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*New Extension Agent*

Palm Beach County Extension is pleased to introduce Alyssa Dodd, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. She joined us March 4, 2005. Her educational efforts will focus on the role of agriculture and natural resource issues in South Florida, with a major focus on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP).

Alyssa brings with her 5 years of extension education experience. In the past she worked as a Senior Extension Associate with Penn State Cooperative Extension, delivering agricultural nutrient and water policy educational programs. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resource Management and Environmental and Renewable Resource Economics and a Master of Science in Community Development and Applied Economics.

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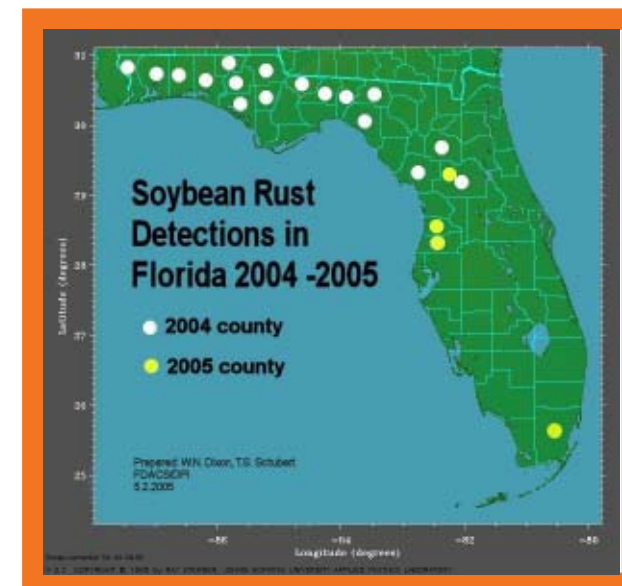
*Palm Beach County Extension Agriculture Newsletter*

June/July, 2005

*Update on Asian Soybean Rust*

Asian soybean rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*) has now been found in 21 Florida counties. The most recent find of soybean rust was in Miami-Dade County on kudzu. Miami-Dade County is to the far south and east of the previously identified (2005) counties (Pasco, Hernando, and Marion). This find was confirmed 5-28-05 by the Division of Plant Industry (microscopy) and UF, Dept of Plant Pathology (PCR). The first 2005 detection of soybean rust in FL was a find 2/23 on overwintered foliage of kudzu in Dade City, Pasco Co.

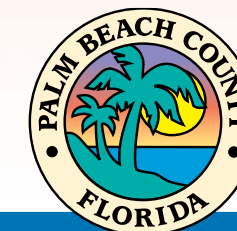
It is believed that this fungal disease was moved from Latin America into southern US coastal states in the fall of 2004 by hurricane Ivan. The fungus overwintered in the southern states and was confirmed on weeds, such as kudzu, as well as volunteer soybeans in Florida and Georgia during April, 2005. Due to its wide host range (90 known host species), Asian soybean rust poses an unknown, yet potentially serious threat to the US soybean and common bean (dry and snap) crops in the future cropping cycles.



Although there is very little soybean production in South Florida, the fungal pathogen may also affect our snap bean market. Palm Beach County, for example, has seen an increase in snap bean production over the last couple of years. Miami-Dade, Collier, and Hendry also have significant acreage in snap bean production.

**News  
&  
Notes**

**As early as this year, China could start commercial production of a new breed of genetically engineered rice, which some say would provide an environmentally friendly answer to the food problems of the world's poor. The Xa21 strain, which was developed through publicly funded international research, is resistant to bacterial blight - one of the most serious crop diseases in Africa and Asia. It is derived from wild rice, and has emerged as the front-runner in the race to be the first GMO rice crop, ahead of insect-resistant Bt-rice. (Reuters, 3/9/05).**



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA,  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

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A press release issued by Dr. Howard Schwartz, a leader in common bean research from Colorado State University, stated that the US bean research community has limited information on the vulnerability of commercially-grown snap bean varieties and advanced breeding lines to the Asian soybean rust pathogen. "Preliminary evaluations at the USDA/ARS Ft. Dietrick (Md.) facility in the summer of 2004, and field observations in South Africa and Brazil during April of 2005, suggest that bean varieties do vary in their reactions to the Asian soybean rust pathogen and are not affected as severely as soybeans. In addition, preliminary observations suggest that infection severity of susceptible dry beans diminished if located more than 10 feet from infected soybeans." Although this may seem like promising news, growers and allied industries must be cautious because the pathogen is known to be genetically variable.



young lesions on infected dry beans

The symptoms of Asian soybean rust tend to begin as chlorotic leaf spot "freckles" that are especially noticeable when held up to the light. These leaf spots develop into angular, tan lesions within a week after infection. Most of the spots, or lesions, will occur on the undersides of leaves, and are more apparent in older and aging leaves in the lower to mid levels of the canopy. The tan to brown uredinia (pustules), develop in each lesion. Many pale brown to light tan uredinia are released from each lesion and are quickly distributed in the air by wind and rain. A dew period of 4 – 12 hours is necessary for spore germination and for infection to occur. Conditions that favor infection and spread are: temperatures between 68° - 77° degrees, high humidity, and frequent rains.

Although Asian soybean rust may look similar to bean rust (*Uromyces phaseoli var typical*) during the later stages of infection, there are some noticeable differences. Bean rust tends to begin as whitish, slightly raised pustules that form circular (not angular) reddish-brown (not tan) spots on the undersides of leaves. The optimum temperature range (63° - 73°) for bean rust germination is also lower than that of Asian soybean rust and spores will not germinate at temperatures above 82°.

Certain fungicides are likely to be effective against Asian soybean rust of beans: maneb, Bravo/Echo (chlorothalonil), Endura (boscalid), Quadris/Amistar (azoxystrobin), Headline (pyraclostrobin), and Nova (myclobutanil). Fortunately, these fungicides, which are all labeled for use in Florida, as well as additional products that are currently in the Section 18 process, appear to be the best defense for rust infection.

## Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp a Huge Success

On Thursday, May 12, 2005, more than 250 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay, and Canal Point enjoyed a fun-filled day of interactive safety learning stations. This year campers learned about disability awareness, chemical safety, animal safety, drowning prevention, seatbelt safety, tractor safety, fire safety, railroad safety, food safety, and firearm safety. We must also give a big thanks to the dedicated camp advisory committee who spent months planning and organizing the camp and the national sponsors of the Progressive Agriculture Foundation who gave us the grant to conduct the camp. Thank you to United States Sugar Corporation for sponsoring and cooking the lunch for the students, teachers, and camp volunteers. A big thank you to the local camp sponsors whose donations allow us to offer the camp to students in the area free of charge. These sponsors include Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau, Callery-Judge Groves, A. Duda and Sons, Florida Crystals Corporation, King Ranch - Florida, Okeelanta Corporation, Orsenigo Farms, Pahokee Fire Rescue, Syngenta, and Mr. Rudy Parrado. Finally, thank you to the following organizations for donating their time, employees, and other in-kind contributions: Belle Glade Fire Department, Everglades Farm Equipment, Farm Credit of South Florida, Glade and Grove Supply, King Ranch – Florida, Operation Life Saver, Pahokee Fire Rescue and Explorers, Palm Beach County Drowning Prevention Coalition, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Palm Beach County Red Cross, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department and Explorers. Thank you all for supporting our 8<sup>th</sup> successful camp in Palm Beach County. This camp only lasted a day, but it will be remembered for a lifetime!

## Growers, Public Invited To Best Management Practices Meetings In Southeast Florida June 23

TALLAHASSEE ~ The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will conduct two public rule development workshops on June 23 to discuss Best Management Practices (BMP) for plant nurseries in South Florida.

One meeting will be held at 11:00am at the Palm Beach County Agricultural Extension Office, Exhibit Hall A, located at 559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach. The second meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm at the Broward County Extension Office, 3245 College Avenue, Davie.

The BMP program is voluntary and a cooperative effort among many groups, organizations and agencies, including the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscapers Association, which is designed to assist area growers in addressing water quality issues while still maintaining an economically viable nursery operation.

All growers, public officials and other interested parties are encouraged to attend one or the other of the events.

## Upcoming Events

### Monday ~ June 6, 2005

#### West Palm Beach Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00-10:00am General Standards/Core (2 CEUs)

1:00-3:00pm Aquatic Weed Control (2 CEUs)

### Monday ~ July 11, 2005

#### West Palm Beach Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00-12:00am General Standards/Core (4 CEUs)

1:00-3:00pm Ornamental & Turf (2 CEUs)

### Wednesday ~ June 8, 2005

#### Belle Glade Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00-10:00am General Standards/Core (2 CEU's)

1:00-3:00pm Private Applicator (2 CEU's)

### Wednesday ~ July 13, 2005

#### Belle Glade Office

Pesticide License Testing

8:00am-3:00pm Any Category