



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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Hendry County Extension

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SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

October 21, 2005

All eyes are anxiously watching Hurricane Wilma, which is forecast to make landfall somewhere in Southwest Florida and cross the peninsula exiting around Palm Beach over the next few days. Depending on the track and magnitude, this storm could have devastating effects to most of the South Florida vegetable production areas as much of the fall crop is planted and the oldest plantings nearing maturity.

Weather has been variable over the past two weeks with much of the area enjoying somewhat drier and sunnier weather than the damp cloudy conditions that were experienced earlier in the month.

Temperatures remain warm with daytime highs in the upper 80's and low 90's and nighttime lows in the 70's. Although mostly dry condition allowed growers to get back on schedule and sunny weather helped them gain some control of disease pressure, rainfall has been quite variable with some areas receiving 3 - 4 inches of rain for the period.

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
Bradenton											
10/7-10/21/05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ft Lauderdale											
10/7-10/21/05	69.1	90.6	1.73	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.2
Fort Pierce											
10/7-10/21/05	62.9	89.7	2.32	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	0.9	35.8
Homestead											
10/7-10/21/05	69.6	91.2	0.70	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	62.5
Immokalee											
10/7-10/21/05	61.7	90.8	0.78	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	1.7	4.8

- Note - FAWN system weather info for Bradenton is not available at this time

Crops generally look good across the area. Strawberry planting is underway in the Plant City area and transplanting is underway in Homestead. Growers in the Manatee Ruskin area are harvesting watermelons, cucumbers, eggplant and squash and tomato harvest should commence shortly. Crops in southwest Florida and Palm Beach area are nearing maturity and are scheduled for harvest in early November.

The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates that Wilma is already advecting tropical moisture into south Florida areas and that this will increase bringing widespread rain and windy conditions to the area. What Wilma ultimately finally does is still up in the air but at this point it looks like Southwest Florida and Palm Beach Counties will be most heavily impacted. Conditions should rapidly improve behind the storm as cool dry air from the first strong cool front of the season reaches south Florida. For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

Insects

Worms

Respondents in Southwest Florida indicate that worm pressure is moderate to high. Growers and scouts are still finding mostly beet armyworms but mixed in are southern and fall armyworms along with fruitworms, hornworms, loopers and melonworms as well. Consensus among growers is that beet armyworms have been a big problem; they seem to be everywhere and on everything in the fields. As one respondent noted, “we kill em and they are back again.”

Growers and scouts on the east Coast indicate that worm pressure has fallen off over the past few weeks with mostly beet armyworms, although growers continue to find a few loopers and a few hornworms.

Reports from Manatee County indicate that worms still around but not in large numbers. Dr. Dave Schuster, Entomologist at the UF/IFAS GulfCoast REC reports he has seen [increase in armyworm egg masses](#) and [an increase in fruitworm eggs](#).

In last edition of the hotline, Dave reported finding scattered specimens of the velvet armyworm (*Spodoptera latifascia*) in his research plots. He has supplied more information on this species.

This native armyworm is found in eastern states, primarily along the Gulf Coast. The velvet armyworm, *Spodoptem latifascia* (Walker), is rarely numerous outside the Gulf Coast area and is occasionally damaging in Florida and Central America.

These insects are general feeders, and only occasionally damage vegetables in the United States. Among vegetable crops damaged are bean, corn, cowpea, pepper, potato, sweet potato, turnip, and probably others.

Larvae are variable, ranging from light gray or green to blackish, and well marked with spots and stripes. Larvae bear prominent dark triangular spots subdorsally along the abdomen, consistent with many other *Spodoptera* spp., and lateral yellowish lines are usually present both above and, to a lesser extent, below the spiracles. The subspiracular yellowish line is not interrupted by a spot on the first abdominal segment, as is usually the case with southern armyworm, *S. eridania*, but the suprspiracular line does bear a dark spot. Dark sub-dorsal markings are small and semicircular in *S. latifascia* unlike the triangular markings in the yellow striped armyworm.

Adults are grayish brownish moths with few distinguishing characteristics other than heavily mottled forewings. Eggs are laid in masses on the undersides of leaves.

Growers and scouts operating in the Palm Beach/Martin County area note that beet armyworms have been a major problem with some scouts noting that carefully examination of pepper has revealed egg masses on nearly every plant in some fields. Loopers and southern armyworms have been relatively scare until recently with respondents reporting the first big hatches. Melonworms are widespread in squash and there have been reports of problems with diamondback moth larvae in crucifers.

Around Homestead reports note that worms of all sorts are on the rise including beet armyworm, southern armyworm, tomato fruit worm, hornworms, melonworms and loopers. With corn being planted actively now fall armyworms will likely join the crowd in the next report.

Whiteflies

Scouts on the East Coast report that growers are beginning to spray growth regulators for whitefly nymphs in older tomato with 1 –2 inch fruit. Reports indicate that whiteflies are heavy on eggplant in some places and are also present in squash, okra and other items.

Reports from the Manatee County area indicate that whitefly activity is picking up as the season approaches harvest and growers start following PHIs carefully. Growers also report that large numbers of whitefly are present in eggplant. Although eggplant is not a host for TYLCV, there is some concern that they can still serve as a nursery for increasing numbers of silverleaf whitefly in the area.

Around Immokalee, whitefly numbers are increasing in most locations with reports of nymphs beginning to appear in older plantings.

Over in the Homestead area reports indicate that whiteflies are beginning to build in several crops.

Growers are reminded to practice good resistance management practice using the following:

Nicotinoid Resistance Management Recommendations

- Reduce overall whitefly populations by strictly adhering to cultural practices including:
 - Plant whitefly-free transplants
 - Delay planting new crops as long as possible and destroy old crops immediately after harvest to create or lengthen a tomato free period
 - Do not plant new crops near or adjacent to infested weeds or crops, abandoned fields awaiting destruction or areas with volunteer plants
 - Use UV-reflective (aluminum) plastic soil mulch
 - Control weeds on field edges if scouting indicates whiteflies are present and natural enemies are absent
 - Manage weeds within crops to minimize interference with spraying;
 - Avoid u-pick or pin-hooking operations unless effective control measures are continued
- Do not use a nicotinoid like Admire on transplants or apply only once 7-10 days before transplanting; use other products in other chemical classes, including Fulfill, before this time;
- Apply a nicotinoid like Admire (16 ozs/acre) or Platinum (8ozs/acre) at transplanting and use products of other chemical classes (such as the insect growth regulators Courier® or Knack® as the control with the nicotinoid diminishes. Note: Courier and Applaud are the same active: buprofezin. Courier is labeled for whitefly on tomato and snap bean. The mode of action is chitinase inhibitor. Dimilin and Knack are juvenile hormone mimics labeled for whitefly control on fruiting vegetables.

- Never follow an application (soil or foliar) of a nicotinoid with another application (soil or foliar) of the same or different nicotinoid on the same crop or in the same field within the same season (i.e. do not treat a double crop with a nicotinoid if the main crop had been treated previously);
- Save applications of nicotinoids for crops threatened by whitefly-transmitted plant viruses or whitefly-inflicted disorders (i.e. tomato, beans or squash) and consider the use of chemicals of other classes for whitefly control on other crops.

Leafminers

Growers and scouts in Southwest Florida report that leafminers are around and increasing in a variety of crops but note that parasite are common and populations remain below treatable thresholds.

Respondents in the Manatee/Ruskin area report that leafminer are present and are being treated in a number of places.

Reports from Homestead indicate that leafminers populations are increasing and have reached threshold levels in tomatoes, beans and eggplant.

East Coast growers report some leaf miner activity in tomato, eggplant and pepper.

Broad mites

Respondents in East Coast production areas continue to report problems with broad mite in peppers and eggplant.

Around southwest Florida broad mites are becoming more common in pepper. Dr Phil Stansly, Entomologist, UF/IFAS SWFREC reports that he has a number of broad mite samples come in the past few weeks. He recommends 10 oz AgriMek twice at 1-week intervals, followed up by weekly-micronized sulphur applications as needed.

Phil reports that he is experimenting with applications of the predaceous mite, *Amblyseius cucumeris* for broad mite control. He is rearing the mite on bran mites (themselves reared on bran), applying the predaceous mites weekly or biweekly, and seeing significant reductions of broad mite in pepper and eggplant.

Thrips

Respondents in Palm Beach and Martin Counties note that some damage suggestive of *Thrips palmi* is being seen in pepper in scattered locations.

The Florida Department of Plant Industry (DPI, FDACS) has confirmed the presence of a new pest, the Chili Thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood in Palm Beach County. This pest was found attacking roses but is considered a major pest of many plant species. See article below under News You Can Use section.

Spider Mites

Reports from Palm Beach County indicate that growers are finding a few red spider mites in eggplant in a few scattered locations.

Pepper Weevil

Reports indicate that a few pepper weevils have started to show up in early pepper plantings and traps around Southwest Florida.

Diseases

Bacterial Leaf Spot

Around Southwest Florida growers and scouts report that bacterial spot of pepper and tomato remains the number one disease problem in the area. Most fields have moderate levels of bacteria spot but reports indicate that it is so severe in some plantings that infected plants are having a hard time growing out of the infection. In the worse cases plants have just about stopped growing.

Growers and scouts on the East Coast also report that bacteria is the number one problem in tomato and peppers with even young plants being affected.

Reports from Manatee County indicate that bacterial leaf spot has increased significantly following the recent spell of rainy weather a few weeks ago but note that most fields are still relatively clean compared to this time last year following Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne. Of course, Wilma may change all of this in the next few days.

Respondents in Homestead indicate that bacteria spot has slowed in tomato, pepper and beans thanks mostly to sunny weather.

Wet Rot

Dr Ken Pernezny, Plant Pathologist, UF/IFAS EREC reports following the wet conditions a few weeks ago that wet rot has been affected beans around Belle Glade.

Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida have also reported problems with *Choanephora* Wet Rot, noting that it was common in several fields for a few days following the last spell of rainy weather and indicate that it is still active in a couple of places. We have seen it on pepper, beans, cucurbits and tomatoes.

Wet rot or *Choanephora* blight is caused by the fungus *Choanephora* sp., and can affect many plants under warm wet conditions. It is a weak pathogen which is most aggressive under condition of high heat and humidity and when given the advantage of some type of injury or dead material (spent flowers) to get started on. Hosts include Southern peas, eggplant, yellow squash, and poinsettia and occurrence on bean and pepper plants in Florida is not uncommon.

Outbreaks of *Choanephora* blight are associated with extended rainy periods and high temperatures. Leaf area may appear water-soaked and margins and leaf tips blighted. Older lesions appear necrotic and dried out. The dark-gray fungal growth is apparent on some lesions. Under magnification, a silvery, spine-like fungus with a dark head is seen. Symptoms may be confused with *Phytophthora* blight (*Phytophthora capsici*) when young or spray burn on bean plants with older symptoms.

There are few management techniques available, but fungicidal sprays may reduce disease damage although none are specifically labeled for this disease. The following publication and websites contain materials with more information.

IFAS Extension Plant Pathology Fact Sheet No. 11, Wet Rot of Vegetable Crops at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH011>

AVRDC International Cooperator's Fact sheet on Choanephora Blight at <http://www.avrdc.org.tw/LC/pepper/choanephora.html>

UF/IFAS Publication - Some Common Diseases of Pepper in Florida - at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH054> [Plant Disease Management Guide for peppers](#)

Gummy Stem Blight

Reports from the Manatee Ruskin area indicate that gummy stem blight is widely present in a number of older in older watermelon fields, surprisingly at even higher levels in some fields than last year following the hurricanes.

Growers and scout around Immokalee report that gummy stem blight has exploded in a number of cucurbit fields in the area over the past few weeks.

Early Blight

Respondents from Homestead report low levels of Alternaria are now showing up on tomato, beans, and eggplant.

Bacterial Wilt

Respondents in Manatee County report continuing problems with bacterial wilt in a few locations. This disease is traditionally more of a problem in North Florida.

Bacterial wilt has also surfaced in Southwest Florida around Immokalee. Infections are isolated to a few sites only.

Symptoms include wilting of upper leaves during the warmest part of the day. The wilted leaves initially retain their green color and do not fall as the disease progresses. Vascular tissues in the lower stem will show a dark brown discoloration. A cross section of the stem will produce a white, bacterial streaming when suspended in clear water.

Target Spot

Dr. Pam Roberts indicates that target spot has been diagnosed on tomatoes at the UF/IFAS Plant Disease Clinic in Immokalee. Target spot often appears as plants approach maturity and develop large canopies. Remember that tank-mix sprays of copper fungicides and maneb do not provide acceptable levels of target spot control. Recommended fungicides include various chlorothalnil formulations (Bravo, Echo, Bravo Ultrex, Bravo Weather Stik and Ridomil Gold/Bravo).

Pythium

Respondents in Homestead report that aerial pythium has been a problem on beans the past two weeks, but note that sunny weather over the past few days has helped slow development.

Other South Florida production areas are also reporting minor problems with damping off (both pythium and rhizoctonia) in scattered locations following recent rains.

Phytophthora

Growers and scouts around Palm Beach County are reporting problems with Phytophthora primarily on squash and pepper. Reports indicate that it is bad in places.

Reports of scattered problems with Phytophthora around southwest Florida have also been received.

Downy mildew

Downy mildew is present on squash and other cucurbits in a number of locations around southwest Florida. Incidence and occurrence is moderate in several places.

Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus

Tomato yellow leaf curl virus is present at mostly low levels in most south Florida production areas. Incidence is low but is slowly increasing in a number of areas.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus

Reports from growers and scouts in Martin, Palm Beach and neighboring counties indicate that they are experiencing a significant level of tomato spotted wilt infections in pepper assumed to be arriving on infected transplants. In some fields incidence exceeding more than 10% infection rate has been reported. The presence of chili thrips in the area may make this disease rise to greater significance in south Florida as it can vector the spotted wilt virus.

News You Can Use

Chili Thrips Found in Palm Beach County

The Florida Department of Plant Industry (DPI, FDACS) has confirmed the presence of another new pest, the Chili Thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood. This pest was found attacking roses in Palm Beach County but is considered a major pest of many plant species.

Scirtothrips dorsalis is a significant pest of chili pepper, citrus, castor, cotton, onion and other crops in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Africa Eastern Europe, Oceania, and Japan. In different parts of the world, the insect is known as castor thrips, chili thrips, berry thrips, Assam thrips or yellow tea thrips.

Scirtothrips dorsalis is widespread throughout much of Asia and is present to a lesser extent in Africa, Eastern Europe, Japan, Oceania and the Hawaiian Islands. In general, this region has a climate that varies from tropical to temperate. The global distribution of *S. dorsalis* suggests that the pest may be most closely associated with temperate broadleaf and mixed forests; tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf forests and tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests. Consequently, it is estimated that approximately 28% of the continental US would have a suitable climate for *S. dorsalis*.

This pest is polyphagous and feeds on a variety of wild and cultivated plants including many fruits and vegetables grown in Florida. *Scirtothrips dorsalis* feeds on new growth of nearly all vegetative plant parts of host plants including buds, leaves, flowers, fruits and stems. Feeding deforms young leaves and stains or scars fruits.

Since polyphagous thrips rarely occur as a single species on a plant host, therefore it is difficult to estimate the economic impact of *S. dorsalis* alone. However, *S. dorsalis* is often the dominant member of the thrips complex, and in these cases, damage (i.e., reduced yield or marketability of a commodity) is attributed primarily to this

one species. Economic impact of *S. dorsalis* may vary widely from season to season depending on factors such as weather conditions, available hosts, and population density. Feeding on the surface of young plant tissues creates wounds, which initially appear shiny and silver and become yellow to greenish-brown. Flowers become brown and wilted in appearance. Under dry weather conditions, population densities tend to increase, and heavier feeding damage results. Symptoms of feeding are also more pronounced and appear more quickly when plants are water stressed.

Scirtothrips dorsalis is a pest of economic importance in citrus growing regions of Asia, where feeding by piercing, sucking mouthparts can cause significant leaf and flower deformation, fruit damage, and yield reduction. *Scirtothrips dorsalis* is also an economically important pest of chili pepper; where feeding can wilt, distort, or stunt young leaves/shoots and cause premature leaf, bud or flower drop. In some varieties of chili peppers, 75% of leaves may be deformed due to the activity of piercing-sucking insects. Yield losses attributed to *S. dorsalis* in chili pepper range from 20% to nearly 50%. The insect is also a key vector of tomato spotted wilt virus.

For links to more information on chili thrips including photos – go to <http://pestalert.ifas.ufl.edu/>

New Cucurbit Disease Identified in Sumter County

Gary England, Regional Horticulture Agent in Sumter County reports that Plectosporium Blight has been identified in a zucchini field in Sumter County over the last week. According to the Florida Extension Plant Disease Clinic in Gainesville, DPI said that this disease had not been reported in Florida to date. Gary continues on to write that the disease is easy to identify symptomatically and management is possible, if caught early

Plectosporium blight (formerly called Microdochium blight) is a disease of pumpkins and squash that was first reported in Tennessee in 1993. It is caused by the fungus *Plectosporium tabacinum* (formerly *Microdochium tabacinum*). In 1994 the disease appeared in Virginia in both pumpkins and zucchini, causing severe blighting of the vines before fruit maturity.

Plectosporium tabacinum infects stems, leaf veins, and fruit. Symptoms of Plectosporium blight are very distinctive and easily distinguished from other cucurbit diseases. Initially, lesions on stems and leaf veins are small, white, and diamond-shaped. Lesions quickly coalesce, causing the entire surface of the vine or leaf vein to turn white. Because leaf lesions are restricted to the veins and do not spread to the interveinal tissue, they may be overlooked in the early stages of disease development. Leaves on severely affected vines die and complete defoliation may occur in severe cases.

On fruit the white lesions are more circular and less diamond-shaped. Spots on the flesh remain small and scattered; however the “handle” or stem stub on the pumpkin and winter squash may be completely white at harvest.

Plectosporium tabacinum occurs in soil and decaying plant material. Little is known about the disease cycle, but spores are most likely spread by wind and rain.

Regular application of label rates of chlorothalonil provides excellent control of Plectosporium blight. The fungicide, trifloxystrobin (e.g. Flint), also provides excellent control of this disease. This fungicide should be rotated with chlorothalonil to prevent the development of fungicide resistance in the fungal population. Mancozeb, Cabrio and Medallion are also effective if used preventatively.

Easy Way to Earn CORE CEUs

Many growers have taken advantage of the CORE CEUs available through Citrus and Vegetable Magazine's CORE CEU program, sponsored by Bayer CropScience. If you haven't, this is an easy, convenient way to earn the 4 CORE CEUs that you now need to renew your pesticide license. You just read an article, available in the magazine or online, request and complete the question set and return to the author, and you can earn one CORE CEU for each article. The latest CORE CEU article on Sprayer Calibration is available in the September issue of Citrus and Vegetable Magazine.

Please note that these articles are not valid indefinitely. While some are valid for one year from the date of publication, others are valid for shorter periods, at the discretion of the author. So don't delay. You can earn these CEUs at any time prior to renewing your license. Back articles are available online at Citrus & Vegetable Magazine's website.

Minimum Wage Will Rise by 25 Cents

Florida's minimum wage will increase to \$6.40 an hour in 2006, a 25 cent an hour increase to match inflation as required by an initiative passed last year. The state's minimum wage went up to \$6.15 an hour in May because of a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2004. The amendment tied the state's minimum wage to inflation, requiring an adjustment each year. The \$6.40 rate will start Jan. 1, the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation announced Friday. For workers whose tips are counted as part of their wage, the minimum will go from the current \$3.13 an hour to \$3.38 an hour Jan. 1, plus the worker's tips.

Job Opportunities

Farm Manager

Farm Manger wanted to be responsible for 1,500-acre farm producing vegetables and specialty crops in Central Florida producing cabbage, cucumbers, corn, parsley and sod. Salary range to 60 K plus bonus and benefits. Contact Dick Thompson 800-792-2474 dick@ag-jobs.com or Gene Pope 800-581-8865 gene@ag-jobs.com

Southwest Florida packer/shipper has immediate openings for the following positions:

Sales Assistant – Entry sales assistant needed. At least one year of industry related experience preferred. Responsibilities include assisting current sales staff with workload, servicing current accounts and establishing new accounts.

Shipping Supervisor – must have knowledge of computers and produce business. Industry related experience required.

Truck driver – fulltime truck driver needed. Class A CDL drivers license is required. Must be willing to travel to Georgia for six weeks in spring and fall, remainder of the year is local driving in southwest Florida.

For inquiries, contact Rita at 239-657-2227 or fax resume to 239-657-6037.

AgraQuest Inc. is seeking an experienced capable individual to serve as a Technical Representative for the SE USA. Contact Steven Melchert, AgraQuest Southeast Regional Manager at 239-437-4350.

Up Coming Meetings

Manatee County

December 8, 2005 Cucurbit Production Workshop 1:30 PM – 4:30 P.
GulfCoast Research and Education Center, Wimauma.

For more information, contact Phyllis Gilreath at 941-722-4524 or prgilreath@ifas.ufl.edu or Alicia Whidden at 813-744-5776 or AJWhidden@ifas.ufl.edu

December 13, 2005 CORE/Private Applicator Ag Pesticide Training and Testing 9:00 AM
Manatee County Extension Service
1303 17th Street West
Palmetto, Florida 2 CORE CEUs

For more information, contact Phyllis Gilreath at 941-722-4524 or prgilreath@ifas.ufl.edu.

December 14-15 Spanish Pesticide License Training and Testing 8:30 am – 5 pm

Manatee County Extension Service
1303 17th Street West
Palmetto, Florida

Instructor: Cesar Asuaje. Cost is \$10 per day. CEUs offered for those who already have a pesticide license. Participants can earn 3 CEUs each day for the morning sessions only or 4 CEUs for the morning session and afternoon review. Those seeking a private pesticide applicator license must attend both days.

For registration information, please contact Phyllis Gilreath at 941-722-4524.

Palm Beach County

November 7, 2005 General Standards/Core Review 8 - 12 pm
Right of Way Test Review 1 - 3 pm

West Palm Beach Extension Office
559 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida

Contact Darrin Parmenter (561) 233-1725

November 9, 2005 General Standards/Core Review 8 - 12 pm
Private Applicator Test Review 1 - 3 pm

Belle Glade Extension Office
2976 State Road 15
West Palm Beach, Florida

Contact Darrin Parmenter (561) 233-1725

November 29, 2005 WPS Training - How to Comply & Teaching Techniques 1 - 4:30 pm

Cooperative Extension's Mounts Building
531 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida

Contact Darrin Parmenter (561) 233-1725

Polk County

November 1, 2005 **Fall Blueberry Short course** 5:30 PM – Registration, Dinner
6:30 – 8:45 PM – Program

Polk County Ag. Center
1710 Hwy 17 South

Bartow, Florida Preregistration by Oct. 21 is required for dinner.

Call 941-722-4524 for more information

Southwest Florida

November 1,2005 WPS – Train the Trainer 8:30 AM

Hendry County Extension Office
1085 Pratt Boulevard
LaBelle, Florida 33935

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092

November 1,2005 Innovations in Plastic Mulches and Recycling Opportunities 6:00 PM

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

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092

November 15, 2005 Whitefly and Mite Control with Oberon and Bayer Product Update 6:00PM

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

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092

Other Meetings

**February 4-8, 2006 American Society of Horticultural Science
Southern Region Annual Meeting**

Wyndham Orlando Resort
Orlando, Florida

For more information, go to <http://ashs.org/regional/index.html>

Websites

Tropical Weather – Done Better – the site claims – like everyone else in South Florida you are probably watching the weather closely these days. This site has good maps – go to <http://www.skeetobiteweather.com>.

Water Quality/Quantity Best Management Practices for Florida Vegetable and Agronomic Crops. The row crop BMP manual, which has been adopted by Department rule, can be seen in its entirety at <http://floridaagwaterpolicy.com/PDFs/BMPs/vegetable&agronomicCrops.pdf>

Quotable Quotes

Anyone can criticize, condemn and complain; it takes talent to commend, construct and create. - William Arthur Ward

The person who gets ahead is the one who does more than is necessary and keeps on doing it. - Anon

Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit. - Conrad Hilton

Give me positive character with positive faith, positive opinions, and positive actions, though frequently in error, rather than a negative character with doubting faith, wavering opinions, undecided actions, and faintness of heart. Something is better than nothing. – Charles Simmons

On the Lighter Side

Most Terrifying Things to Hear

The dentist says: "This won't hurt a bit."

The IRS announces: "We are simplifying the tax forms."

Your lawyer says: "This is an air-tight case-you can't lose."

Your stockbroker says: "This little drop in the market is just a minor correction."

Your business partner says: "Nothing can possibly go wrong."

The directions on a do-it-yourself kit say: "Even a child can do it."

Someone giving you directions says: "You can't miss it."

The airline pilot announces: "Just a bit of turbulence folks-- nothing to worry about."

Just a spoon full of sugar...

Mary Poppins was traveling home, but due to worsening weather, she decided to stop at a hotel for the night. She approached the receptionist and asked for a room for the night.

"Certainly madam," he replied courteously. "Is the restaurant open still?" inquired Mary.

"Sorry, no," came the reply, "but room service is available all night. Would you care to select something from this menu?" Mary smiled and took the menu and perused it. "Hmm, I would like cauliflower cheese please," said Mary.

"Certainly, madam," he replied. "And can I have breakfast in bed?" asked Mary politely. The receptionist nodded and smiled. "In that case, I would love a couple of poached eggs, please," Mary mused.

After confirming the order, Mary signed in and went up to her room for the night. The night passed uneventfully and the next morning Mary came down early to check out. The same guy was still on the desk.

"Morning madam...sleep well?" "Yes, thank you," Mary replied. "Food to your liking?"

"Well, I have to say the cauliflower cheese was exceptional, I don't think I have had better. Shame about the eggs, though....they really weren't that nice at all," replied Mary truthfully.

"Oh...well, perhaps you could contribute these thoughts to our Guest Comments Book. We are always looking to improve our service and would value your opinion," said the receptionist.

"OK, I will...thanks!" replied Mary....who checked out, then scribbled a comment into the book. Waving, she left to continue her journey.

Curious, the receptionist picked up the book to see the comment Mary had written. "Supercauliflowercheesebuteggswerequiteatrocious!"

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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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