

Manatee Vegetable Newsletter

January/February 2007

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Calendar

- Feb 7** **WPS Train-the-Trainer Workshop.** 10 AM. Manatee County Extension Service, Palmetto. 2 CEUs have been requested (not CORE).
- March 13** **Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Testing.** 9 AM. Manatee County Extension Service, Palmetto. 2 CORE CEUs offered for those who have a current license. *Note: We also give pesticide exams by appointment in all categories. Please call Linda at 722-4524 to schedule an exam.*
- May 14-18** **Aquatic Weed Control Short Course.** Coral Springs Marriott Hotel, Golf Club, and Convention Center Web Site: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw>

Publications and Websites

- ▶ The 2006 Tomato Institute Proceedings is now available online at the GCREC website. At the home page, under commodities, just click on Vegetables for copies of the last 5 Proceedings. Or go to <http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/vegetables.htm>
- ▶ Dr. Pam Roberts, Plant Pathologist at UF/IFAS SWFREC has launched a website that pulls together current information on late blight from various sources and which will help keep growers apprised of the late blight situation in Florida. You can check out the Late Blight Information Center at http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/plant/late_blight/

- ▶ [Organic Vegetable Production](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CV118) Revised! HS-720, an 18-page fact sheet is a general introduction to organic production. Includes links to additional information and references. September 2006. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CV118>

- ▶ [Weed Control in Potato](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG035) Revised! HS-194, a 3-page fact sheet describes a weed control program that integrates chemical, mechanical, and cultural methods and provides a table of listing herbicides available to growers for chemical weed control of potato. October 2006. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG035>

- ▶ [Weed Control in Cole or Brassica Leafy Vegetables \(Broc., Cabb., Caul., Collards, Mustard, Turnips, Kale\)](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG028) Revised! HS-189, a 5-page fact describes effective weed management practices for Cole or Brassica Leafy Vegetables in Florida and provides a table of listing herbicides available to growers for chemical weed control of brocolli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, mustard, turnips and kale. October 2006. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG028>

- ▶ http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/ceu_modules.html The Pesticide Information Office has compiled a set of CEUs available for online purchase through the IFAS Bookstore. Each presentation should take around fifty minutes to complete, and each cost \$20.00. Since these modules are still in their early stage, suggestions and comments are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact the Pesticide Information Office at (352) 392-4721. If you experience any technical issues with the modules, you can contact Nathan Whidden at nwhidden@ufl.edu Please follow the purchasing directions on the IFAS Bookstore's website at <http://www.ifasbooks.ufl.edu/merchant2/> You need Macromedia Flash installed to view the presentations.

- ▶ <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FS135> **FSHN06-01: Food Safety on the Farm: A Review of Good Agricultural Practices** - a 3-page factsheet provides background on and a description of these best practices for commercial producers and packers of fresh fruits and vegetables. This document gives a basic overview of the eight topics (water, manure and biosolids, worker health and hygiene, sanitary facilities, field sanitation, packing facilities, transportation, and traceback) that will be covered in detail in this series. November 2006.

- ▶ <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FS136> **FSHN06-02: Food Safety on the Farm: Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices - Water.** A 4-page factsheet provides detailed guidelines to commercial producers and packers of fresh fruits and vegetables on how to use water in production and handling in order to produce a clean, safe product. November 2006.

Florida Minimum Wage

The minimum wage increased for the State of Florida on January 1st. Florida's minimum wage is now \$6.67 per hour, a 27 cent per hour increase, to match inflation as required by an initiative passed by the legislature. Employers must pay their employees a wage not less than the amount of the hourly state minimum wage for all hours worked in Florida. The definitions of "employer," "employee," and "wage" for state purposes are the same as those established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Please make sure that your payroll programs are correctly calculating the new minimum wage and that you have changed your Worker Information - Terms and Conditions of Employment forms (WH-516) to show the new minimum wage of \$6.67.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation has created a new poster that must be displayed after January 1st informing the workers of the new Florida minimum wage. Florida's minimum wage poster is available for downloading in English and Spanish from the Agency for Workforce Innovation's webpage at: http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl_min_wage.html.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) poster with the **\$5.15** minimum wage **STILL** needs to be posted - and the rate not altered! This is a Federal rule - even though Florida's minimum wage is higher than the Federal law the FLSA poster must still be displayed. The federal poster can be downloaded from the U.S. Department of Labor website at: <http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>
(Workforce Innovation Website, http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl_min_wage.html)

New Sticker Requirements for Farm Labor Vehicles

This coming year new stickers will be required for Farm Labor vehicles that transport agricultural workers. The vehicles must have the new sticker on the left rear bumper or body by January 31, 2007. The stickers are issued (through the Department of Labor) for specific vehicles so if you have more than one van or bus make sure the sticker matches the vehicle you put it on. If you lose it or it gets stolen you must ask for a replacement by writing a note explaining the circumstances of why you need a replacement sticker and for which specific vehicle. It is recommended that you make a copy of the sticker before you apply it to the vehicle and then keep that copy with your tag registration. (Info from Wes Wurth, CHAPP Inc. via Gene McAvoy, Pest Hotline)

T-GAPs and T-BMPs Implemented

As of September 7, the Florida Tomato Exchange (FTE) voted to immediately implement the Tomato Good Agricultural Practices (T-GAP) and Tomato Best Management Practices (T-BMP) for the fresh tomato industry in Florida. Prohibition of field packing without a microbial reduction treatment will be delayed until the fall of 2007. The regulations address harvesting and packing considerations, record keeping, and assistance. Call the FTE to get a copy at (407) 660-1949. (FTE Announcement, October, 2006). A good website for resources is <http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/> Cornell University Good Agricultural Practices Network for Education and Training. Extension resources and publications and National GAPs educational materials are available from this site. Two new UF/IFAS publications are also listed in the Publications section.

Pest/Pesticide Update

- On December 15, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) registered the fungicide **fluoxastrobin (Evito®)** for control of diseases in peanuts, tuber vegetables, fruiting vegetables, and leafy vegetables. The EPA Reg. No. for the Arysta LifeScience product is 66330-64. (PREC Agenda, 1/4/07).
- On December 7, the FDACS registered the fungicide **quinoxifen (Quintec®)** for control of powdery mildew in pepper, lettuce, strawberry, melons, and other listed crops. The EPA Reg. No. for the Dow AgroSciences LLC product is 62719-375. (PREC Agenda, 1/4/07).
- On January 1, the FDACS registered extract of ***Chenopodium quinoa* (Headsup®)** for control of fungal, bacterial, and viral diseases tomato transplants. The EPA Reg. No. for the Heads Up Plant Protectants Inc. product is 81853-1. (PREC Agenda, 1/4/07).
- **OMRI** has reviewed DuPont™ **Kocide® 2000 Fungicide/Bactericide** and has determined that it is Restricted (allowed with restrictions) for use in organic production in the category of Coppers - fixed. Restrictions for this category are described in the /OMRI Generic Materials List/ as follows: "Restricted according to NOP Rule: 205.601(i)(1) & 205.601(i)(2): Copper products that are exempt from EPA tolerance [40 CFR 180.1001(b)(1)] may be used for plant disease control. Copper-based material must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation in the soil and shall not be used as herbicides." DuPont™ Kocide® 2000 Fungicide/Bactericide will be listed in the /OMRI Products List/ available on line at www.omri.org and in hard copy edition published annually.
- The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is hosting an electronic public discussion on methods that can be used to evaluate the potential of imported plants to become invasive species if they are introduced into the United States. Any interested person can register for the electronic discussion, which will allow participants to upload files and interact with other participants and with APHIS staff. The electronic public discussion will be held from November 27, 2006 to January 26, 2007. (*Federal Register*, 11/13/06).
- BASF Scientists have engineered a tomato that contains higher amounts of flavonoids that, when fed to mice, significantly reduced C-reactive protein (CRP) levels. The mice themselves were transgenic, with inherently greater amounts of CRP, which is associated with vascular diseases. The amount of peel (which contains 95 percent of the beneficial tomato flavonoids) that the mice ingested was equivalent to about three tomatoes a day for humans. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 10/30/06).

Late Blight Alert

Glades Crop Care, inc. reported a confirmed finding of late blight on tomato in the Immokalee area on November 18, 2006. The infection was in a fairly large planting with multiple infections

widely scattered throughout the field. Numerous infected plants were present with symptoms ranging from single lesions to several hotspots throughout the field. (*Ed. Since that time the disease has spread in SW Florida.*) The disease thrives under cool and wet conditions.

Temperatures between 50 and 80°F combined with moist conditions such as rain, fog, heavy dews, or relative humidity above 90 percent are conducive for disease development. Night temperatures in the mid-fifties with daytime temperatures from the mid-fifties to mid-seventies are ideal for this disease.

For more information and photos see

<http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/takextpub/FactSheets/pp0006.pdf>

Currently, fungicides are the most effective means of controlling late blight and will remain the primary tool until cultivars with resistance to this disease become available. Fungicides slow the rate at which the disease develops in the field by creating a protective barrier on the foliage. Just applying a chemical, however, does not necessarily equate with effective disease control. Relative effectiveness of a product, coverage, and timing must be factored into the equation for maximum benefit. Numerous fungicide products are registered for late blight control. Protectants, as the name implies, protect foliage from infection by spores. Protectant chemicals must be well distributed over the leaf surface and must be applied before spores land on leaves. They are ineffective against established infections. Systemic products become distributed locally within plant tissues and protect foliage from infection by spores. Newer products such as Curzate® (DuPont™) boast "kick back" action that can help arrest infestation if applied within 48 -72 hours of initial infection. They may kill some established infections and may suppress production of new spores. Even a short break in spray schedules, despite what is said regarding some of the newer fungicides, can result in a dramatic increase in blight under the conditions we have had during the past two weeks. **In Florida, it has been observed that seldom does a widespread late blight epidemic occur on tomatoes in the Manatee-Ruskin area unless the disease was present in the Immokalee area and/or Dade County . Since late blight has been confirmed on tomato in Immokalee, growers in other areas are advised to adhere to a preventative spray program.** (G. McAvoy, Vegetarian Newsletter, Nov 2006)

Editor's note: Due to the overlap of fall and spring crops in West Central Florida this spring, growers need to keep a very close eye out for late blight as it has been reported in this area. Good coverage with fungicides is critical. Samples continue to be tested for tolerance to Ridomil.

Tomato Spotted Wilt Resistant Variety Trial

A tomato variety trial was conducted at the North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy during the spring season of 2006 to evaluate fresh market (large rounds) tomato varieties and potential new hybrids. Tomato spotted wilt has become a serious problem in the north Florida/south Georgia production area. This replicated trial included 27 entries, 18 of them with claimed resistance to Tomato spotted wilt. Entries were seeded on 16 February into planter flats containing a commercial growing medium.



Cell size of flats was 2 in.X 2 in.X 3 in. Beds were fumigated with methyl bromide/chloropicrin (67/33) at broadcast rate of 350 lbs/acre before mulch (black) application. Irrigation was with single drip tube placed 6 inches off center. Total fertilization was 195-60-195 lbs/acre of N-P₂O₅-K₂O. Row spacing was 6 feet between rows with a finished bed width of 34 inches. Transplanting was done on 22 March. Plots consisted of 12 plants spaced 20 inches apart. Plots were tied 4 times and maintenance pesticides were used as needed to control pest problems. Design was a random complete block with 4 replications. Tomato spotted wilt incidence was rated about 2 weeks before first harvest. Incidence on susceptible varieties ranged from 70% to 90%. The decision was then made to only harvest resistant varieties. Fruit were harvested at or beyond the mature-green stage on 12, 19 and 27 June. At each harvest fruit were graded and sized into medium, large and extra-large fruit. Weights and fruit numbers of each size along with cull weight were recorded. Of the resistant varieties, only one plant of one entry ('SVR 01721400') showed symptoms of Tomato spotted wilt and presence of *Tomato spotted wilt virus* was confirmed in lab by Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA). This is good since it shows even under high pressure the resistance is continuing to hold up. Total yields ranged from a high of 2956 boxes/A for 'Quincy' to a low of 1773 boxes/A for 'Talladega' (Table 1.). Percent marketable fruit ranged from 87.1 for 'SVR 01721400' to a low of 78.7 for 'Talladega'. Fruit size ranged from 7.8 oz for 'SVR 01721400' to a low of 6.5 oz for 'HMX 5825'

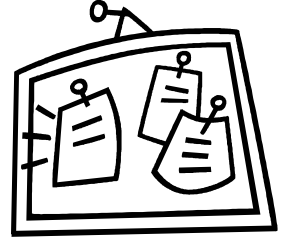
Since this is the first university replicated trial for many of the Tomato spotted wilt resistant hybrids, care is needed in using these results for recommendations. Also all of these resistant varieties use the same genetic source of resistance (SW5 gene). (Steve Olson, North Florida REC- Quincy, Vegetarian Newsletter, January, 2006). For a copy of the complete article, listing of entries and yield table go to <http://www.hos.ufl.edu/vegetarian/index.htm> or give me a call and I'll get one to you.

When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.

Hugh White

US politician (1773 - 1840)

Required Workplace Posters



The following are posters which should be posted at the work site. Most can now be downloaded and printed from the websites listed. Phone numbers are also included for additional information. Please note that FFVA and FSGA do provide some posters for their members. This list also includes some optional posters and information on the WPS poster.

The following six posters can be printed from the Poster Page of the U.S. Department of Labor at <http://www.dol.gov/osbp/sbrefa/poster/main.htm> (Or call 1-866-USWAGE or 1-866-487-9243)

Family & Medical Leave Act - Needed if you hire 50 or more people at any one time during the year within a 50 mile radius.

Fair Labor Standards Act - Federal Minimum Wage. You must now have the **state poster** as well. **Florida's 2007 minimum wage poster** is available for downloading in English and Spanish at: http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl_min_wage.html.

Job Safety & Health Protection - OSHA Health & Safety.

The Law: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

MSPA - Migrant & Seasonal Worker Protection Act.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. (A new poster)

Unemployment Compensation (From your insurance carrier)

Workers' Compensation (get this from your carrier - broken arm poster)

Florida Human Relations Commission. <http://fchr.state.fl.us> (Tallahassee, 850-488-7082 or 1-800-342-8170 for voice messaging) This poster not available online. Call the commission for a copy.

Florida Child Labor (needed only if anyone under 18 is hired) (FL Dept of Labor, Tallahassee, 850-488-3131) <http://www.state.fl.us/dbpr/req/childlabor/poster.shtml>

Tractor Decals (Spanish and English, side-by-side) (These are available from FFVA to members only. This is supposedly related to an OSHA Training requirement, although when I called OSHA, they did not have it on their list of required posters.)

Protect Yourself from Pesticides (EPA WPS Poster) (Can be ordered from Gempler's along with other WPS materials at 1-800-382-8473) www.gemplers.com

WH-516 (this is not a poster, but a MSPA disclosure statement that you can post. Optional) http://www.dol.gov/esa/forms/whd/Form_WH-516_English.PDF

P. R. Gilreath and A. J. Whidden, revised January, 2007
(Source: Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, Florida Strawberry Grower's Association)