



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

May 21, 2011

The deal is pretty much done in southern production areas and growers in the Manatee/Ruskin area will starting winding down in the next week or two. Around Immokalee, growers are scrapping out fields to pin hookers and cleaning up.

Despite some widely scattered showers over the past week or so, which dropped anywhere from half an inch in Homestead and Fort Pierce to over 4 inches around Clewiston, extreme drought conditions continue in Broward, Palm Beach and northern Miami-Dade counties along with portions of western interior areas of south Florida, with severe drought conditions across the rest of south Florida.

Daytime temperatures have been running in the mid nineties in most places with nighttime lows in the 60's. Hot temperatures in April and May pushed maturity several weeks ahead in most areas.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
4/30 – 5/20/11	50.68	95.09	0.98	71	0.18
Belle Glade					
4/30 – 5/20/11	57.74	93.42	2.17	79	0.18
Clewiston					
4/30 – 5/20/11	59.22	95	4.12	75	0.18
Ft Lauderdale					
4/30 – 5/20/11	63.72	95.02	1.07	71	0.18
Fort Pierce					
4/30 – 5/20/11	54.73	94.95	0.54	73	0.17
Homestead					
4/30 – 5/20/11	61.3	94.33	0.55	77	0.18
Immokalee					
4/30 – 5/20/11	55.92	98.58	1.42	74	0.19

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Vegetables coming to market included cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, bell peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons and various specialty items. Volumes are declining as harvest moves away from the area. Blossom end rot and cracking has reduced tomato pack outs around the Manatee/Ruskin area

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that deep layered ridging will encompass South Florida into the middle part of next week. This will move slowly east...with a surface ridge building across the eastern sea board. Low level winds will become northeasterly across Florida bringing drier air into south Florida. Dry weather looks to continue at least through next Wednesday, but more uncertainty in the forecast arises for the later part of the week, when a deeper long wave trough moving towards the eastern seaboard...pulling moisture into the area from the south.

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

Insects

Whiteflies

Reports from Manatee/ Ruskin area indicate that whitefly numbers are taking off in many fields.

Pepper Weevil

Growers and scouts around South Florida report that pepper weevils are building everywhere and causing trouble in many remaining fields.

Spider mites

Around South Florida, respondents indicate that spider mite populations have jumped and are widely present on a variety of crops (tomato, cucurbits, and eggplant).

Worms

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

Reports from the Glades indicate fall armyworm pressure remains high in sweet and field corn.

Corn Silk Fly

Respondents in the Glades indicate that silk flies widely present in sweet corn.

Stinkbug

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

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot and speck

Growers and scouts in the Manatee/Ruskin area report that bacteria spot and speck remain active in tomato causing significant fruit infections in some places.

TYLCV

Around Manatee County, respondent report that TYLCV has increased to high levels in a number of areas.

Mosaic

Reports from Manatee County indicate that mosaic virus caused by both watermelon mosaic virus as well zucchini mosaic virus is affecting a number of squash fields.

Tomato spotted wilt virus

Dr Gary Vallad, Plant Pathologist at the UF/IFAS GCREC in Balm reports growers still finding new cases of TSWV with some evidence of movement in some instances.

Powdery Mildew

Reports from Manatee County indicate that powdery mildew is widespread in squash and melons.

Around Immokalee, that powdery mildew is common in remaining watermelon fields.

Downy Mildew

Growers and scouts around the Manatee/Ruskin area report plenty of downy mildew in a range of cucurbits.

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

Basil growers in all areas continue battle downy mildew.

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

News You Can Use

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 2012. 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.

SFWMD Phase III Water Shortage in Effect

As of May 20, Lake Okeechobee has dropped to a stage level of 10.48 feet, prompting Phase III Water Shortage restrictions for the Lake Okeechobee Service Area. The water shortage order mandates a 45 percent reduction in surface water use by the agriculture industry.

If it becomes apparent that water will no longer be able to be delivered via gravity, the district will be installing a total of 14 temporary pumps at Structures S-351, S-352 and S-354 to continue moving water south to meet the reduced supply demand. The pumps have a combined total capacity of 1,400 cubic feet per second.

The official release from SFWMD

Commercial and Agricultural Water Use Restrictions in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA)
(Effective May 19, 2011)

Due to 1-in-10-year drought conditions, a 45-percent cutback in surface water use is required for agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment users in LOSA. This applies to various water use basins, including the Everglades Agricultural Area as well as along the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers, located in portions of Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

A 15-percent cutback in surface water use remains in effect for the southern portion of the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin.

Water Restrictions for LOSA and Southern Indian Prairie

In LOSA, a 45-percent reduction in surface water use is required for:

- permitted agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment surface water users.
- The southern portion of the Indian Prairie Water Use Basin remains at a 15 percent reduction in surface water use for permitted agricultural, nursery and diversion and impoundment water users.
- Permitted users may take their weekly allocation Monday through Friday, unless otherwise directed on the District's webpage under "Water supply plan for LOSA."
- All irrigation systems shall be operated to maximize efficient water use and minimize water loss.
- Users with access to more than one water source class shall maximize the use of the unrestricted or least-restricted source class.
- Agricultural and nursery operations using overhead irrigation methods may apply their weekly allocation of water as needed.
- Overhead irrigation of citrus stock for moisture stress reduction shall be allowed on an as-needed basis so long as the weekly allocation is not exceeded.
- Low-volume irrigation hours and livestock water use shall be voluntarily reduced.

Soil flooding for vegetable seed planting, rice planting, burning sugarcane prior to harvest and to permit sod harvesting shall be allowed on an as-needed basis so long as the weekly allocation is not exceeded.

Follow SW Florida Vegetable Grower on Facebook

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

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

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

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

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

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

Up Coming Meetings

Southwest Florida

June 9, 2011 **Pesticide License Applicator** **CORE 7:45 AM – 12 Noon**
Training and Testing **Private 1 PM - P PM**

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

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

Other Meetings

June 8, 2011 **The Great CEU Round-up** **8:00am - 4:00pm**

Numerous IFAS LOCATIONS around FL – see website for locations

CEU INFORMATION

Up to 2

- CORE CEU
- Ag. Row Crop
- Ag. Tree Crop
- Aquatic Pest Control
- Forest Pest Control
- Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance • Natural Areas Weed Mgt.
- Right of Way Pest Control

Up to 4

- Demo & Research
- Commercial L&O
- Ornamental & Turf Pest Control Operator • Limited L&O Pest Control • Private Applicator Ag.

And More CCA / FNGLA / GCSAA PDI / ISA

LIMITED SPACE - Register online today at www.FTGA.org

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

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

Scouting Services

Professional, experienced scout seeking new customers in the central and southwest growing region for the 2011-2012 production season. Agricultural Pest Management Inc. provides individual customized vegetable scouting services, with years of experience in conventional, organic, and greenhouse production.

Is it time to reevaluate your current pest management strategy? Contact Kathy Smith to set up an appointment. Call 941 628-4541 or email mikat21@verizon.net

Opportunities

Farm Land for Lease

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

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

Cherry Avenue Farms are growers and distributors of Asian and Indian vegetables in Ontario, Canada. They are expanding our season and are looking for Florida growers that currently grow or are willing to grow Asian/Indian vegetables.

These items include but are not limited to: Bitter Melon (Chinese and Indian), Callaloo (Amaranth), Methi (Fenugreek), Chili Peppers, Long Eggplant, Tinda and Okra.

Although we could use items immediately, we are ideally looking for growers with a long term interest and the ability to increase production.

This means that growers who are not currently in production are encouraged to call. We can help you with seed selection, planting tips, acreage timing and other basic instruction. Please call Tom Moyer at 905-329-5487 or email, IMRemraf@aol.com

Bean Grower Wanted

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

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

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

Help Wanted:

Farm Manager needed - Applicant would grow over 30 varieties of vegetables, design & implement a growing schedule for a CSA farm model.

Tomato Research Assistant I Position

The Lipman family has been in the produce business since the late 1940's and operates the largest vertically integrated, private tomato grower/packer/shipper operation in the United States. Lipman Family Companies

have both seasonal and year-round vegetable operations in Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Arizona, Maryland, Arkansas, and California. Our vision is to be the premier provider of safe, quality produce through strategically placed farming, packing, sales and distribution networks serving major wholesale, retail and food service establishments throughout North America. An aggressive, highly experienced R&D division has been formed to support the entire business channel with innovative new products.

LFC's Research and Development Division is located in Estero, FL in close proximity to the Naples/Fort Myers metropolitan area. We currently have an opening for a Research Assistant I. This position will assist the tomato breeding team in all aspects of field, lab and greenhouse cropping and experimentation, record keeping, plant selection, seed inventory maintenance, seed multiplication/processing, hybridization, marker and pathology screening as well as other related activities including close supervision/training of technical and seasonal staff. Employee will interact with LFC staff, outside collaborators and customers.

The qualified candidate should possess at least two years of applied experience in a closely related technical support role and two plus years of hands-on experience involving greenhouse operations, transplant production techniques. Excellent computer skills are essential. An A.A or B.S. in Horticulture or similar discipline is preferred; however, those with equivalent industry level experience may also qualify. Training in plant pathology, entomology and genetics is desirable. Strong organizational and leadership skills are keys for success. Seasonal travel is required. Bilingual skills (Spanish/English) are important. LFC offers a competitive salary, bonus and benefits package. . Qualified candidates should send application and resume with references to maria.jimenez@lipmanproduce.com or fax to 239-657-9764

Websites

Soil Fumigant Toolbox - EPA also has an on-line Soil Fumigant Toolbox which provides training, outreach, and other resource materials for applicators and handlers, communities, state and local agencies, and others interested in understanding and implementing the current requirements for safe use of soil fumigants.

It can be found at http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil_fumigants/

The Agriculture Institute of Florida has been dedicated to promoting the value of Florida agriculture and to helping the public and elected officials understand more about the state's rich agricultural history and its diverse agricultural industries.

The Ag Institute is a non-profit corporation guided by a Board of Directors made up of professional communicators from associations, businesses or institutions that are engaged in or support Florida's agricultural community. Learn more at <http://www.aiflorida.org/home.asp>

Quotable Quotes

Will Rogers quotes:

- There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket.

- After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him.

The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

On the Lighter Side

Italian Mother

Mrs. Castellucci comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner. He lives with a female roommate, Maria.

During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between the two, and this had only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, 'I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates.'

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, 'Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?'

Well, I doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure.'

So he sat down and wrote an email:

'Dear Mama,

I'm not saying that you 'did' take the sugar bowl from my house; I'm not saying that you 'did not' take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Love, Anthony';

Several days later, Anthony received a response email from his Mama which read:

'Dear Son,

I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with her.

But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now.

Love, Mama';

Italian Grandfather

An old Italian man is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside, Guido, I wan' you lissina me. I wan' you to take-a my chrome plated .38 revolver so you will always remember me."

"But grandpa, I really don't like guns. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead?"

"You lissina me, boy. Somma day you gonna be runna da business, you gonna have a beautiful wife, lotsa money, a big-a home and maybe a couple of bambinos. "

"Somma day you gonna come-a home and maybe finda you wife inna bed with another man." "Whatta you gonna do then? Pointa to you watch and say, 'times up' "?

This will be the last regular Pest and Disease Hotline issued for this season. Publication will resume with the start of the 2011 –2012 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 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.

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