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The Manatee Vegetable Newsletter is back and better than ever. For years the newsletter has been delivered to your mailboxes. However, due to budget restrictions I will be moving to an e-newsletter version. I realize that some would prefer to receive a hard copy. Please notify me if you would like to continue receiving a hard copy. Also, if you use e-mail and are not currently receiving my e-mails, please send an e-mail to me at crys21@ufl.edu to join the Manatee Vegetable Industry list. I send many important notices and information via e-mail. As always, the newsletter and other useful information can be found on the Manatee County Extension website at: http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/. Also, I would love to visit your farms at your convenience. Please give me a call with any questions you may have. That’s why I’m here. I wish you a wonderful spring season and Happy New Year.

Online Resources

Chemically Speaking is a newsletter from the UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office providing up-to-date information on pesticide label changes and other pesticide news. Access the most recent version here: http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html

Florida Farm Link www.floridafarmlink.org is a free networking site for farmers and others interested in local food systems.


Manatee County Extension Service does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual’s disability status including one’s employment, access to, or participation in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodations as provided for in the American Disabilities Act, call 48 hours in advance to Linda Means at (941)722-4524: Fax (941)721-6608; FLA RELAY
**Operation Cleansweep** is a mobile pesticide collection program that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended, or unusable pesticides at no cost. Pesticide dealers can participate for a fee. To download the flyer please visit: [http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/)

**Upcoming WPS Train the Trainer classes** can be found here: [http://www.flaes.org/upcomingmeetingsandworkshops.html](http://www.flaes.org/upcomingmeetingsandworkshops.html)

**2009 Ag Expo** full video presentations are available at: [http://flagexpo.ifas.ufl.edu/2009/AgExpo09videopresentations.htm](http://flagexpo.ifas.ufl.edu/2009/AgExpo09videopresentations.htm)

**EDIS Publications of Interest**

“Weed Control in Tomato” by Dr. William Stall  
[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG040](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG040)

"Cucumber Anthracnose in Florida" by Jessica Palenchar, Dr. Danielle D. Treadwell, Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff, and Dr. Amanda J. Gevens,  
[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP266](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP266)

“Physiological, Nutritional, and Other Disorders of Tomato Fruit” by Stephen Olson  
[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs200](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs200)

To see other new EDIS publications, visit the Vegetarian Newsletter website at:  
[http://www.hos.ufl.edu/vegetarian/](http://www.hos.ufl.edu/vegetarian/) or the EDIS website at: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/)

**CEUs Galore**

Many of you are private applicator pesticide license holders. As you know, once you have received your license you must complete 4 CORE and 4 Private Applicator CEUs within a 4-year period, unless you choose to retake the exams. When you attend a class or complete an online CEU article and quiz, you will be given a CEU Record of Attendance Form. It’s a good idea to keep these forms in a separate folder until renewal time. When it’s time to renew, FDACS will send you a renewal notice approximately 60 days before your license expires. You will then mail in the Record of Attendance forms. Some class administrators like Manatee County Extension will immediately log your CEUs into the FDACS system. However, this is not mandatory and many other administrators do not do this. Thus, it is very important to save your Record of Attendance Forms. Since the license renewal process takes some time, please have all of your paperwork ready to send in when you receive your renewal notice to avoid being stuck without a license at a critical time. Also, if you have changed your address you must notify FDACS so that you receive your renewal notice.

FAQs about pesticide licenses can be found here:  
[http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/aes/pestapp.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/aes/pestapp.html)

To check completed CEUs or look for upcoming classes please visit:  
[http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/aes/pestapp.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/aes/pestapp.html)
CEU articles are available through grower magazines and may be an easy way to get the CEUs you need. These articles are short and require you to pass a short quiz. Articles are good for 1 year after they are written so be sure to check the date. Each article is good for 1 CEU in particular categories so be sure if you are looking for a CORE article that CORE is the CEU being offered. You can complete these online or print and mail the quiz to the author. Two magazines currently offering CEU’s are:

Florida Grower  
http://www.growingproduce.com/floridagrower/

Ornamental Outlook  
http://www.ornamentaloutlook.com/ceu/index.html

If you need help please don’t hesitate to call Jennifer Glassburn or Crystal Snodgrass at 941-722-4524.

**Manatee County Food Bank in Need of Donations**

Don’t forget the less fortunate in the new year. The Manatee County Food Bank is in need of donations. They will go to the farm to pick up food and return the bins the following day. The contact person is Cindy Sloan; her email is csloan@foodbankofmanatee.org and her work phone number is 747-4655. The Executive Director Ellen Campbell can be reached at 941-744-7276. As a last resort, Board Chairman Darrell Turner can be reached at 737-0366 (cell). All are committed to getting the produce to people in need and have established a network of food banks for distribution when donation quantities are very large. Thanks for your kindness.

**Free Food Safety Materials**

In order to comply with T-GAPS, Florida tomato growers are required to complete an annual Good Agricultural Practices course. Upon course completion certification is issued. These courses are typically given at the Tomato Institute each year in Naples, FL. A team from the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at UF led by Keith Schneider are traveling around the state offering these courses to growers. Look for a local course to be held in Manatee County soon. Schneider is in the process of developing an online training course called “Tomato School” in which growers can complete the requirement remotely. The group is also providing materials free of cost to growers, including laminated hand washing posters, flip charts, and training DVDs in both English and Spanish. They are able to provide the materials because of a funding grant that ends in February. Schneider hopes to renew the grant but growers should get the materials while they are available. For more information contact Keith Schneider at keiths29@ufl.edu or call 352-392-1991, ext. 309.

**Fresh from Manatee**

Many of you are familiar with the Fresh from Florida logos that are part of the Florida Agricultural Promotional Campaign (FAPC). Recently, a new “Manatee Grown” logo was approved. Growers who register with the FAPC become members and can use the new logo and all other logos to help promote Florida agricultural products. See the following link for membership details:  
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/marketing/fapc_membership.htm
Local Grower and Market Information to Be Shared on Website

I am developing a list of growers and local markets to be posted on the Manatee County Extension website. Growers who sell directly to the public should send contact information, products grown, market business hours, etc. to crys21@ufl.edu.

UF Diagnostic Clinic to Charge for Services
Jim Mertely and Natalia Peres, June 2009

On July 1, 2009, the Plant Diagnostic Labs in Balm, Homestead, and Quincy, as well as the main Extension Plant Disease Clinic in Gainesville, will begin charging a fee of $40 per sample. Previously, charges for standard samples ranged from $0 to $20 each. In the future, labs located in Apopka and Immokalee will make visual assessments only; samples requiring more complete diagnostics will be sent to Gainesville accompanied by a check made out to the University of Florida. This decision was made by the Office of the Dean for Extension after a series of meetings with the heads of the various Diagnostic Labs and Clinics. As a result of this action, plant diagnostic fees will become more equitable throughout the university system. In addition, plant clinics will become more self-supporting in the face of budget cuts at IFAS and the university as a whole.

Like other clinics, the Plant Diagnostic Lab at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC-Balm) will begin charging on July 1. After that date, clients visiting the lab will be asked to fill out the sample submission form and pay $40.00 per sample by check made payable to the University of Florida. Samples sent through the mail should be also accompanied by a submission form and payment. The submission form is available in the lab and on the internet at http://strawberry.ifas.ufl.edu/DiagnosticLab/diagnosticpage.htm.

In special situations, samples may be processed for free. For example, samples submitted by county extension agents during their first year on the job will not be charged. In addition, no charges will be made for samples from UF faculty or those solicited by the diagnostician for research or regulatory purposes. Regular clients may decide to pay for multiple samples in advance. Checks for individual samples would then not be required. We welcome this procedure, since it will save time and paperwork for the university and the client alike.

The decision to charge clients was made after considerable discussion and some trepidation. It is our hope that UF plant diagnostic facilities will be patronized as in the past and recognized for the compelling economic value they represent.

Fumigant Reregistration: Buffers, FMPs, Post Application Summaries, and Fumigant Site Monitoring
J.W. Noling and Crystal Snodgrass

Over the past few years, the U.S. EPA has been in the process of reregistering soil fumigants. In July 2009, the EPA released the revised Reregistration Eligibility Decisions (RED) for methyl bromide, chloropicrin, metam sodium (Vapam) and metam potassium (Kpam) (http://epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/soil_fumigants/index.htm). The REDs clearly enumerate a number of significant regulatory changes that are forthcoming, including a requirement for a buffer zone surrounding fumigant treated fields and the requirements for Fumigant Management Plans (FMPs) with Post Application Summaries. Buffer zones are areas—measured from the field property
line, or in some cases occupied structure—where fumigants cannot be applied. Although not anywhere as big as formerly thought, buffer zones of as much as 25 to 125 feet are expected. Buffer zone distance is determined by many factors including field specific fumigant application rates (lb/a) used, field acreage treated per day (acres/day), and whether certain gas impermeable plastic mulches are used to reduce fumigant emissions from soil. When the rules take effect, buffer zones of as much as 300 feet will be required for growers who wish to continue using methyl bromide, applying 100 lbs. or more per acre and treating 40 acres per day. If the increasing price of methyl bromide wasn’t enough to force transition to alternative fumigants, the increased buffer zones with methyl bromide use more than certainly will.

Other noteworthy regulatory changes mandated by the new REDs include 1) requirements for medical certification, safety training, and fit testing of workers to satisfy EPA respirator requirements when and if needed in the field; 2) Emergency Preparedness; and 3) Fumigation Site Monitoring. Unless mandated by the specific fumigant label or method of application as with Midas or Telone, requirements for the need for respirators will be dictated by any sensory irritation detected by workers in the field. If complaints arise by field workers, then the certified applicator charged with fumigant application must decide whether to demand respirators to be worn by most workers / handlers in the field or to cease work and vacate the field. To return to the field to continue work, the certified applicator will be required to monitor air concentrations of the fumigant gases with gas detector / colorometric tubes. Only after two repeated samples—at least 15 minutes apart—are less than the specified threshold level for the fumigant will workers be allowed to reenter the field. To avoid the requirement of notifying neighboring landowners at a minimum of 300 feet of the property line in advance of the grower’s intent to fumigate a given field, the certified applicator or someone under their direct supervision will also be required to monitor fumigant air concentrations. Sensory irritation of the fumigant (as determined by the designated monitor) will be used to determine air concentration in areas between the buffer zone perimeter and residences or other occupied areas four times during the day (dawn, dusk, and once each during the night and during the day), to ensure concentrations (perceived odors) do not exceed the action levels requiring enforcement of emergency procedures and notifications of neighboring landowners surrounding the field.

With FMPs, EPA will demand they be completed before a fumigant application occurs and require it be prepared by the certified fumigant applicator charged with each day’s fumigation activity. EPA believes that FMPs will reduce potential risks to bystanders as well as handlers by requiring that applicators have carefully planned, in writing, each major element of each day’s fumigation. In this context, an FMP is a set of performance criteria for each application, including how the fumigator (certified applicator) intends to comply with label requirements. In July 2009, EPA published all of the different Fumigant Reregistration Eligibility documents, and each of those provides a list of each major element the FMPs will need to address. As a partial set, these include general site and applicator information, application procedures, and a description of how the fumigator planned to comply with label requirements for GAPs, buffer zones, air monitoring, worker protection, posting of signage, and providing notification to neighbors should it be needed. FMPs also were required to include plans for communication between the applicator and others involved in the fumigation, documentation, and how emergency situations will be handled. Additionally, EPA required that applicators complete a post-fumigation summary that will describe any deviations from the FMP, measurements taken to comply with GAPs, and information about any problems such as complaints or incidents that occurred as a result of the fumigation. The REDs also specify requirements for record keeping and that FMPs must be provided, upon request, to enforcement officials and handlers involved in the fumigation. In total, changes required to develop and implement the FMP will be complex and comprehensive, adding a new burden of grower responsibility and liability. As you might expect, they too, like buffers, will not come without cost.