).
- Valent USA advises that EPA has recently approved a supplemental label allowing Presidio fungicide to be applied through injection systems (drip irrigation), which was restricted until now. Presidio will control *Phytophthora* spp. when applied in this manner. Foliar uses for control of downy mildew and late blight remain unchanged. Note: The supplemental labeling must be in possession of the user at the time of application.
- Bayer CropScience advises that Canada has issued registrations for Belt and Synapse and thus have established MRLs equivalent to those tolerances for US crops. Bayer is waiting on confirmation of anticipated MRLs approvals in Japan and upon receipt will provide an updated MRL document for usage in the field.

- UPI reports that EPA has negotiated a "voluntary" cancellation and phase out period for Penncap M . The EPA announced their intention to cancel Methyl Parathion in Federal register on 4/28/2010 and there will now be a public comment period, after which the final order will be issued.

Some key points are as follows:

- UPI will be allowed to sell Penncap M until December 31st, 2012.
- Distribution will be able to sell the Penncap M in their possession until August 31st, 2013.
- Growers will be able to apply Penncap M until December 31st, 2013.

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

May 14, 2010 Food Safety Workshop 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

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

Call 863-674-4092 for information or to register. Registration is \$20

See class description above.

May 20, 2010 Spring Vegetable Field Day 10 AM – Noon

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

Call 863-674-4092 for information or to register

Other Meetings

**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.

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

Learn Spanish with Free Video Lessons at SpanishDict.com - the worlds largest Spanish learning website - visit <http://www.spanishdict.com/>. Join for free to access all services.

The Free Dictionary - wondering what those acronyms in those text messages your kids send mean? Go to <http://acronyms.thefreedictionary.com> and type in your acronym to find out.

Quotable Quotes

"A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." — Mark Twain

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and man." — Mark Twain

"God created war so that Americans would learn geography." — Mark Twain

"Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it." — Mark Twain

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." — Mark Twain

"Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over." — Mark Twain

On the Lighter Side

Older Women

After being married for 44 years, Joe took a careful look at his wife one day and said, "Forty-four years ago, we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, we slept on a sofa bed and we watched a 10-inch black & White TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year old girl.

Now I have a \$500,000 home, a \$45,000 car, a nice big bed and several plasma screen TVs, but I'm sleeping with a 69-year old woman. It seems to me that you are not holding up your side of things.'

His wife being a very reasonable woman, told him to go out and find a hot 25-year-old girl and she would make sure that he would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black & white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve a mid-life crisis.

The Lost Hat

Murphy showed up at Mass one Sunday and the priest almost fell down when he saw him. Murphy had never been seen in church in his life.

After Mass, the priest caught up with Murphy and said, "Murphy, I am so glad you decided to come to Mass, what made you come?"

Murphy said, "I got to be honest with you Father, a while back, I misplaced me hat and I really, really love that hat. I know that McGlynn had a hat just like me hat, and I knew that McGlynn came to church every Sunday. I also knew that McGlynn had to take off his hat during Mass and figured he would leave it in the back of church. So, I was going to leave after Communion and steal McGlynn's hat."

The priest said, "Well, Murphy, I notice that you didn't steal McGlynn's hat. What changed your mind?"

Murphy said, "Well, after I heard your sermon on the 10 Commandments, I decided that I didn't need to steal McGlynn's hat."

The priest gave Murphy a big smile and said; "After I talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' you decided you would rather do without your hat than Burn in Hell, right?"

Murphy shook his head and said, "No, Father, after you talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery', I remembered where I left me hat."

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 Corbitt/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 Nuessly/EREC Chuck Obern/C&B Farm, Dr. Monica Ozores-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.

The **South Florida Pest and Disease Hotline** is compiled by **Gene McAvoy** and is issued on a biweekly basis by the **Hendry County Cooperative Extension Office** as a service to the vegetable industry.

Gene McAvoy
County Extension Director / Extension Agent IV
Regional Specialized Agent - Vegetables/Ornamental Horticulture

Hendry County Extension Office
PO Box 68
LaBelle, Florida 33975
Web: <http://hendry.ifas.ufl.edu/>

863-674-4092 phone
863-673-5939 mobile - Nextel 159*114449*
863-674-4637 fax
GMcAvoy@ifas.ufl.edu

Special Thanks to the **generous support** of our **sponsors**; who make this publication possible.

Thomas Produce Company

Of South Florida
Grower and Shippers of Quality Vegetables
9905 Clint Moore Road
Boca Raton, Florida 33496

Robert Murray

Wedgworth's Inc

Big W Brand Fertilizer
Phone 561-996-2076 Cell 239-707-2272

Carol Howard

Mobley Plant World

1351 W Cowboy Way
LaBelle, Florida 33935
Phone 863-675 -2020

Fred Heald

Farmers Supply Inc

710 Broward Street
Immokalee, FL 34142
Phone 239-657-8254 Fax 239-657-2005

Gargiulo

Growers Shippers Importers Exporters
David Pensabene: Production Manager
Naples Operations
Phone 239-353-0300 Fax 239-353-3407

Mark Myers

Agriliance/ProSource One

Immokalee, Florida
Phone 239-657-8374 Mobile 239-253-6631
E-mail: memyers@agriliance.com

Dr. Nancy Roe

Farming Systems Research

5609 Lakeview Mews Drive
Boynton Beach, Florida 33437
Phone 561-638-2755

Ed Early

Dupont Agricultural Products

5100 South Cleveland Avenue
Fort Myers, Florida 33907
Phone 239-332-1467 Mobile 239-994-8594

Glades Crop Care, Inc.

**Leaders in Crop Health
Management**

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

Stacey Howell

Bayer CropScience

3481 3rd Ave NW
Naples, FL 34120
Phone (239) 353-6491 Cell (239) 272-8575

Glen Kaufman

Paramount Seeds, Inc.

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

Farmer Mikes LLC

Mike Clevenger J.J. Black
15960 CR 858
Immokalee, FL 34142
Office 239-658-0592 Fax 239-658-0593

Special Thanks to the **generous support** of our **sponsors**; who make this publication possible.

Cody Hoffman
Syngenta Crop Protection
PO Box 1940
Fort Myers, FL 33902
Cell 321- 436-2591

OmniLytics - AgriPhage
Safe Natural Effective
Vegetable Bacteria Control
Dave Cole - 561-261-1545
Tony Swensen - 801-808-2132

Jason Osborne
Marrone Bio Innovations

239-707-7168 cell
josborne@marronebio.com

Brent Beer
**Beer Leveling &
Land Development**
Office 863-675-1663 863-673-3173 cell
158*17*43857 Nextel

Certis USA
Bio-Pesticides for Crop Production

Joe Craig - 863-291-9203
Chuck Goodowns - 352-538-4471

Scott Houk
Dow AgroSciences LLC

Phone 239-948-3999
Email sehok@dow.com

FMC
FMC Corporation APG
Ron Palumbo
Cell 305-304- 7941
Nextel Agnet 14772
Ronald.Palumbo@fmc.com www.fmccrop.com

Steve Mike Dave
Jamerson Farms

Growers, Packers and Shippers of
Florida's Finest Vegetables
Phone 239-229-5734 Fax 239-368-0969

Sarah Hornsby, CCA
Agricultural Crop Consulting, Inc
Scouting: Manatee, Hillsborough, Collier
Office/Fax 941-776-1122
Cell 941-713-6116
Email: AgCropCon@aol.com

Donald Allen
AGLIME SALES INC
1375 Thornburg Road
Babson Park, Florida 33827-9549
Office 863-638-1481 Fax 863-638-2312
Mobil 863-287-2925

OxiDate® BioSafe Systems LLC
TerraClean® Luis Hansen 305.793.9206
StorOx® Sim NiFong
info@biosafesystems.com 863.441.1057

AgraQuest Inc

Steve Melchert
Eastern Divisional Manager
(239) 691-0555 cell

Special Thanks to the **generous support** of our **sponsors**; who make this publication possible.

Garry Gibson
BASF Corporation
1502 53rd Avenue
Vero Beach, Florida 32966
Office 772-778-4646 AGNET 21726
w.garry.gibson@basf.com

ORO AGRI
Pesticides and Spreader Oils
OROCIT/ PREV-AM/WETCIT
Jerry Dukes 941-524-1312
UAP/Agrilance/Helena

Valent USA
"Products That Work
From People Who Care"
Sarah Markle 863-673-8699

Jack Kilgore
239-707-7677
Natural Industries Inc
info@naturalindustries.com
Actinovate® AG
Biological Fungicide

Chuck Obern
C & B Farm
CR 835
Clewiston, FL 33440
Office 863-983-8269 Fax 863-983-8030
Cell 239-250-0551

Scott Allison
Diamond R Fertilizer
PO Box 1898
LaBelle, FL 33975
(863) 675-3700
sagator@aol.com

Jay Hallaron
Chemtura Corporation
321-231-2277 cell 407-256-4667 cell
jay_hallaron@cromptoncorp.com

Matt Arnold
Crop Production Services
116 Jerome Drive
Immokalee, Florida
239-657-3168 office 239-464-5763 cell

Dr. Henry Yonce
KAC Agricultural Research
Scouting, Consulting
Research
386-736-0098 work 386-527-1124 cell
HDYONCE@msn.com

Richard Roles
Roles Marketing International
Distributors of Agrigro and Super Cal
10% Calcium
richard@rmiint.com www.rmiint.com
Cell 561-644-3511

PUT YOUR NAME HERE

PUT YOUR NAME HERE

NOTE: The acknowledgement of sponsorship in no way constitutes or reflects an official endorsement of these businesses or their products or services by either the University of Florida, IFAS, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, or the Hendry County Extension Office. Sponsors have no control over the content of this publication