

4/1 – 4/20/06	49.5	92.8	0.16	0.0	0.0	0.6	28.6	2.8	81.1	111.2	51.2
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The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates an upper ridge currently over the peninsula with surface ridge over S Central Florida, which will keep weather conditions mostly warm and dry. A light southeast surface flow will result in the development of sea breezes developing along both coasts. The only inhibiting parameter is lack of deep layer moisture but there will be enough instability for convection and a chance of scattered isolated showers over the interior portions through next week

The next weather maker will be a possible cold front sagging into Central Florida late Thursday but at this point it remains uncertain whether or not it makes it this far south. .For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>

Insects

Whiteflies

In Homestead whitefly numbers have reached high levels in a numbers of places as crops near completion.

Respondents in Palm Beach indicate that whiteflies are building in some locations and remain low in others. Silverleaf has been reported in some squash plantings.

Around Southwest Florida, growers and scouts indicate that whitefly pressure is starting to build across the area on a variety of crops including tomato and watermelon but remains below average for this point in the season. Reports indicate that there are a number of fields around where reproduction is occurring and nymphs are beginning to build up.

Reports from the Manatee area indicate that high whitefly numbers pressure is still being noted in many areas with as many as 40 adults per plant being seen in some locations. Growers are now beginning to see immatures in the field so IGRs use is recommended as threshold levels are reached.

Initial reports of finds of the Q-biotype whitefly in a tomato field in the Manatee area which were circulated a few weeks ago have proven to be erroneous and a result of mixed up samples in the diagnostic lab.

I you feel you are having problems controlling whitefly, you may want to submit samples for Q testing. A minimum of 20 adults should be sampled from different plants. It would probably be easiest to try and carefully collect leaflets with whitefly adults and put them into a baggie. You can then put them in the freezer to slow them down and then transfer them to vials of 95% ethanol with a q-tip or artist's paintbrush. Do not crush the whitefly. Be sure to label the vial, but use a code so that you will know where the sample came from but the identity of the farm will not be known. You can request vials from Dr. McKenzie Vials should be kept out of heat and carefully packaged and sent via priority mail or overnight to the following address:

Dr. Cindy L. McKenzie
Subtropical Insects Research
2001 South Rock Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
Phone: 772-462-5917
Fax: 772-462-5986
Email: cmckenzie@ushrl.ars.usda.gov

For additional information on biology and control information, a good source is Dr. Lance Osborne's website at <http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/LSO/bemisia/bemisia.htm>. It includes a number of documents that you can click on for information from Florida and other states. Please contact us if you have questions we have not addressed.

There are several old fields around and many people have starting some crop destruction. Growers are reminded to maintain vigilance and keep up whitefly control measures to avoid a buildup of whiteflies and prevent the movement of infected whiteflies carrying TYLCV into younger plantings.

In older plantings growers should strive to maintain control of adults with oils, soaps and materials OTHER THAN nicotinoids. **A strong emphasis should be placed on PROMPT destruction, block by block, as harvest is completed, including oil with herbicide for quick burndown and control of existing whiteflies in those blocks, thus minimizing movement out to other blocks.**

Pinworms

Reports from Southwest Florida indicate that tomato pinworms are widespread at low levels with some locations starting to reach moderate levels.

Reports from the Palmetto/Ruskin area indicate that pinworms have started to show up in a few places on tomatoes.

Growers and scouts on the East Coast report that pinworms are widely present in tomato and eggplant in a number of locations. Pressure is severe in some locations especially in fields adjacent to abandoned crops.

Pinworms can be controlled with mating disruption techniques and pesticides. Mating disruption is most successful where fields are isolated or whole areas are treated.

Pheromone-based mating disruptants, such as No Mate TPW spirals or Checkmate TPW dispensers provide a very effective means of combating pinworm. These should be applied according to label instructions with good distribution throughout field.

If using insecticides, treatment must begin when populations reach economic thresholds. The UF/IFAS Florida Tomato Scouting Guide Tomato recommends season-long action thresholds of 5 adults/trap/night to initiate the application of mating disruptants and an action threshold of 0.7 larva per plant for the initiation of control measures.

Once begun, treatments may be required until harvest. If nearby infested tomato fields are abandoned, adults can immigrate into later planted fields in large numbers. If scouting detects a significant movement, consider border treatments.

Chemical controls such as Agri-Mek and Spintor have the advantage of being effective against pinworms and leafminers as well as the additional benefit of being soft on beneficials.

Lannate (Methomyl) and a variety of synthetic pyrethroids are also effective materials for the control of pinworm. Development of resistance to Lannate has been documented in pinworms in some parts of the country and excessive use of these broad-spectrum insecticides may result in outbreaks of leafminers and mites if they are present.

Organically acceptable biological and cultural control methods include the use of mating disruptants, field sanitation, and pyrethrin. Sanitation is important as the season progresses and crops are terminated. Parasites can also be important in aiding in pinworm control.

Worms

Reports from the Palmetto Ruskin area indicate heavy armyworm pressure in some pepper plantings.

Reports from the Glades indicate that fall armyworm pressure remains high with up to 15% infestation in the silks in some fields despite being sprayed every two days with 0.5 lb Lannate.

Fall armyworm trap data from UF/IFAS EREC indicates that trap counts are down from the 768 count reported on 3/30/06. Fall armyworm counts on 4/13 were still high at 118. In addition beet armyworm counts were up significantly increasing to 132 from 22 the week before.

Around Immokalee, worm pressure is up with several new hatches of beet and southern armyworms being reported along with a few loopers and fall armyworms.

Respondents on the east coast production areas indicate that worms are mostly present in low numbers. A few problems have been reported in pepper with moderate pressure from mostly beet and southern armyworms in some locations

Silkfly

Reports from the Glades indicates that silk fly pressure not as bad as it was a few weeks ago, probably due to Lorsban and Baythroid suppression sprays, but pressure remains steady.

Some growers are using Mustang in a tank mix with other insecticides, but most growers prefer stand-alone products. While effective reports indicate that not much Warrior being applied, due to cost. The other pyrethroids are about \$2.00/A cheaper to apply, so growers are following the money.

Thrips

Reports from the East Coast indicate that thrips pressure is up in a number of places especially in pepper. In several locations, *Thrips palmi* are present and increasing in numbers affecting fruit quality in some instances. Due to low pepper prices some growers have backed off on spray applications.

Respondents in the Plant City area indicate that thrips are present moderate to high levels in a range of crops including cucumbers, peppers and tomato.

Around Southwest Florida thrips have not gone away but have slowed down in most places. *Thrips palmi* remain very low.

For more information and photos of thrips, check out the Glades Crop Care Thrips KnowledgeBase at <http://www.gladescropcare.com/pg1.html>.

Aphids

Growers and scouts around Plant City report problems with aphids on peppers and cucumbers. Pressure is moderate to high depending on the location.

Around Immokalee reports indicate aphids remain present at most low levels in tomato. Some increase has been noted in peppers and growers are spraying to keep them in check. Aphids are also present in watermelons.

Spider mites

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach report problems with a few spider mites in eggplant and cucurbits.

Around Immokalee, respondents indicate that spider mites are present on eggplant, tomato and melons and some fields have are being treated to control infestations.

Broadmites

Growers and scouts in Palm Beach indicate that broadmites are present here and there, mostly in pepper.

Around Southwest Florida broadmites are making a serious comeback in a number of pepper fields.

Pepper Weevils

Around Southwest Florida, pepper weevils are widely present and are populations are starting to build in a number of older field reaching moderate levels.

Reports from the East Coast indicate that pepper weevils are present in a few scattered locations.

Assail (Cerexagri) was inadvertently omitted under chemicals available for the control of pepper weevil in the last issue of the hotline. Assail 30 SG is labeled for control of pepper weevil under the fruiting vegetable section. Rate is 4 oz per acre with a maximum of 4 applications per season. There are no plant back restrictions.

Leafminer

Growers and scouts around Immokalee indicate that leafminer pressure remains low.

On the East Coast reports indicate that leafminers are still around in mostly low numbers.

Diseases

Late Blight

Late blight is still widely present on tomatoes around Southwest Florida. Late blight has not been a real significant problem this spring as incidence and severity has been mostly low but growers continue to report a few new leaf lesions at different locations.

Bacterial Leaf Spot

Growers and scouts on the East Coast indicate that bacterial spot is present in a number of places on peppers and tomatoes and continues to spread slowly aided by foggy mornings and some recent showers.

Growers and scouts in the Immokalee area indicate that bacterial spot won't seem to stop in some pepper plantings. Dr Ken Pernezny reports that all the bacteria strains collected recently from a trial outside Immokalee proved to be race 4.

Respondents around Manatee County indicate that bacteria remain mostly low.

Around Homestead reports indicate that bacterial spot is present at low to moderate levels depending on the location.

Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus

Reports from Manatee County and surrounding areas indicate that growers continue to battle high levels of tomato yellow leaf curl virus in some locations where crops were held over longer than usual to take advantage of market conditions. Incidence as high as 80% has been reported in places.

Reports from the East Coast indicate that TYLCV is increasing in older fields but remains low overall.

Around Homestead, TYLCV has increased to moderate to high levels in some tomato plantings as crops near completion.

Around Southwest Florida of tomato yellow leaf curl virus continues to increase slowly with some places reaching 6 –8 % infection. A few hotspots with even higher disease incidence have been noted.

Powdery mildew

Respondents on the East Coast are reporting significant problems with powdery mildew on cucumbers and squash and indicate that incidence and occurrence is moderate to high in a number of places. Powdery mildew is also widely present eggplant, peppers and tomato.

Growers and scouts around Southwest Florida report that powdery mildew is high in some squash and is also affecting watermelons. Low levels of powdery mildew are also being reported on pepper in a few locations around Southwest Florida.

Reports from the Belle Glade area indicate that powdery mildew continues to be the biggest disease problem in beans this season. Respondents note that conditions are so dry that you can go into a field one day and see 1-2 infected plants, then come back two days later to see 20-25% of the field infected.

Sulfur is a good candidate for control. Reports indicate that Microflo Sulfur 6L has given excellent control. Growers should pay attention to weather as when temperatures rise phytotoxicity may occur.

In that case, use a different fungicide. Experience has shown the strobilurins and sterol inhibitors are more effective against powdery than the broad-spectrum protectants.

Growers should be sure to check labels for rates when applying sulfur. Microflo Sulfur 6L is labeled at a 6 pint rate. The Helena Sulfur 6L label only allows a 5-½ pint rate.

Downy Mildew

Downy mildew is widely present on cucumber and squash in a number of locations around Palm Beach. Incidence and severity is moderate to high in some locations especially on cucumbers with some growers indicating it is as bad as they have ever seen.

Respondents around Immokalee indicate that downy mildew is present on cucumbers, cantaloupe and squash on a number of farms around Immokalee. Downy mildew is also beginning to show up in some watermelons around Immokalee.

Growers and scouts should look at the underside of the leaves to help make the right diagnosis. Angular leaf spot will have some water-soaking at the edge of the lesions. The downy mildew lesions look uniformly dry. In addition, downy mildew infections typically start away from leaf margins toward the center of the leaf where as some diseases such as gummy stem blight normally begin from the leaf margin.

Early Blight

Reports from growers around South Florida indicate that early blight is widely present at low levels in tomato at a number of locations.

Common rust

Reports from the Glades indicate that common rust, caused by *Puccinia sorghi*, has reached high levels in corn. Common rust typically likes to infect young, expanding tissues and plants. For this reason, during the spring corn season in Florida, rust is usually the disease of primary concern during the early part of the season, and NCLB is the disease of primary concern later in the season. Both can be controlled with timely applications of strobilurin or sterol inhibitor fungicides. These should be tank-mixed with an EBDC fungicide and also alternated as a strategy for slowing the development of fungicide resistant strains of the pathogens. Scouts indicate incidence remains lower than normal for this time of year.

Reports indicate that Headline alternated with Tilt is providing good control. Not much Quadris going out, due to the nearly \$100.00 differential between the cost of a gallon of Headline and Quadris.

Northern corn leaf blight

Northern corn leaf blight, caused by *Exserohilum turcicum*, is also starting to heat up in the Glades. While common rust typically likes to infect young, expanding tissues and plants, northern corn leaf blight usually starts with older, fully expanded foliage. For this reason, during the spring corn season in Florida, rust is usually the disease of primary concern during the early part of the season, and NCLB is the disease of primary concern later in the season. Both can be controlled with timely applications of strobilurin or sterol inhibitor fungicides. These should be tank-mixed with an EBDC fungicide and also alternated as a strategy for slowing the development of

fungicide resistant strains of the pathogens. Scouts indicate incidence remains lower than normal for this time of year.

Fusarium Crown Rot

Around Southwest Florida fusarium crown rot continues to wilt down plants in some locations especially romas and susceptible round varieties like FI 47.

Fusarium

Fusarium has been diagnosed on watermelon in several locations around southwest Florida.

Fusarium wilt of watermelon usually occurs without plant yellowing; usually the entire plant wilts quickly becomes brown and dies. Occasionally, wilting of vines on one side of the plant occurs, particularly on older plants. Slicing the tap root lengthwise into two equal halves will reveal two streaks of vascular tissue that are dark yellow-brown, orange brown or reddish brown. In Florida, Fusarium wilt is likely to occur prior to fruit set.

Phytophthora

Around Immokalee, reports indicate that phytophthora is still causing scattered problems in some eggplant and pepper fields.

Rust

In the Glades, bean rust has just started to show up in a few places primarily in crops nearing harvest .

Anthracnose

Reports from Southwest Florida indicate that anthracnose is beginning to show up on older pepper in scattered locations.

Anthracnose is also present on pepper at mostly low levels on the East Coast.

Resistance is available in some varieties of chili peppers but not in bell peppers. For bell pepper production, choose cultivars that bear fruit with a shorter ripening period, which may allow the fruit to escape infection by the fungus. Wounds in fruit from insects or other means should be reduced to the extent possible because wounds provide entry points for *Colletotrichum* spp. and other pathogens like bacteria that cause soft rot. The disease can be controlled under normal weather conditions with a reasonable spray program. At the end of the season, remove infected plant debris from the field or deep plow to completely cover crop diseases.

Gummy stem blight

Gummy stem blight is present on watermelon and cantaloupe in a number of locations around SW Florida. Some early infections are now causing wilting and death of scattered plants in some fields.

Sanitation, Sanitation, Sanitation...

As we near the end of another season growers are reminded of the importance of sanitation in an integrated pest management program. Disease and insects do not magically materialize to plague growers. Many require a living host to carry them from one season to another.

Field sanitation is one of the most important tactics in vegetable pest and disease management. One of the best things that growers can do for themselves and their neighbors is to clean up crop residues promptly after harvest. Sanitation is an important IPM technique that should not be overlooked as an effective, preventative tool against many vegetable pest and disease problems. Sanitation includes any practice that eradicates or reduces the amount of pathogen inoculum, pests, or weed seeds present and thus helps reduce or eliminate subsequent pest and disease problems.

Prompt crop destruction at the end of the season will immediately end the production of disease inoculum and insects and eliminate the spread of diseases and pests to any other host plants in the vicinity. Downy and powdery mildew on melons can spread via wind from older, diseased plants to plants in surrounding fields that are still maturing. These diseases are obligate parasites. This means that they can only grow and multiply on living host tissue. Some plant pathogens, such as the bacterium that causes bacterial spot of tomato and pepper, are unable to survive for extended periods of time outside of the host tissue. Plowing or disking under infected plant debris helps not only by covering up the inoculum but also speeds up the disintegration of plant tissue and kills the pathogen. Good sanitation will help control a number of important vegetable pathogens.

Cull piles should not be neglected as I have heard from several scouts over the past few years that have found both insects and diseases such as TYLCV, late blight, whiteflies and others in volunteer plants springing up around cull piles.

Soil tillage can destroy insects and expose them to birds and other predators. It can also speed the breakdown of plant residues that harbor insects and plant pathogens. By either allowing the organic matter in a field to decompose completely before you plant the next crop and /or allowing a fallow period between crops, you can enhance the control of a number of insects and diseases.

Destruction of tomato vines will kill off white fly populations and eliminate transmission of the tomato yellow leaf curl virus to subsequent crops and also eliminate inoculum from late blight and other fungal diseases. This is particularly important in the case of TYLCV, as sanitation and whitefly control are the only tools currently available for the management of this disease. A crop-free period is also considered a necessity for the control of a number of other important vegetable pests such as pepper weevil, tomato pinworm, and *Thrips palmi* and is recommended for management of all vegetable pests.

A little extra effort spent in cleaning up old fields at the end of the season may well prevent or reduce a number of potential problems next fall!

Summer weed management can be a challenge. Growers should check field margins to make sure that pest species are not building up there and migrating out into cropping areas. Many insects over summer on weeds, so efforts to control them can be profitable by reducing their movement into the crops next growing season.

Weeds are also known reservoirs of nematodes as well as a number of viral, fungal and bacterial pathogens. Weeds and volunteers should be removed to prevent the survival and over-summering of pathogens that could serve as inoculum reservoirs for the next crop. Techniques such

as mowing off pepper should not be relied upon as this often results in re-sprouts, which can harbor pests and disease problems over summer.

The use of cover crops and summer fallowing of fields are also effective tools in reducing weed populations that can cause problems in the subsequent crop. The role of summer fallow in weed management is often overlooked. Summer fallow keeps new weed seeds from being added to the soil seed-bank. It also reduces the increases in asexual propagated plants such as nutsedges. Yellow nutsedge can put out 70 new tubers (nuts) every two months. Keeping the weeds from propagating will reduce the weed problems encountered during the next cropping season and help reduce insects and diseases that may over summer in weedy fields.

Chemical fallowing is a twist on the traditional method of fallowing that depends on disking fields through out the summer period to reduce weed pressure in subsequent crops. One approach uses Roundup to kill weeds during the crop free period.

Cover crops planted prior to the main cash crop can also improve soil fertility and provide a valuable source of organic matter.

When devising a crop rotation strategy, a grower should also be aware of which crops and cover crops might increase disease problems. Sunn hemp can increase soil populations of *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* damping-off fungi. Some varieties of cowpea may host of root-knot nematode. These factors should be considered before selecting a cover crop.

Soil solarization is the use of plastic tarps placed on the soil surface to increase soil temperatures to a level that kills soilborne pathogens, weeds, and other crop pests. Soil solarization works best when summer temperatures are uniformly high. These conditions don't always occur in Florida. Soil solarization will not eradicate a pathogen from a field, but it may lower pathogen populations.

Soil flooding is a related means of creating conditions—in this case, saturated soil over an extended period - that might result in a decline of soil-borne pathogens.
Integrated pest and disease management is a year round commitment that should incorporate a combination of cultural, biological and chemical pest management techniques.

Be a good neighbor and clean up!

News You Can Use

Hurricane Disaster Program Sign-Up Begins May 17

The USDA has announced hurricane disaster program sign up will begin May 17 at Florida county Farm Service Agency offices. The announcement included two newly developed programs funded through Section 32, the Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP) and the Tree Indemnity Program (TIP) and one existing program funded through the 2006 Defense Appropriations Act, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) that are available to citrus growers. Although full details have not yet been made available the outline of the programs is below.

Hurricane Indemnity Program – This program will provide payments to eligible producers who suffered crop losses and received a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation crop insurance indemnity payment due to hurricane damage and who's crop was in an eligible county. For most growers, the payment will be calculated by multiplying the crop insurance payment times 30%.

More information on HIP is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/hip06.htm>.

Tree Indemnity Program – This program will provide flat payments per acre for eligible producers based on the groves' proximity to the hurricanes' bands of severity. FSA has established four tiers using the maximum sustained wind speeds recorded by the U. S. Weather Service, although only Tiers 2 through 4 are established for Florida losses – Tier 1 is for the Gulf Coast states impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The per acre payments by Tier for Florida are: Tier 2, \$300; Tier 3, \$200; Tier 4, \$90.

More information on TIP is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/tip06.htm>.

The rules for both HIP and TIP also state that no "person" may receive more than \$80,000 in payments from each program, and an individual or entity whose average adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million is ineligible for benefits unless 75% or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching, and/or forestry.

Emergency Conservation Program – The ECP provides a cost share program for eligible producers to carry out emergency conservation practices such as debris removal and fence repair. The program will provide eligible producers up to 100% cost share for expenses related to those practices as a result of hurricane damage. Requests for cost-sharing of \$50,000 or less are approved at the FSA county committee level. Cost-sharing from \$50,001 to \$100,000 is approved at the FSA state committee level and cost-sharing \$100,001 to \$200,000 must be approved by FSA's national office. Sign up for this program is available immediately. The \$2.5 million adjusted gross income exclusion does not apply to the ECP.

Sign up for all three of these programs is done at your county Farm Service Agency offices.

No Legs to Stand On

In early March, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit denied a Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) petition for review of EPA's 2004 methyl bromide rule. The panel of three judges stated that the chance of any NRDC member incurring any injury as a direct result of the rule, a primary criteria for showing standing, is "infinitesimal."

EPA's rule authorizes new production and consumption of methyl bromide, as well as the use of existing stocks, as dictated by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. NRDC argued that the EPA's final rule violated the critical use exemptions of the Protocol by failing to properly take into account existing U.S. stocks of methyl bromide. However, the judges did not rule on this argument, focusing rather on whether NRDC has "standing" to bring the case in the first place.

Under Article III of the U.S. Constitution, a plaintiff has standing only if they - or in this case one or more NRDC members - have incurred an actual injury as a result of the defendant's action and only if a decision in the plaintiff's favor has the potential to redress that injury. NRDC claimed its members (490,000 people) have standing since EPA's final rule, by slowing down the phase out of an ozone depleting substance, increases their risk of getting skin cancer and cataracts.

However, the judges severely criticized the NRDC's argument, which was based on an affidavit from a staffer at the National Center of Atmospheric Research. The staff member said it is reasonable to expect more than 10 deaths, 2,000 non-fatal cases of skin cancer and 700 cataract cases to occur in the U.S. as a result of the rule. These negative effects of the phase out were questioned by the court,

and it determined that the chance of any single NRDC member suffering harm was almost non-existent.

The court also analyzed what exactly “injury” means, and referenced several Supreme Court rulings. That court has established that injury must be actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical, writing “The chance that one may develop cancer can hardly be said to be an ‘actual’ injury - the harm has not yet come to pass. Nor is it imminent in the sense of temporal proximity.”

The ruling also notes that several other courts of appeals have suggested that any increase in the probability of injury due to governmental action or inaction constitutes “injury” for the purpose of showing standing. “Strictly speaking, this cannot be correct,” stated the ruling. “For example, if the original probability of harm is 1 in 100 billion per persons per year, doubling the probability to 2 in 100 billion would still leave an individual with a trivial chance of injury... The law of this circuit is that an increase in the likelihood of harm may constitute injury in fact only if the increase is sufficient to ‘take a suit out of the category of hypothetical’ and that is not the case here.” (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 3/13/06).

Pesticide Registrations and Actions

On March 21, the FDACS issued the Special Local Needs registration SLN FL-060004 to Syngenta Crop Protection for Gramoxone Inteon® herbicide (paraquat) use in cabbage (including Chinese tight head cabbage) for broadleaf weeds and grasses and for top kill and suppression of emerged perennial weeds. This SLN replaces the SLN FL-010002.

The EPA registration number for the product is 100-1217. (FDACS letter of 3/21/06).
On March 21, the FDACS issued the Special Local Needs registration SLN FL-060005 to Syngenta Crop Protection for Gramoxone Inteon® herbicide (paraquat) use in lettuce for broadleaf weeds and grasses and for top kill and suppression of emerged perennial weeds. This SLN replaces the SLN FL-010004. The EPA registration number for the product is 100-1217. (FDACS letter of 3/21/06).

On March 21, the FDACS issued the Special Local Needs registration SLN FL-060006 to Syngenta Crop Protection for Gramoxone Inteon® herbicide (paraquat) use in melon for broadleaf weeds and grasses and for top kill and suppression of emerged perennial weeds. This SLN replaces the SLN FL-010005. The EPA registration number for the product is 100-1217. (FDACS letter of 3/21/06).

On March 21, the FDACS issued the Special Local Needs registration SLN FL-060007 to Syngenta Crop Protection for Gramoxone Inteon® herbicide (paraquat) use in strawberry for broadleaf weeds and grasses and for top kill and suppression of emerged perennial weeds. This SLN replaces the SLN FL-010003. The EPA registration number for the product is 100-1217. (FDACS letter of 3/21/06).

BHN Research has requested an experimental use permit (EUP) for the plant-incorporated protectant *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*, Cry1A(c) protein in tomato. The permit would allow for 500 acres of planting in the states of CA, FL, GA, IL, MO, VA, and PR. A docket has been opened for comments to this request. (*Federal Register*, 3/8/06).

Arysta LifeSciences recently reported that methyl iodide will not be registered until 2007. They have applied for an experimental use permit to treat 800 acres over the eastern seaboard. (*The Grower Newsletter*, 4/6/06).

Gator Takes Bite Out Of Realtor

LABELLE - A real estate tycoon who owns a nature preserve tried to show off for visitors by jumping on an alligator's back for a ride, but the reptile bit his hand and dragged him into 15 feet of water. The 8-foot alligator let go of Ronald Bergeron after witnesses pulled its tail. Bergeron, 62, suffered a shattered pinky, a broken ring finger and puncture wounds in his palm.

The multimillionaire developer tried the stunt Sunday while giving a tour of his 5,000-plus-acre preserve to weekend guests who had made large donations to the Boys & Girls Club.

"I always tell them I'm going to wrestle an alligator," Bergeron said Wednesday. "It's part of my Florida cracker culture. My grandfather was a game warden in the Everglades, and I grew up around alligators."

Bergeron was pulled under the water before guests grabbed the alligator and pulled it out. Bergeron was driven to a hospital.

Job Opportunity

PLANT BREEDING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Harris Moran Seed Company is a leader in the production of vegetable seed for commercial growers. We are looking for a Plant Breeding Research Assistant to work with our cucumber breeder on all aspects of the cucumber breeding program, including planting, pollinating, evaluating and harvesting field and greenhouse plots. The position is based near Immokalee, in southwest Florida. Other responsibilities include data entry, plant disease screenings, seed treating and seed inventory management. Some lab work will be required. The cucumber technician will assist with other crops as needed. Occasional travel is required. Working environments include field, lab, greenhouse and office. Candidates should have a BS in a plant science discipline or equivalent experience. Spanish fluency is an advantage.

We offer an excellent benefits package and salary commensurate with experience. Send resume and salary history to:

Harris Moran Seed Company
P.O. Box 4938
Modesto, CA 95352
Attn: Human Resources
Or to: hr@harrismoran.com
Equal Opportunity Employer

Help Wanted - Progressive grower, packer, and shipper of specialty vegetables in Southwest Florida is seeking grower(s) and office personnel to assist in the management of a growing operation. Must be motivated, self directed and willing to learn and grow with the operation. Education and experience is a plus but the right individual will be considered for all positions. Contact Chuck Obern, C&B Farms at 239-250-0551 for more information.

Up Coming Meetings

Manatee County

**June 14, 2006
Testing**

General Standards/Private Applicator Ag License Training and

Manatee County Extension Service
Palmetto, Florida

For more information, please contact Phyllis Gilreath at 941-722-4524 or prgilreath@ifas.ufl.edu. 2 CORE CEUs offered.

Miami Dade County

May 24, 2006

General Standards (CORE) Training

Dade County Extension Auditorium
18710 SW 288th Street
Homestead, Florida

For more information, please contact Mary Lamberts at 305-248-3311

Palm Beach County

May 1, 2006

General Standards/CORE Test Review 8 AM – 12 PM

Clayton E. Hutchinson Agricultural Center
559 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach

Contact 561-233-1700

June 7, 2006

General Standards/CORE Test Review 8 AM – 12 PAM
Private Applicator Test Review 1 PM – 3 PM

Belle Glade Extension Office
2976 State Road 15
Belle Glade

Contact 561-996-1655

Southwest Florida

May 31, 2006

UF/IFAS Nitrogen BMP Project Update 6:00 PM

UF/IFAS SWFREC
Hwy 29 N
Immokalee, Florida

Contact Gene McAvoy at 863-674-4092 for details

June 3, 2006

UF/IFAS Farm Safety Day 8:00 AM

UF/IFAS SWFREC
Hwy 29 N

Immokalee, Florida

Contact Dr Mongi Zekri at 863-674-4092 for details

Other Meetings

May 21 - 23, 2006

18th International Pepper Conference

Palm Springs, California

Go to <http://www.internationalpepper.com/> for details

June 4 – 6, 2006

Florida State Horticultural Society Annual Meeting

Marriot Tampa Westshore

Tampa, Florida

For more information, go to <http://www.lal.ufl.edu/fshs/>

September 17- 21 2006

Cucurbitaceae 2006

Asheville, North Carolina

For more information visit <http://www.ncsu.edu/cucurbit2006>

December 3-6, 2006

4th International Bemisia Workshop

December 6-8, 2006

International Whitefly Genomic Workshop

Hawk's Cay Resort

Duck Key, Florida

For more information, go to <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/bemisia>

The Florida State Horticulture Society is pleased to announce the 119th Annual Meeting

- Joint meeting with the **Soil and Crop Science Society of Florida (SCSS)**.
- Meeting will be held **June 4, 5 and 6** at the Tampa Marriott Westshore Hotel.
- Registration forms can be downloaded at www.fshs.org and contain Hotel contact information.
- Keep your membership current by paying dues when you register.
- A hotel reservation by May 9th guarantees a room rate of \$99.

Program highlights include:

Sunday, June 4 – Welcome reception

Monday, June 5 –

1. Keynote speaker Walter Kates, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association: **'The Immigration Debate and it's Impact on Florida Agriculture'**
2. **'Citrus Harvesting and Utilization Effects on Production: Barriers and Opportunities'** workshop
3. Industry reception

Tuesday, June 6 – ‘Methyl Bromide Alternatives for Florida – In-service training’ workshop

June 5 and 6: Concurrent FSHS sessions with presentations on

Citrus – growing, harvesting citrus, emerging pest and disease issues

Handling and Processing – postharvest and food processing

Krome Memorial – temperate tree and tropical fruit crops

Ornamental, Garden and Landscape – foliage and flower crops, home horticulture

Vegetable – growing, harvesting, managing Florida’s vegetable crops

June 5 and 6: Concurrent SCSS sessions with presentations on

Crops – growing and managing turf and other agronomic crops

Soils and Environmental Quality – soil, environmental impacts on crops

Not a FSHS member? Become a member when you register for the meeting, or download a membership form at www.fshs.org

The Sixteenth Annual Farm Safety Day



Saturday, 3 June 2006

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE
TO EMPLOYERS



Safe and competent equipment operators are important to you as an employer. Accidents, which cause damage, injury or death to employees, equipment and crops are costly. We believe all types of accidents can be reduced with proper employee training. Our training has been designed to help your employees perform better, operate safely to prevent accidents, fulfill necessary training requirements and build pride in themselves and their farm company.

Certificates

The 2006 Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day is almost here. Farm Safety Day is an educational event designed to emphasize the importance of farm/equipment safety. Each participant is presented with a certificate of attendance and **the employer will be provided with a certificate of training that can be placed into the employee=s file.**

Registration Info

The deadline for registration is May 26th. It is the employer=s responsibility to assure that the employee is present at 7:45 a.m. on June 3rd to receive their nametag. Upon arrival each participant will check in at the registration table and receive a packet containing their nametag, instructions (in both English and Spanish) session handouts, an evaluation form, lunch ticket, rodeo cap and pencil. They will be directed to their respective course sessions.

In the event of a substitution, **the substitute employee must let the registration desk know the name of the person they are replacing.** A new nametag with the same color coding will be issued.

Language Preference

The courses will be marked by color-coded signs. The signs will rotate throughout the morning session and the employee will follow the color sign that matches their nametag. Courses will be offered in both Spanish and English so it is very **important to either check an AE@ for English or an AS@ for Spanish on the registration form.**

Tractor Rodeo

Participation in the rodeo will be on a first come/first serve basis and a driver must be designated. Only one driver per farm will be allowed. You must have your participant registered prior to the day of the rodeo to insure your company's participation. If company checks are issued from somewhere other than your local office, please contact Barbara and arrangements will be made to proceed with pre-registration.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact **Barbara Hyman at 239 658 3415.**

The 2006 Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day **CONTEST RULES**



Each farm location may select one representative to participate in the tractor driving equipment safety rodeo contest planned as part of this training. Farm contestants will be competing for first, second and third place prizes. The prizewinners will be given special recognition and awards following the completion of the rodeo. The farm with the winning contestant will hold the rotating trophy, which will be passed along to the winning farm each year of the event. Only one individual may be selected to represent a farm. Only 10 contestants will be accepted for competition so register early!

Purpose: The rodeo is an educational and competitive event designed to emphasize the importance of farm/equipment safety. It allows designated participants the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in equipment operation and to practice the safety techniques they have learned.

Contest Rules: Only one contestant per farm, ranch or grove is allowed to participate in the rodeo contest. A maximum of 10 total participants will be allowed to compete due to time restraints. Registration will be on a first come/first serve basis. It is up to the farm to designate their equipment rodeo contestant when registering. Each contestant must participate in all three events, which make up the rodeo. Awards will be given to the top three scores in the overall rodeo competition.

Rodeo Events:

(1) Equipment *Safety Check* - Tractor and implement must be properly inspected for safety prior to starting and during the operation of equipment. Safety checks must be verbally called out to the judge. Failure to practice safety will result in a loss of points.

(2) *Backing* - After the safety inspection of the equipment, the implement must be backed into a stall@ from a 90 degree angle. Once the tractor is in reverse - it must stay there. Operation of equipment **must** be at a safe and proper speed. Scores are determined by (1) the number of scrapes and/or knock down of markers, (2) utilization of clutch, and (3) distance from back of stall@. The driver must back the equipment all the way to the back of the stall, regardless of how many markers are hit.

(3) *Driving Course* - Once the backing event is complete, the contestant will proceed (on the same equipment) directly in to the driving course. Operation of equipment **must** be at a safe and proper speed. The course will consist of several challenging angles and widths. Scores are determined by (1) number of scrapes and/or knock down of markers, (2) utilization of clutch, and (3) time to accomplish event safely.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SAFETY DAY

Saturday, June 3 2006
Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
2686 S.R. 29 N., Immokalee, FL

SCHEDULE:

7:45-8:10	Check In and Coffee
8:10-9:00	Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4 (Begin sessions by group no.)
9:00-9:10	Break (change session)
9:10-10:00	Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4
10:00-10:10	Break (change session)
10:10-11:00	Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4
11:00-11:10	Break (change session)
11:10-12:00	Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-2:30	Rodeo
2:30-3:00	Awards Presentation

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

1. **Recognizing and Avoiding Africanized Bees** – Dr. Phil Stansly
2. **Working Safely Around Lightning and Electrical Hazards** – Mr. Cesar Asuaje and Mr. Gene McAvoy
3. **Avoiding Heat Stroke and Heat Related Illness** – Mr. Paul Midney

Eye Safety for Agricultural Workers and Preventing Eye Injuries – Dr. Paul Monaghan

The 2006 FARM SAFETY DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Please give us the names of those who will be attending our 16th Farm Safety Day on **Saturday, 3 June 2006**. The cost is \$15.00 per person, which will include educational sessions, handouts, refreshments, lunch, the rodeo, and a cap.

Make checks payable to:
SW Florida Citrus Advisory Committee

Mail registration and checks to:
University of Florida, IFAS, SWFREC
Attention: Barbara Hyman
2686 State Rd. 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142

Or fax registration to: 239 658 3469
Entry Deadline is Friday, May 26, 2006

Company Name:

Administrative Contact Person:

E-mail address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ County: _____

Name of authorized driver for tractor rodeo contest, one per farm:

_____ **Alternate/second choice:** _____

(Any driver substitutions made the day of the event will require authorization by his/her company.)

Please list the employees who will be attending our safety training and rodeo and please check their language preference.* If there is not enough space to fill in all attendants, please attach an additional sheet with the necessary information.

	<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>		<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Please Note: It is very important that we know the language capabilities for each attendee. Next to each attendee's name please mark in which language they are more fluent.



Sponsorship for the Annual Farm Safety Day

The Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day has been conducted annually since 1991. The program is strongly supported by area citrus, vegetable, sugarcane, and sod growers. Southwest Florida agricultural employers collectively send between 160 to 200 employees annually to receive training on various safety related topics. The Sixteenth Annual Farm Safety Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2006 and will feature a very comprehensive farm safety program.

We ask you to consider sponsorship of the Fifteenth Annual Farm Safety Day to help make it a success. Any profits generated will support extension and other farm safety related programming, such as WPS training, agent in-service-training, teaching tools and related equipment, and travel for extension agents to approved conferences and meetings.

Annual expenses are estimated to be approximately \$3,000. Costs include lunches, refreshments, handouts, hats, awards (trophies, plaques, door prizes), tent rentals, travel expenses for out-of-town speakers, and other supplies. Participants receive certificates of attendance and employers receive certificates of training that can be placed into the employee's file. The highlight of the Farm Safety Day is farm/equipment safety education and a tractor-driving contest. Trophies are provided to the winners along with display plaques for their respective companies.

We hope you will be able to help sponsor the Sixteenth Annual Farm Safety Day. We have enclosed a sponsorship form for your use. Please return the form and your sponsorship check as indicated on the form no later than May 26, 2006. As a sponsor, you will be recognized during the Farm Safety Day at the Master of Ceremonies and in the southwest Florida extension newsletters, "Flatwoods Citrus" and the "South Florida Pest and Disease Hotline." You will also receive a "Thank you" certificate.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Mongi Zekri
Farm Safety Day Coordinator
Multi-County Citrus Agent, SWF
Hendry County Extension Office
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

16th Annual Farm Safety Day

WHEN: Saturday, June 3, 2006

WHERE: Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee

AUDIENCE: Anticipate 160 farm workers, managers, equipment operators, and crew leaders from the 5-county area of Southwest Florida.

COST: Sponsorships: _____ \$300 ***Platinum***
_____ \$200 ***Gold***
_____ \$100 ***Silver***

Sponsorship goes to support awards, expenses, and other extension programs.

=====

SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Business _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: FL _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Check here if you are a \$300 sponsor and desire an outdoor exhibit space.

*Please make checks payable to: **SW Florida Citrus Advisory Committee***

Mail to:

Dr. Mongi Zekri
Multi-County Citrus Agent
Hendry County Extension Office
PO Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975-0068

Websites

UF/IFAS Chemically Speaking - A monthly report on pesticide, regulatory, and environmental issues.
Go to <http://pest.ifas.ufl.edu/Archives.htm>

The North American Plant Protection Organization's (NAPPO) Phytosanitary Alert System - provide pest alerts and news of emerging plant pests of significance to North America and is intended to facilitate awareness, detection, prevention and management of exotic species in North America.
Go to <http://www.pestalert.org/main.cfm>

Quotable Quotes

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody. - Bill Cosby

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it. - Henry David Thoreau

Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. - Abraham Lincoln

If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion. -
George Bernard Shaw

There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered. - Nelson Mandela

On the Lighter Side

Southernisms

Well, butter my butt and call me a biscuit.

He fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

Have a cup of coffee--it's already been 'saucered and blowed.'

She's so stuck up; she'd drown in a rainstorm.

It's so dry; the trees are bribing the dogs.

My cow died last night, so I don't need your bull.

He's as country as cornflakes.

This is gooder'n grits.

If things get any better, I may have to hire someone to help me enjoy it.

I'm 'bout as... Nervous as a long tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

Busy as a moth in a mitten.

The Bathtub

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the director, "We fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" said the director, "A normal person would pull the plug ...

Do you want a room with or without a view?"

Contributors include: Joel Allingham/AgriCare, Inc, Karen Armbruster/SWFREC, Kathy Smith/Agricultural Pest Management, Bruce Corbitt/West Coast Tomato Growers, Dr. Kent Cushman/SWFREC, Dr. Phyllis Gilreath/Manatee County Extension, Michael Hare/Drip Tape Solutions, Fred Heald/Farmers Supply, Sarah Hornsby/AgCropCon, Cecil Howell/Taylor &Fulton, Loren Horsman/Glades Crop Care, Keith Jackson/SWFREC, Bruce Johnson/General Crop Management, Dr. Mary Lamberts/Miami-Dade County Extension, Leon Lucas/Glades Crop Care, Bob Mathews, Glades Crop Care, Mark Mossler/UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Gene McAvoy/Hendry County Extension, Alice McGhee/Thomas Produce, Jimmy Morales/Pro Source One, Tim Nychk/Nychk Bros. Farm, Chuck Obern/C&B Farm, Teresa Olczyk/ Miami-Dade County Extension, Dr. Aaron Palmateer/TREC, Darrin Parmenter/Palm Beach County Extension, Dr. Ken Pernezny/EREC, Dr. Pam Roberts/SWFREC, Dr. Nancy Roe/Farming Systems Research, Wes Roan/6 L's, Kevin Seitzinger/Gargiulo, Jay Shivler/ C&B Farm, Ken Shuler/Stephen's Produce, Ed Skvarch/St Lucie County Extension, John Stanford/Thomas Produce, Mike Stanford/MED Farms, Dr. Phil Stansly/SWFREC, Eugene Tolar/Red Star Farms, Mark Verbeck/GulfCoast Ag, and Alicia Whidden/Hillsborough County Extension.

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 III

Regional Specialized Agent - Vegetables/Ornamental Horticulture

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