



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

September 17, 2007

Scattered showers and above average temperatures have been the prevailing weather pattern across South Florida the past two weeks. Although the area continues to receive scattered showers with those locations directly affected by isolated rain showers receiving a greater share of the precipitation than others, most weather stations across the area recorded an inch or less over the past two weeks. The exception was Balm which recorded over three inches for the period.

Mostly hot temperatures have prevailed over the past few weeks although overcast skies and scattered showers have bought some sporadic relief to localized areas. Temperatures have been running 1 -3 degrees above normal with daytime temperatures in the mid 90's and nighttime temps in the mid 70's.

Fall planting remains in high gear in most areas. In places, field preparations and planting were slowed by intermittent rains. Growers are reporting report some scattered problems with heat-related stress on newly set transplants depending on local conditions. Scattered reports of plant damage by high winds and heavy rain associated with severe thunderstorm activity have also been received. Growers continue to market light shipments of okra in Dade County.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Hours Below Certain Temperature (hours)							
	Min	Max		40°F	45°F	50°F	55°F	60°F	65°F	70°F	75°F
Balm											
8/30 – 9/16/2007	71.3	93.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9
Ft Lauderdale											
8/30 – 9/16/2007	72.9	94.8	1.13	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.4
Fort Pierce											
8/30 – 9/16/2007	72.1	93.6	0.58	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.7
Homestead											
8/30 – 9/16/2007	72.0	93.5	0.96	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Immokalee											
8/30 – 9/16/2007	72.6	94.8	0.31	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami calls for a slightly increased chance of showers and thunderstorms for the next few days returning to 50% chance of showers for the remainder of the week. For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

Insects

Whiteflies

Scouts in Manatee County report high whitefly numbers in many fields.

Reports from around Southwest Florida indicate that whiteflies numbers are up and down depending the location and time. Counts of 1 per plant or 1 per leaf are not uncommon in many places. Before recent rains reduced numbers somewhat some scouts were reporting counts of 2 to 3 per plant in some places. Whiteflies are also high in eggplant with some nymphs developing. Whiteflies are also being found in pepper although at lower numbers.

Respondents in Homestead indicate that whitefly pressure is high in okra.

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach County report mostly low but note that in several instances transplants are arriving with whitefly nymphs and eggs.

Growers are reminded to monitor cull piles and fields for volunteers and presence of whiteflies and/or virus.

UF/IFAS Recommendations for Management of Whiteflies, Begomovirus, and Insecticide Resistance for Florida Vegetable Production

A. Crop Hygiene

Field hygiene should be a high priority and should be included as an integral part of the overall strategy for managing whitefly populations, TYLCV incidence, and insecticide resistance. These practices will help reduce the onset of the initial infestation of whitefly.

B. Cultural Control Practices.

Reduce overall whitefly populations, both biotype B and biotype Q (if present), by strictly adhering to cultural practices.

1. Use proper pre-planting practices.

a. Plant whitefly and virus-free transplants.

- 1) Do not grow vegetable transplants and vegetatively propagated ornamental plants (i.e. hibiscus, poinsettia, etc.) at the same location, especially if bringing in plant materials from other areas of the US or outside the US.
- 2) Isolate vegetable transplants and ornamental plants if both are produced in the same location.
- 3) Do not work with or manipulate vegetable transplants and ornamental plants at the same time.
- 4) Practice worker isolation between vegetable transplants and ornamental crops.

5) Avoid yellow clothing or utensils as these attract whitefly adults.

6) Cover all vents and other openings with whitefly resistant screening. Use double doors with positive pressure. Cover roofs with UV absorbing films.

b. Delay planting new fall crops as long as possible.

c. Do not plant new crops near or adjacent to old, infested crops.

d. Use determinant varieties of grape tomatoes to avoid extended crop season.

e. Use TYLCV resistant tomato cultivars (here possible and appropriate, especially during historically critical periods of virus pressure. Whitefly control must continue even with use of TYLCV resistant cultivars because these cultivars are able to carry the virus.

f. Use TYLCV resistant pepper cultivars when growing pepper and tomato in close proximity.

g. Use ultraviolet light reflective (aluminum) mulch on plantings that are historically most susceptible to whitefly infestation and TYLCV infection.

2. Use proper post-planting practices.

a. Apply an effective insecticide to kill whitefly adults prior to cultural manipulations such as pruning, tying, etc.

b. Rogue tomato plants with symptoms of TYLCV at least until second tie. Plants should be treated for whitefly adults prior to roguing and, if nymphs are present, should be removed from the field, preferably in plastic bags, and disposed of as far from production fields as possible.

c. Manage weeds within crops to minimize interference with spraying and to eliminate alternative whitefly and virus host plants.

d. Dispose of cull tomatoes as far from production fields as possible. If dumped in pastures for cattle feeding, the fruit should be spread instead of dumped in a large pile to encourage consumption by cattle. The fields should then be monitored for germination of tomato seedlings and, if present, they should be controlled by mowing or with herbicides.

e. Avoid u-pick or pin-hooking operations unless effective whitefly control measures are continued.

f. Destroy old crops within 5 days after harvest, destroy whitefly infested abandoned crops, and control volunteer plants with a desiccant herbicide and oil.

C. Insecticidal Control Practices.

1. Use a proper whitefly insecticide program. Follow the label!

a. On transplants in the production facility, do not use a neonicotinoid insecticide if biotype Q is present. If biotype B is present, apply a neonicotinoid one time 7-10 days before shipping. Use products in other chemical classes, including Fulfill, soap, etc. before this time.

b. Use neonicotinoids in the field only during the first six weeks of the crop, thus leaving a neonicotinoid-free period at the end of the crop.

c. As control of whitefly nymphs diminishes following soil drenches of the neonicotinoid insecticide or after more than six weeks following transplanting, use rotations of insecticides of other chemical classes including insecticides effective against biotype Q. Consult the Cooperative Extension Service for the latest recommendations.

d. Use selective rather than broad-spectrum control products where possible to conserve natural enemies and enhance biological control.

e. Do not apply insecticides on weeds on field perimeters because this can kill natural enemies, thus interfering with biological control, and because this can select for biotype Q, if present, which is more resistant to many insecticides than biotype B.

2. Soil applications of neonicotinoid insecticides for whitefly control.

a. For best control, use a neonicotinoid as a soil drench at transplanting, preferably in the transplant water.

b. Soil applications of neonicotinoids through the drip irrigation system are not recommended.

c. Do not use split applications of soil drenches of neonicotinoid insecticides (i.e. do not apply at transplanting and then again later).

3. Foliar applications of neonicotinoid insecticides for whitefly control.

a. If foliar applications of a neonicotinoid insecticide are used instead of or in addition to soil drenches at transplanting, foliar applications should be restricted to the first six weeks after transplanting. Do not exceed the maximum active ingredient per season according to the label.

b. Follow scouting recommendations when using a foliar neonicotinoid insecticide program. Rotate to non-neonicotinoid insecticide classes after the first six weeks and do not use any neonicotinoid class insecticides for the remaining cropping period

Worms

Respondents in Palm Beach report increasing pressure from beet armyworm primarily in peppers. A few problems with fall armyworms been reported in early planted corn.

Reports from the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that worm pressure has been persistent as might be expected this time of year.

Growers and scouts around Immokalee are finding beet and southern armyworms eggs along with some hornworm and fruitworm eggs but note that worms are not being given much of chance of survival with all the whitefly sprays being applied. Worms primarily beet armyworms are causing some problems in pepper.

Spider Mites

Around Palm Beach County spider mites are causing problems in eggplants and pepper in some locations.

Scouts in Southwest Florida report that spider mites are building up in eggplant and causing bronzing of low leaves in some locations.

Broad Mites

Some broad mites have been noted in pepper in a number of scattered locations around South Florida. Scouts in Palm Beach report some pepper transplants are arriving on farm infested with mites.

Leafminer

Respondents from Southwest Florida report some light leafminer activity in places. Numbers remain below treatment thresholds.

Some growers around Manatee County report that they are beginning to treat for leafminer in one or two places.

Diseases

TYLCV

Around Southwest Florida, tomato yellow leaf curl continues to show up in few single plants in a few scattered locations. Most of these have been in the ground long enough to rule out arrival on transplants. Incidence is low at present.

TYLCV is showing up in a number of locations around West Central Florida and in some cases appears to be coming out of the transplant house. Incidence is ranges from 1 – 5% where present.

A few scattered reports of mostly single plants showing TYLCV symptoms are also trickling in from around Palm Beach County.

Bacterial Spot

Around Southwest Florida, growers and scouts report some increase in bacterial spot incidence in a few hot spots coinciding with rainfall events as well as pruning and tying.

Respondents in Manatee County report that about half of the plantings are affected by bacterial leaf spot while others are remarkably clean. Occurrence is mostly in those areas affected by heavy rainfall amounts.

Pythium

Growers and scouts in all areas report some problems with pythium on a variety of crops, particularly pepper. Scouts have noted that some pythium is present on plantings where growers irrigated and over compensated for dry field conditions. Others reports point to poor quality transplants and stressful conditions as well as following mole cricket damage.

Phytophthora

Some phytophthora has also been reported, particularly where growers failed to apply Ridomil pre-plant or in wet spots where the disease is traditionally a problem.

News You Can Use

New Herbicide Labels in Vegetables

Rely (glufosinate) labeled in Potato Vine Desiccation

Rely herbicide has received labeling in Florida for the desiccation of potato vines before harvest. Apply Rely herbicide at the beginning of natural senescence of potato vines at 3 pints per acre (0.375 lb ai).

Apply only one application per harvest. Thorough coverage of the potato vines to be desiccated is essential. Do not harvest potatoes until 9 or more days after application.

Prowl H2O (pendimethalin) Supplemental Labeling for use on Tomato and Pepper

Prowl H2O may be applied to tomatoes and peppers (including bell pepper, chili pepper, cooking pepper, pimento, sweet pepper). Prowl H2O may be applied as a post-directed application to transplanted or established direct-seeded tomatoes and peppers at 1.0 to 1.5 pints per acre (0.475 to 0.7125 lb ai). Rainfall or irrigation is needed to activate the herbicide. If this does not occur, mechanical incorporation is needed. Prowl H2O is labeled for a broadcast pre transplant surface application also, but not to rows to be covered with plastic. Do not apply within 70 days of harvest.

Prowl H2O Supplemental Labeling for use on Strawberry

Prowl H2O may be applied at 1.5 to 3.0 pints per acre (0.7125 to 1.42 lb ai) at pre transplant time. Do not apply to the bed or row if plastic mulch is applied. Adequate rainfall or irrigation after application is needed prior to weed emergence for most effective weed control. Do not apply within 35 days of harvest.

Note: Labeling for these herbicide uses must be in the possession of the user at the time of pesticide application.

BMP Producer Cost Share Programs

The Gulf Citrus BMP, the Southwest Florida Container Nursery BMP and the South Florida Vegetable Producer cost-share programs have been established to promote agricultural best management practices in order to achieve water quality and quantity benefits in the citrus, nursery and vegetable production areas of Southwest Florida. Through the programs, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will provide reimbursement for selected agricultural practices that have potential water conservation, sediment control and water quality benefits.

Applications for the Gulf Citrus BMP cost-share program can be obtained by calling Geovanne (Gio) Stingen, the UF/IFAS BMP Implementation Team Leader at (863) 993-4846 or (863) 634-7830. Applications for the Southwest Florida Container Nursery BMP cost-share program can be obtained by calling Chambal Pandey, at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Center at (239) 658-3400. Applications for the South Florida Vegetable Producer Cost-Share Program can be obtained by calling Stewart Swanson, UF/IFAS BMP Implementation Team at (305) 345-4332. Applications will be accepted through September 14, 2007

Inspectors to Target Soil Fumigation Operations for Compliance

WPS Inspectors will be targeting vegetable soil fumigation operations this fall to ensure that users of methyl bromide are in compliance with pertinent rules and regulations.

Some things to remember when applying methyl bromide:

- Methyl bromide must be applied by or under the direct supervision of a licensed restricted use pesticide applicator who must be on site.
- Commercial or public license holders must have the soil and greenhouse fumigation category on their license.
- In addition to a properly licensed restricted use pesticide applicator, two persons specifically trained in the use of fumigants must also be on site.
- All workers involved with the fumigation operation including shovel ditch workers must be trained as handlers.
- A least 5 gallons of potable water marked “Not for drinking – for decontamination use only” must be located on the application equipment
- A least 5 more gallons of water for decontamination must be on site but not on the application equipment.
- Self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) must be on site but shall not be located on the application equipment.
- Teflon hoses reinforced with stainless steel wire braid shall be used between the canister and flow divider, elsewhere manufacturer approved tubing must be used.
- If the ambient air concentration of methyl bromide exceeds 5 ppm or chloropicrin exceeds 0.1 ppm respiratory protection must be used – self contained breathing apparatus or supplied air.
- Methyl bromide must be injected to a minimum depth of 6 inches.
- Soil must be sealed.
- Operator must be located to avoid exposure.

PLASTIC BURNING RULES IN FLORIDA

Burning of polyethylene plastic mulch has been an approved and widely practiced disposal method in Florida vegetable production under Chapter 62-256 FAC where local ordinances and environmental conditions permitted.

Growers are advised to take note that in a recent case in North Florida a grower was cited and fined for burning black plastic drip tape along with the mulch. Although the drip tape was also black polyethylene, **it was ruled that burning polyethylene drip tape related to an agricultural operation is in violation of the law according to FAC 62-256.**

FFVA and Farm Bureau are currently seeking to include burning of drip tape along with polyethylene plastic mulch as an approved disposal method under Chapter 62-256 FAC. Until this occurs, burning polyethylene drip tape related to an agricultural operation is in violation of the law and growers could be cited.

NO MATCH ON HOLD

A federal Judge in San Francisco has put a temporary block on the new enforcement of "no match" Social Security Number violations. Under the provisions of “Safe Harbor” legislation employers will receive a "no match" letter when their employees' Social Security Numbers don't match federal records. After receiving the letter, employers would have had only 90 days to take specific steps to remedy the problem or face being held liable.

The court has scheduled an October hearing to consider the request to further block the rule. The court could rule either way.

PALM BEACH EXTENSION OFFICE FACES CLOSURE

In a sign of the budget-cutting times, the Palm Beach County Commission is considering closing the UF/IFAS Extension Office in the county.

The commission will vote on the possible elimination of the program at a budget hearing Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at 301 N. Olive, West Palm Beach. County agricultural leaders strongly urge those in the industry to attend the hearing and stand up for the program. Palm Beach County industry members should also contact all county commissioners as soon as possible to voice their concern.

LA NIÑA WATCH ISSUED FOR ALABAMA, FLORIDA AND GEORGIA

Athens, Ga. --- A La Niña watch has been issued by the Southeast Climate Consortium and the state climatologists of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. A watch means that conditions are likely for the development of a full-fledged La Niña event.

The watch will be followed by an official La Niña declaration if development continues in the next one to three months.

The tropical Pacific Ocean is now poised to slip into a full-fledged La Niña. Chances are very good that La Niña conditions will develop, strengthen and persist through the fall and winter months. This follows months of cooler than normal water temperatures near the coast of South America.

La Niña is commonly thought of as the opposite of El Niño. Under La Niña conditions, sea surface temperatures along the equator in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean are a few degrees colder than normal for a minimum of five months. La Niña typically returns every two to seven years.

La Niña conditions usually bring a warmer and drier cool season (October through March) to Florida, central and lower Alabama, and central and south Georgia.

With the arrival of La Niña, there is a good chance that drought conditions, currently ranging from exceptional across much of Alabama and Georgia to moderate in south Florida, will continue and possibly worsen throughout the winter and into next spring.

If below normal rainfall occurs during the cool season, moisture recharge of groundwater, soils, ponds and reservoirs will be limited. Most Southeastern states depend on water recharge during the cool season.

Farmers who plan to plant winter forage and do not have irrigation capability have a high risk of being seriously impacted by the winter drought.

In addition the risk of increased wildfires should be expected during the winter and spring wildfire season in Florida, South Georgia, and lower Alabama.

The Southeast Climate Consortium has estimated the impacts on climate based on past La Niña events. For central Florida, the probability of normal or above rainfall for January 2008 is only 8 percent. The chance of moderately dry (rainfall amounts from just below normal to half of normal) is 20 percent, and for very dry conditions (less than half of normal rainfall) is 72 percent.

For the Panhandle of Florida, South Georgia, and lower Alabama the probability of normal or above rainfall in January 2008 is 20 percent, for moderately dry 50 percent, and for very dry 30 percent.

More information on the developing La Niña and its potential impacts can be found at www.AgClimate.org and www.CoastalClimate.org.

The Southeast Climate Consortium is a research group aimed at aiding the use of climate forecasts in agriculture, forestry, and water resources. The consortium is a partnership of six universities, The Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Miami, The University of Georgia, Auburn University, and University of Alabama Huntsville.

Soil Fumigant Pesticides; Extension of Comment Period

As part of EPA's ongoing evaluation of soil fumigant pesticides, and in response to further requests from stakeholders, the Agency is extending the public comment period on risk reduction options until November 3, 2007. On May 2, 2007, EPA issued revised human health risk assessments and requested public comment on risk-reduction options for the soil fumigants: methyl bromide, metam sodium, dazomet, and chloropicrin. Another soil fumigant, 1,3-dichloropropene (Telone) is included for comparison purposes, but its reassessment is complete and few if any regulatory changes are anticipated.

Reregistration for 1,3-dichloropropene (1,3-D or Telone) was completed in 1998, but it is included in the review for comparative purposes. The Agency is interested in first-hand comments on possible human health risk mitigation options from stakeholders who are most affected by soil fumigant use, including growers, professional fumigant applicators, farm workers, neighbors and community members, local officials, and others.

Some of the risk mitigation options that have been tossed out are scary – 1500 foot buffer zones, etc. If you have not yet made your voice heard you still have time. More information on soil fumigant risk mitigation options, and how to submit comments is available on EPA's Web site at http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/risk_mitigation.htm

OPERATION CLEANSWEEP – Statewide Pesticide Pickup Available

Operation Cleansweep is a mobile pesticide collection program that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended, and unusable pesticides at no cost to farms, groves, nurseries, greenhouses, golf courses, pest controls services and forestry operations. Pesticide dealers can participate for a fee. Deadline for requesting pickup is December 15, 2007.

For more information contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services toll free at 877-851-5285 or email Cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us. To visit the CLEANSWEEP website go to www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/

Area Water Restrictions

Upper and Lower East Coast Service Areas, which comprise the residential areas of St. Lucie, Martin, eastern Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties - Modified Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest SFWMD -Just the FACTs sheet - http://www.sfwmd.gov/newsr/ws_just_the_facts_7_11_07.pdf. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Lake Worth, Lantana, Hallandale and Dania Beach Water Utilities - Modified Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Restrictions for land greater than five acres and other guidelines are available on the latest SFWMD Just the FACTs sheet - http://www.sfwmd.gov/newsr/ws_just_the_facts_7_11_07.pdf

Lake Okeechobee Service Area - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Phase III water use restrictions predominantly impact agricultural, industrial and commercial water users in parts of Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Lee, Martin, St. Lucie and western Palm Beach counties. Agricultural water users in these areas are required to reduce surface water consumption by 45 percent. Groundwater sources (wells) are not restricted by this order.

Lake Istokpoga Area/Upper Indian Prairie Basin (portions of Highlands and Glades counties) - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Effective May 11, permitted agricultural and other area users who withdraw water directly from surface water sources connected to Lake Istokpoga will transition to Phase III water restrictions in incremental stages as the water level of Lake Istokpoga continues to drop below specified thresholds. Users were notified of the specific tiers representing 35 and 45 percent cutbacks and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.

Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties; portion of Charlotte County - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Phase II restrictions remain in place in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, and are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

The use of 100 percent reclaimed water, an alternative water source, is not subject to restrictions.

Up Coming Meetings

Manatee County

October 1, 2007 **General Standards/Core Test Review** (3.5 CEUs) 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
Private Applicator Test Review (3 CEUs) 1:00 – 4:00 PM

UF/IFAS GulfCoast Research and Education Center
Wimauma, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 to register

Palm Beach County

September 19, 2007 **General Standards/Core Test Review** 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs) 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Belle Glade Extension Office
2975 State Road 15
Belle Glade, Florida

Call 561-996-1655 for more information.

October 1, 2007 **General Standards/Core Training and Test Review** 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs) 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Clayton Hutchinson Ag Center
559 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida

Contact 561-233-1700 – select option, 1 then option 3

October 1, 2007 **General Standards/Core Test Review** 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Ag Row Crop Test Review (2 CEUs) 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Belle Glade Extension Office
2975 State Road 15
Belle Glade, Florida

Call 561-996-1655 for more information.

Southwest Florida

September 19, 2007 **Vegetable Growers Meeting – Tomato/Watermelon BMP Project Update and Introducing Zeba**

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

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details

October 9, 2007 **Vegetable Growers Meeting – Whitefly Update and Introducing ImproCrop – A Novel Line of Crop Enhancement Products**

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

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details

Other Meetings

October 24-26, 2007 **22nd Annual Tomato Disease Workshop**
Williamsburg, Virginia

For more information, go to <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/tdw/>

Websites

Grower's IPM Guide for Florida Tomato and Pepper Production - Is an online IPM resource for Florida's pepper and tomato industry that provides an interdisciplinary, comprehensive resource that will direct the user through the process of IPM planning and use of IPM tactics as means to reduce the risk of epidemics, conserve

UF/IFAS Vegetable Production Handbook - this is the on-line version of the popular UF/IFAS Vegetable Production Handbook – check it out at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_VPH

Quotable Quotes

Everyday that you can wake up and put your feet on the ground, it's going to be a great day. – Anon

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-- I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. – Robert Frost

The pursuit of happiness is a most ridiculous phrase; if you pursue happiness you'll never find it. – C. P. Snow

No problem is so formidable that you can't walk away from it. – Charles M. Schulz

A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money. - G. Gordon Liddy

On the Lighter Side

Those Born 1930-1979!

To all the kids who survived the 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking. As infants & children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank koolade made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or chat

rooms..... WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them!

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of.

They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

If YOU are one of them . . . CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave (and lucky) their parents were.

Go Cubs

A guy from Iowa dies and is sent to Hell. He had been a horrible man his entire life.

The devil puts him to work breaking up rocks with a sledge hammer. To make it worse, he cranks up the temperature and the humidity. After a couple of days, the devil checks in on his victim to see if he is suffering adequately. The devil is aghast as the Iowan is happily swinging his hammer and whistling a happy tune.

The devil walks up to him and says, "I don't understand this. I've turned the heat way up, it's humid, and you're crushing rocks; why are you so happy?"

The man, with a big smile, looks at the devil and replies, "This is great! It reminds me of August in Iowa. Hot, humid, a good place to work. It reminds me of home. This is fantastic!"

The devil, extremely perplexed, walks away to ponder the man's remarks. Then he decides to drop the temperature, send down a driving rain and torrential wind.

Soon, Hell is a wet, muddy mess.

Walking in mud up to his knees with dust blowing into his eyes, the man is happily slogging through the mud pushing a wheelbarrow full of crushed rocks.

Again, the devil asks how he can be happy in such conditions.

The man replies, "This is great! Just like April in Iowa. It reminds me of working out in the yard with spring planting!"

The devil is now completely baffled but more determined to make him suffer. He makes the temperature plummet.

Suddenly Hell is blanketed in snow and ice. Confident that this will surely make him unhappy, the devil checks in on him.

He is again aghast at what he sees. The man is dancing, singing, and twirling his sledgehammer as he cavorts in glee.

"How can you be so happy? Don't you know its 40 below zero!?" screams the devil.

Jumping up and down, he throws a snowball at the devil and yells, "Hell's frozen over! This means the Cubs won the World Series!"

Go Cubs

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