



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Hendry County Extension

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

September 24, 2010

Weather over the past few weeks has been seasonably warm with day time highs still running in the low 90's to mid 90's but early mornings and evenings have refreshing dipping into the upper 60's and low 70's. In some areas, windy conditions the past few days have been pretty rough on young seedlings.

After a rainy start to the month, the last few weeks have been a little drier and less humid in some west coast areas which have helped some early plantings out grow bacterial spot which came in early in the month. Some west coast growers are now fighting dry conditions and report that heat stress is taking down some new transplants.

East coast locations reported from 4 – 10 inches of rain for the period which kept equipment out of the field and delayed operations in a number of areas.

FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
Balm					
9/5 – 9/24/10	66.79	95.88	2.81	82	0.16
Belle Glade					
9/5 – 9/24/10	68.92	93.25	6.98	86	0.16
Clewiston					
9/5 – 9/24/10	68.41	94.87	1.08	84	0.15
Ft Lauderdale					
9/5 – 9/24/10	72.23	95.95	10.11	79	0.14
Fort Pierce					
9/5 – 9/24/10	69.21	94.55	4.27	81	0.15
Homestead					
9/5 – 9/24/10	68.36	93.90	5.47	84	0.15
Immokalee					
9/5 – 9/24/10	66.74	97.86	3.36	83	0.16

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Growers are preparing land and laying plastic as weather permits with planting increasing seasonally. The season appears to be off to a good start with few problems. Some okra is still being harvested in Homestead.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that the upper level low over the northern Gulf of Mexico extending southeast into the western portion of south Florida will keep moisture levels high helping South Florida get back to more of a late summer time weather pattern this weekend with the typical nocturnal morning showers on the east coast and afternoon showers in west coast areas.

For early next week, a trough will approach the southeast with a cold front digging into north Florida by late Monday as the ridge over the western Atlantic begins to drift slowly east. As a result...the low level flow will turn more south-southeasterly over south Florida bringing somewhat drier conditions for roughly 24-36 hours.

The forecast confidence drops significantly beyond Wednesday...and will be highly dependent on potential secondary development of a tropical storm Matthew now in the Caribbean... some models show this moving into the Gulf and possibly affecting the west coast of Florida or Gulf Coast area by later 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

Whiteflies

Around SW Florida, growers and scouts report that whiteflies are still present in unseasonably high levels (2 -5 per plant in some fields) but reports indicate numbers appear to be declining in other locations.

Respondents from the Manatee/Ruskin area report that white fly numbers are down. Reports indicate that early whitefly pressure in some places did translate into any virus issues.

Around Palm Beach County, whiteflies are present at low to moderate numbers

Worms

Reports from Manatee County indicate worms are around but not in huge numbers.

Respondents in SW Florida report mostly low levels of worms and some armyworm egg masses on a variety of crops. Scouts report finding loopers, hornworms, beet armyworms, fall armyworms, fruitworms and southern armyworms as well as a few melonworms on cucurbits.

Broad mites

Reports indicate that a few broad mites showing up in peppers and melons in a number of west coast locations.

Leafminers

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that a few leafminers are showing up in eggplant.

Growers and scouts in the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that leafminers are beginning to show up in tomato especially on field margins and ends.

Aphids

A few winged aphids are showing up in scattered locations around South Florida.

Mole Crickets

Reports indicate that mole crickets are still causing a few problems in some places.

Diseases

Bacterial leaf spot

Around Immokalee, drier conditions have helped check bacterial spot in a number of fields where the disease came in early. Some early tomato fields were hit pretty hard and are now struggling to grow out, bacteria is also present in pepper in several locations.

In the Manatee Ruskin area, respondents indicate that early bacteria is pretty much dried up assisted by lower humidity and breezy weather over the past few days.

Reports indicate that a “little bacteria” is present on pepper and tomato in a number of east coast locations with a few hot spots being reported.

TYLCV

Around Immokalee, TYLCV is around at low levels with a plant here or there in some places.

Respondents in the Manatee area report very little virus present at this time. .

Pythium

Growers in scouts in all areas reports some problems with pythium where it is taking out a few transplants in some fields especially in wetter fields and wet field ends and continues to attack a few older plants.

Choanephora wet rot

Growers and scouts around SW Florida reported some low level choanephora wet rot in a few pepper plantings following the rains in early September but note that has pretty much stopped with drier weather.

Southern blight

Some west coast growers are reporting finding a few scattered tomato plants with southern blight.

News You Can Use

La Nina Develops in the Pacific

The recent establishment of la Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean may result in drier conditions persisting through the winter months. La Niña can be thought of as the opposite of El Niño and usually bring a warmer and drier winter and spring seasons to Florida, central and lower Alabama and central and southern Georgia.

Warmer and drier conditions are likely to set in as drought conditions develop. Typically, La Niña leads to fall, winter, and spring seasons that are warmer and drier than normal. This trend usually begins in mid-September over the entire Southeast, then intensifies and sets in most strongly over Florida and the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean in the heart of the winter.

Because this La Niña has developed so strongly and quickly, there is an even greater likelihood that the warm and dry patterns will be stronger than the usual La Niña patterns this fall.

La Niña events in 1999 and 2000 and in early 2006 were associated with an increase in forest fires across Florida and Georgia.

National Ag Groups Sound Alarm over EPA's Florida Water Mandates

Wheat farmers in Kansas, dairy farmers in Wisconsin, and corn farmers in Iowa, along with millions of employers and employees who rely on a strong agricultural industry for prosperity, all have reason to be deeply concerned by the EPA's implementation of draconian water mandates in Florida. That's the word from national agriculture leaders. In a letter sent to EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, 36 leading national agriculture groups expressed concern about the new EPA mandates for numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) in Florida's waters.

If enacted, these mandates would establish a template of how NNC could be structured nationwide and would result in economic harm for the regulated community, for the economy as a whole and for the public sector that must develop and administer the NNC.

In the letter, the organizations urge the EPA to:

- Delay further NNC policymaking until it has engaged with all relevant stakeholders in a thorough and transparent review of the strategic direction of NNC policies.
- Revisit and update the 1998 "National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria" (National Strategy).
- Not finish the NNC for Florida's lakes and streams this fall and instead work on those in concert with the NNC that EPA is planning to finalize in August 2012 for all other Florida waters – and in the process answer the numerous and significant scientific, economic and policy questions about these NNC in an open and transparent manner.
- Reject policymaking by settlement agreement, with its inherent opaqueness and the distrust that creates.

The first set of EPA mandates is scheduled to take affect in Florida on Oct. 15. If that occurs, the new mandates will have an immediate, chilling impact on Florida's economy, because the federal mandates will be the "law of the land" in Florida. Every water discharge permit that comes up for renewal will be subject to the new federal mandates, and EPA regulators will consider water bodies that do not meet the new federal mandates to be impaired.

"The Florida Department of Agriculture estimates that the total initial cost for agricultural producers to comply with the NNC for lakes, rivers, and streams to be between \$855 million to \$3.069 billion, and the subsequent annual compliance costs to be \$902 Million to \$1.605 billion. As a result, they estimate that the size of the

Florida economy will be reduced by \$1.148 billion a year and that 14,545 full and part-time jobs would be lost,” cited the agricultural leaders in the letter.

In addition to concerns about the heavy economic burden the EPA water mandates will place on Florida’s agricultural community, there are also significant questions regarding the scientific validity of the new mandates.

The letter goes on to say, “In the case of Florida, there are significant questions about the statistical, modeling and biological science used by EPA. By EPA’s own admission in the proposed rulemaking, there is no scientifically established correlation between these proposed NNC and the desired biological conditions in these waters. In general, we believe there is a serious lack of rigorous, generally accepted science that justifies the particular methods EPA adopted to generate these NNC in Florida.”

Source: Ron Sachs Communications, in Growing Produce, September 20, 2010

Senate Introduces NPDES Fix

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) introduced a bill in August to correct the 6th U.S. Circuit Court's ruling on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The proposed legislation would reaffirm the primacy of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). As such, pesticides applied to or near water - in accordance with the FIFRA label - would not be considered a pollutant and would therefore not require an NPDES permit as required under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The U.S. government, in a brief to the Solicitor General, has earlier agreed that the 6th Circuit decision in the case National Cotton Council v. EPA violated Supreme Court precedent by failing to provide proper due deference to an agency determination. The decision by the 6th Circuit Court failed to provide deference to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2007 rule which exempted certain pesticide applications made to or near water, which were properly made in accordance to FIFRA, from requiring an NPDES permit under CWA.

“We are glad that Senator Lincoln stands firm as an ally to the agricultural community, and recognizes the potential damage that the 6th Circuit Court's ruling will cause,” said Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CropLife America (CLA). “This decision is creating additional paperwork and costly legal burdens for many pesticide users, including many farmers, allowing the potential of increased and unwarranted lawsuits from extremist environmental organizations, and could ultimately prevent our country from providing more fuel, food and fiber in a competitive global market.” CLA has long held, and EPA has reaffirmed, that pesticides applied in accordance with the FIFRA label are not subject to CWA.” (CropLife America release, 9/9/10).

Farm Facts

Next time you hear some one is trashing agriculture – hit ‘em with some facts! Be proud of your profession and help educate the non-ag people out there.

Agriculture accounts for roughly 20% of the nations GDP, contributing \$3.5 trillion a year to the U.S. economy.

Agriculture employs 20% of the U.S. workforce, or about 21 million people.

Agriculture employs 21 million people—more than seven times as many workers as the U.S. automotive industry.

Agriculture stands out as a sector of the economy that consistently runs a trade surplus (exports totaled \$115 Billion in 2008 and exceeded imports by \$34 Billion).

According to a 2006 USDA study, agricultural exports generated 841,000 full-time civilian jobs, including 482,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector.

Less than 2% of the nation's population are farmers!

Americans spend just 9.8% of their income on food—less than consumers in any other country.

U.S. farms sold \$297 billion in goods in 2007—that's bigger than the GDP of Ireland, Finland, Hong Kong or the United Arab Emirates.

For every dollar Americans spend on food, farmers only get 20 cents.

Of the \$4.49 retail price of an 18oz box of cereal, farmers receive just 9¢.

Of the \$2.99 retail price of a 1lb loaf of bread, farmers receive just 12¢.

Of the \$1.49 retail price of 2-liter bottle of soda, farmers receive just 7¢.

America has the cheapest, safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

91% of Americans think it is important to produce food domestically.

95% of U.S. farms are run by families, farmer partnerships or co-ops—less than 5% are corporate farms.

Today's farmer provides food and fiber for about 140 people—up from just 19 people in 1940.

Pharmaceuticals...paint...fuel...cosmetics...crayons. These are just some of the everyday products made possible by U.S. farms.

X-ray film...adhesives...ink...toothpaste. These are just some of the everyday products made possible by U.S. farms.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing depends on farmers to produce paper currency—75% of every bill is made of cotton.

Farmers' input costs, for things like fertilizer and crude oil products, significantly outpaced commodity price increases in 2007 & 2008.

Fresno, California is the top-producing county in America when it comes to agricultural products.

Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Kentucky have the most farms.

California, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas have the highest agriculture sales.

Commodity programs in the 2008 farm bill cost less than one-quarter of one percent of the federal budget—about 25 cents out of every \$100 paid in taxes.

Only 10% of funding in the farm bill goes to farm programs.

More than 70% of farm bill-related spending goes to food and nutrition programs like food stamps, not to farmers.

The farm bill invests \$406 billion over 10 years in nutrition programs, helping more than 38 million Americans afford healthy meals and updating the Food Stamp Program to reflect today's challenges.

The farm safety net was cut by \$3.5 billion in the 2008 farm bill. Factor in cuts to crop insurance and farmers' funding fell \$7.4 billion.

U.S. commodity programs cost Americans just 2.3 cents per meal or 6.9 cents a day.

The farm bill makes a substantial new investment of \$1.3 billion for programs to promote the production and consumption of fruits and vegetables.

The farm bill includes new funding for organic farmers, including \$78 million for organic research and \$230 million for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

The farm bill significantly expands funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program to \$250 million per year for food banks.

The farm bill includes \$5 million per year for innovative community projects like the Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center Program, which will provide grants to programs that improve access to fresh foods in isolated urban and rural food deserts.

The farm bill expands the USDA Snack Program nationwide, which helps schools provide healthy snacks and educate kids about the importance of healthy eating.

Compared to other major agricultural producers around the globe, the U.S. ranks near the bottom of the subsidization and tariff scale.

The farm bill provides more than \$54 billion in conservation program spending to protect and enhance water, air, and soil quality; to prevent erosion; and to conserve natural resources.

More than 1,000 farm, nutrition and conservation organizations supported the 2008 farm bill.

The farm bill provides \$1.1 billion for renewable energy programs which will encourage the development of cellulosic biofuels and decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

Over the life of the 2008 farm bill, total conservation spending increases from \$3.7 billion in 2008, to \$6.9 billion in 2019.

Agricultural land provides habitat for 75% of the nation's wildlife.

About 40% of the country is farmland—that's an area nine times the size of California and greater than twice the size of Alaska.

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://bit.ly/cI28qE>

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!

Raising corn is more of a gamble than playing blackjack.

AVERAGE BLACKJACK players should expect to lose about 20% of what they wager when they sit down to play at a casino table, according to online blogs. But corn growers face an even greater gamble with the weather. Weather alone accounts for a 70-plus-bu. variation in yield on Illinois cornfields, according to Fred Below, University of Illinois. Those odds would make most gamblers walk away from Vegas.

What about vegetables? – GM

Attacks on agriculture don't quite add up

Stephen Budiansky's recent op-ed column in the New York Times, [Math Lessons for Locavores](#) has been an eye-opener for proponents of the local food movement who may have been under the impression that more traditional agriculture is an energy hog and therefore bad for the environment.

Mr. Budiansky makes some thought-provoking points in his piece—particularly when he notes that those touting the energy-saving benefits of buying food locally may not have all the facts on energy costs and what it takes to bring food from the farm to your table, whether the farm is 3, 30, or 3,000 miles away.

The article's bottom line is that producing food—whether locally or traditionally—involves very little energy, especially when compared to the energy that you and I use in our households on a daily basis. In fact, while agriculture accounts for a mere two percent of America's energy usage, our own food preparation and storage at home accounts for a whopping 32 percent of energy use in our nation's food system.

Yet, as Budiansky notes, "In return for that quite modest energy investment [on the production side], we have fed hundreds of millions of people, liberated tens of millions from backbreaking manual labor and spared hundreds of millions of acres for nature preserves, forests and parks that otherwise would have come under the plow."

He goes on to say, "Don't forget the astonishing fact that the total land area of American farms remains almost unchanged from a century ago, at a little under a billion acres, even though those farms now feed three times as many Americans and export more than 10 times as much as they did in 1910."

In terms of the energy costs of transporting food, Mr. Budiansky remarks that, "the statistics brandished by local-food advocates to support such doctrinaire assertions are always selective, usually misleading and often bogus."

Mr. Budiansky then closes with some common sense advice to all of us: "The best way to make the most of these truly precious resources of land, favorable climates and human labor is to grow lettuce, oranges, wheat, peppers, bananas, whatever, in the places where they grow best and with the most efficient technologies—and

then pay the relatively tiny energy cost to get them to market, as we do with every other commodity in the economy."

Mr. Budiansky's insightful commentary has reintroduced many Americans to the fact that American farmers are still leading the way in efficiently and sustainably producing food and fiber. As The Hand That Feeds U.S. has reported in the past, farmers are the ultimate stewards of the land and continually adopt new, sustainable methods to maximize the use of finite resources. As Frederick Kaufman of OnEarth Magazine, who studied non-organic farms in California and was impressed by their resource-saving techniques, suggested: "[traditional] agriculture, is not only essential to, but could also be the future leader of, sustainable food production."

Nevertheless, Budiansky observes that some still want to pit the local food movement against traditional farming, warning "the local food movement now threatens to devolve into another one of those self-indulgent—and self-defeating—do gooder dogmas," and noting that "arbitrary rules, without any real scientific basis, are repeated as gospel...and the result has been all kind of absurdities."

We in America are blessed beyond measure with safe, affordable, and abundant supplies of food. The local and organic food movements are wonderful opportunities for farmers to receive a premium for good quality products and to meet customers and provide fresh produce to consumers. And traditional farming is the bulwark that feeds the nation and much of the world. There's no need to pit one against the other.

Source: thehandthatfeedsU.S.org

Pesticide Pot Pourri

- On July 27, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) approved the registration of Chemtura Corporation's insecticide Rimon® (novaluron) for control of foliage/fruit chewing, sucking, and rasping insects on beans, bushberries, stone fruit, cucurbit vegetables, and fruiting vegetables. The EPA registration number for the product is 66222-35-400. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 9/2/10).
- On August 13, the FDACS conditionally approved the registration of Chemtura Corporation's miticide Acramite® (bifenazate) for control of certain mite species on succulent and shelled legumes. The EPA registration number for the product is 400-503. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 9/2/10).
- On August 17, the FDACS approved the registration of Laboratoires Goemar S.A. systemic activator Vacciplant® (laminarin) for control of diseases on food crops. The EPA registration number for the product is 83941-2. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 9/2/10).
- The EPA has registered Arkema's soil fumigant Paladin® (dimethyl disulfide) for pre-plant fumigation use on tomato, pepper, eggplant, cucumber, melon, strawberry, ornamentals, and forest nursery crops. In the U.S., it will be marketed through United Phosphorus. It has been under EUP in FL, GA, and NC the last three years. (Citrus & Vegetable Magazine, August, 2010).
- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the fungicide mancozeb. Tolerances of importance to Florida and the region include atemoya, cherimoya, canistel, custard apple, mango, sapodilla, mamey sapote, white sapote, star apple, sugar apple, and cucurbit vegetable (group 9). (Federal Register, 8/18/10).
- Based on a request by Bayer CropScience and Nichino America, Inc., the EPA has approved tolerances for the insecticide flubendiamide (Belt®). Tolerances of importance to Florida and the region include head and stem brassica (subgroup 5A), leaf green brassica (subgroup 5B), field/sweet corn, cotton seed,

stone fruit (group 12), grape, tree nut (group 14), okra, cucurbit vegetable (group 9), fruiting vegetable (group 8), and leafy vegetable except brassica (group 4). (Federal Register, 8/18/10).

- Based on a request by IR-4, the EPA has approved tolerances for the herbicide halosulfuron (Sandea®). Tolerances of importance to Florida and the region include bushberry, okra, succulent shelled pea and bean (subgroup 6B), and tuberous and corm vegetable (subgroup 1C). (Federal Register, 8/4/10).

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

Healthy Options Growers Workshop

Subjects include how to direct market your produce, be able to accept food stamps, and many other innovative ways to promote your farm sales. Also your will learn about different farming systems and enterprises. Workshop speakers features Dr. Sharon Yeago and Mr. Bob Hochmuth. Several locations:

September 27, 2010 1:00pm to 5:00pm

UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension
18710 SW 288th Street
Homestead, FL 33030-2309

Call Mary Lamberts at (305) 248-3311 Ext. 234 or email lamberts@ufl.edu

September 28, 2010 8:30am to 12:00pm

UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension
559 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415-1311

Call David Sui at (561) 233-1718 or email dsui@ufl.edu

September 28, 2010 2:30pm to 6:00pm

UF/IFAS Indian River Research and
Education Center, Room 100
2199 South Rock Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945-3138

Call Ed Skvarch at (772) 462-1660 or email eask@ufl.edu

Other Meetings

Sept 29 – Oct 1, 2010 FFVA 36th Annual Agricultural Labor Seminar.

6515 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819
Contact FFVA for details – www.ffva.com

Oct. 13-15, 2010-09-05 69th Annual Meeting of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Hilton Oceanfront Resort
Daytona Beach, Florida

November 10, 2010 Florida Ag Expo

UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
Balm, Florida

For details and to register on line, go to <http://floridaagexpo.com/>

Opportunities

Farm Land for Lease

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

Websites

50 Ways to Treat Your Pesticide - Whether herbicide, fungicide, or insecticide, make sure you know the basics. This educational piece is available from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Syngenta Environmental Stewardship and the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Group. Download the pdf version at <http://bit.ly/apQoaw>

The Hand that Feeds U.S. is an educational resource for media on the importance of U.S. agriculture to the security and future of our country. This page provides information relevant to our nation's farming industry, while also seeking to combat the current misinformation campaigns about food prices and renewable fuels. Check it out at <http://www.thehandthatfeedsus.org/>

Greenbook.net is web-based service offered through The Greenbook Group® which provides chemical data reference search tools in an easy to use, intuitive platform. Need labels or other information on ag chemicals – go to <http://www.greenbook.net/index.aspx> Registration is free.

Quotable Quotes

I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it. - Thomas Jefferson

"Our farmers deserve praise, not condemnation; and their efficiency should be cause for gratitude, not something for which they are penalized." - President John F. Kennedy

"Cultivators are the most valuable citizens...they are tied to their country." - President Thomas Jefferson

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." - President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"It will not be doubted that with reference either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance." - President George Washington

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country." - William Jennings Bryan

"In no other country, do so few people produce so much food, to feed so many, at such reasonable prices." - President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways." - President John F. Kennedy

On the Lighter Side

Tater Tale

Well, a Girl Potato and Boy Potato had eyes for each other, and finally they got married, and had a little sweet potato, which they called 'Yam.'

Of course, they wanted the best for Yam.

When it was time, they told her about the facts of life.

They warned her about going out and Getting half-baked, so she wouldn't get accidentally mashed, and get a bad name for herself like 'Hot Potato,' and end up with a bunch of Tater Tots

Yam said not to worry; no Spud would get her into the sack and make a rotten potato out of her!

But on the other hand she wouldn't stay home and become a Couch Potato either.

She would get plenty of exercise so as not to be skinny like her Shoestring Cousins.

When she went off to Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Potato told Yam to watch out for the hard-boiled guys from Ireland.

And the greasy guys from France called the French Fries and when she went out West, to watch out for the Indians so she wouldn't get scalloped.

Yam said she would stay on the straight and narrow and wouldn't associate with those high class Yukon Golds, or the ones from the other side of the tracks who advertise their trade on all the trucks that say, 'Frito Lay.'

Mr. and Mrs. Potato sent Yam to Idaho P.U. (that's Potato University) so that when she graduated she'd really be in the Chips.

But in spite of all they did for her, one-day Yam came home and announced she was going to marry Tom Brokaw. Tom Brokaw!

Mr. and Mrs. Potato were very upset.

They told Yam she couldn't possibly Marry Tom Brokaw because he's just.....

A COMMONTATER!

Clowns

Why don't aliens eat clowns?

Because they taste funny.

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

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863-673-5939 mobile - Nextel 159*114449*
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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

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Big W Brand Fertilizer
(863) 441-9255 cell

Carol Howard

Mobley Plant World

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