



Palm Beach County
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PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER



May/June 2006

THE FLORIDA RICE SEASON HAS STARTED

March marks the onset of the rice-growing season in south Florida's Everglades Agricultural Area. Rice is typically grown as a rotation crop with sugarcane or vegetables. The flooded conditions under which rice is grown not only protects underlying soils but also greatly reduces soil-pest (wireworms, grubs, etc.) populations, which benefits crops grown after rice and reduces the use of pesticides.

If planted early enough (March), two crops can be grown before the fall rotation back into sugarcane or vegetables. The first harvest occurs roughly 120 days after planting. Shoots/tillers emerging from the cut stubble generate the second crop, and this ratoon crop is typically ready for harvest after about 90 days.

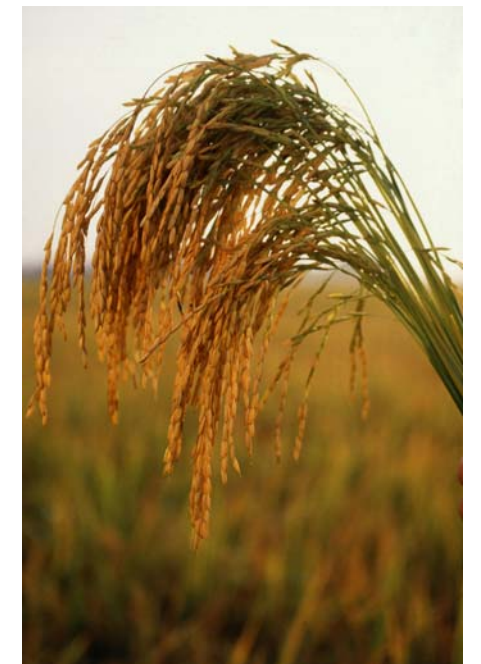
Florida rice is grown using conventional and certified organic production practices. Harvested rice is processed at Florida Crystal's Sem-Chi (short for Seminole Chief) Rice Mill, located on SR880, Belle Glade. Long grain conventional rice milled at Sem-Chi is marketed to

the general public mainly under the ThriftyMaid and Goya Camilla brand names. Medium and long grain organic rice is sold as grain or as flour in bulk quantities to companies that make pastas, baby cereals, and other organic rice-based products.

Conventional long grain white rice is packaged for consumers in 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 18, and 20-pound bags. Larger 50, 55, 100, and 110-pound bags are prepared for commercial customers.

Unpolished brown (contains the bran coating and seed germ) rice is processed into flour and sold to the food industry. Bran removed from organic rice is a popular product in the pet food industry. Conventional rice bran is marketed to companies making animal (livestock, pigs, horses) feeds as well as pet foods. Bran and outer rice husks are available in 1-ton super-sacks.

Hurricane Wilma traversed south Florida just as the ratoon rice crop was ready for harvest. Aside from physical damage to the rice, infrastructure damages at Sem-Chi



made it impossible to mill rice so the ratoon crops were abandoned in the field for a 95% loss to growers cultivating conventional rice. At the mill, one receiving silo, two tempering bins, two dryers, and six storage silos were destroyed. Round-the-clock repairs have been underway since October 2005 in order to be operational by the first rice harvest, scheduled for July 1, 2006.

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EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| May 1
8:00 am - noon
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach
General Standards/Core Training & Test Review (4 CEUs)
Right-of-Way Test Review (2 CEUs) |
| May 3
8:00—4:00 pm | Pesticide Applicator Testing, Belle Glade
Any Category |
| June 3 | Farm Safety Day "Tractor Rodeo", Immokalee
(See Page 3 article) |
| June 5
8:00 - 10:00 am
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach
General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs)
Aquatic Weed Control Test Review (2 CEUs) |
| June 7
8:00 - 10:00 am
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Pesticide Applicator Training, Belle Glade
General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs)
Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs) |

Please pre-register for Pesticide Applicator Trainings held at Belle Glade Office.
Phone: (561) 996-1655.

Please Note: Testing for any category offered 8:00 am—3:30 pm on Pesticide Applicator Training dates of: May 1, June 5, and June 7.



Hurricane Wilma damage at Florida Crystal's Sem-Chi (short for Seminole Chief) Rice Mill.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE SCENIC TRAIL TOURISM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, located atop the Herbert Hoover Dike, provides spectacular lake and agricultural landscape views. Designated as part of the Florida National Scenic Trail in 1993, the 110 mile trail is open year round for hiking, bicycling, birdwatching and fishing.

In 2005, the state of Florida awarded a \$1 million appropriation to Palm Beach County for the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail Tourism Enhancement Master Plan. The five year capital improvement plan will guide and fund the development of tourism-related business and job opportunities.

Palm Beach County's partners include: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, US Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, The Cities of Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee, plus Canal Point and other unincorporated parts of the

Glades, Metropolitan Planning Organization and private partners.

The first three major implementation steps for the Master Plan include:

- Designing and constructing entryways in the downtown areas of the Glades (Belle Glade, South Bay, Pahokee and unincorporated Canal Point)
- Linking the entryways with multi-use paths connecting to Lake Okeechobee
- Identifying and quantifying the trailhead development projects with economic potential.

For more information visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/state/lakeotrail/>.

(Palm Beach County, Summary of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST))

Thank You



For sponsoring this newsletter issue.

NEWS AND NOTES

The DuPont herbicide Londax® provides selective preemergence and postemergence grass and broadleaf weed control in rice. Londax® may be applied by ground or air. The maximum annual use rate is 1 oz per acre and may be applied pre-plant, pre-flood, or post-flood. Tank mixes of Londax® with labeled propanil-containing herbicide provide improved control of many broadleaf weeds and sedges when applied as a postemergent spray prior to flooding the rice field. Consult label text for complete use instructions and precautions. Always read and follow label directions for proper use.

OmniLytics, Inc. announced final EPA registration for its AgriPhage bacteria control product line. The material can be used in the greenhouse or field, and can be used as a preventative as well as curative treatment. It is approved for use in tomato and pepper. (OmniLytics Press Release, 2/15/06).

Arysta LifeSciences recently received EPA registration for Evito® (fluoxastrobin), a strobilurin fungicide. It is labeled for potatoes and tuber vegetables, leafy vegetables (petiole subgroup only), and fruiting vegetables. It should be managed similarly to other Group 11 fungicides such as azoxystrobin, trifloxystrobin, and pyraclostrobin. (*The Grower*, March 2006).

A FULL HARVEST OF VEGETABLE TRIALS

For most vegetable crops, spring-time brings about continual harvests of a flurry of crops – peppers, cucumbers, sweet corn, lettuce, and green beans, just to name a few. With all these crops come a tremendous amount of different varieties and it quickly becomes overwhelming when one tries to keep up with them all. Because variety selection can be one of the most important factors in the success of a, replicated and independent trials can be extremely valuable. Fortunately, IFAS Research and Extension is carrying out numerous trials in order to assist growers and the seed industry in determining what cultivars and what new crops could be successful in south Florida.

For the 2005-2006 season, bell pepper, green bean, sweet corn, collards, specialty potato, and even squash blossom variety trials are underway. Because we are a major



Bell Pepper Field Day, Delray Beach, March 2006.

producer of vegetables it is easy to forget that there are still a number of small-scale growers that are always looking for specialty crops that can fit into their practice. We feel that it is important to develop trials, such as the collards, potatoes, and squash blossoms, that are aimed towards these small-scale growers.

If you would like more information on any of these trials, or would like IFAS to assist you in an independent replicated trial please contact Darrin Parmenter, Vegetable Agent, at (561) 233-1725.



Squash Blossoms

FARM SAFETY DAY "TRACTOR RODEO"

Please join us for the 16th Annual Farm Safety Day "Tractor Rodeo." This fun event provides the opportunity for agricultural workers to enjoy the day while learning safety skills. There are many door prizes and lunch is included.

The event includes a tractor safety competition where operators from agricultural companies demonstrate their tractor driving skills and basic operating procedures. Participants have the opportunity to win the "Tractor Rodeo" trophy to take back to their company.

Trainings will be provided in English and Spanish. This year the pre-selected safety topics are:

- Farm Electrical Hazards
- Africanized Honey Bees Awareness
- Farm Eye Injury Prevention
- Proper Farm Accident Emergency Response.

We encourage you to participate and send your employees to this farm safety event. We need competitors from the east coast to take on the unchallenged west coast tractor drivers operators!

Event Details

What? Farm Safety Day "Tractor Rodeo"

When? June 3, 2006
8:00 am Registration
8:30 am Program Begins
Lunch

1-3 p.m. Tractor Rodeo
Where? Immokalee at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

Participation is limited. Please make your registration as soon as possible. For registration you could contact: Dr. Bob Rouse or Barbara Hyman at (239) 658-3400 or Cesar Asuaje at 561-233-1727.