



Commercial Vegetable Growers: What Can Extension Do For You?

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Plant Diagnosis

Agent Troubleshooting

How many times a season do you see a plant problem that you've never seen before? Well extension is here to help. We provide on farm troubleshooting for plant pests. Also, if you have access to a digital camera you can take digital photos of the problem and e-mail to your agent at crys21@ufl.edu. Your extension agent has many resources available including UF/IFAS researchers and specialists to get down to the bottom of your problem.

UF Diagnostic Clinics

If the problem is not evident upon inspection, UF/IFAS has several diagnostic clinics to which you can send your sample. The nearest clinic is located at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, FL. Your agent may be able to submit the sample for you. However, you can also submit samples to the clinic on your own. The diagnostic clinic accepts samples on Monday-Thursday at a \$40.00 per sample charge. More information can be found on their website at <http://strawberry.ifas.ufl.edu/DiagnosticLab/diagnosticpage.htm>

Distance Diagnostic Information System (DDIS)

<http://ddis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

DDIS is an online diagnostic system in which digital images are submitted. Photos from the field can be uploaded and submitted electronically. The images are then made available to specialists from around the state for rapid diagnosis and recommendations. The service is free.

Training and Testing

Restricted Use Pesticide License: Training, Testing, and CEUs

Training:

Training for the categories of CORE and Private Applicator are currently being offered for free quarterly at the extension office in Palmetto, FL. If you currently hold a license, CEUs are offered for these classes.

We also sell pesticide manuals for several different categories. For more details call the Manatee County Extension office or visit our website at <http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Testing:

The Manatee County Extension Service offers testing for pesticide licenses. The exams themselves are free. Upon passing you may obtain your license from FDACS for a fee. Testing is available from 7:30am to 4:00pm Monday-Friday. Please call (941)722-4524 and ask for Jennifer to make your appointment. You can also reach Jennifer via e-mail at jeglass@ufl.edu.

CEU's:

After obtaining a Private Applicator License you will have 4 years until its expiration. In order to renew, you will be required to complete 4 CORE and 4 Private Applicator CEUs during the 4 year period. CEUs are offered through various classes at the extension service, online through grower magazines, and various other manners. You can check your current license status, CEUs completed, and upcoming classes at <http://app1.flaes.org/ceu/>

WPS Train-The-Trainer

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a program developed by the EPA to ensure agricultural worker safety from pesticide exposure. The extension service offers a WPS Train-The-Trainer course in which a representative from your operation can become certified to train farm workers on pesticide safety. This class is offered quarterly. For more information on the WPS and the train the trainer program please visit: <http://www.flaes.org/complimonitoring/workersafety/>

Up-To-Date Information

Your extension agent is your link to the most up-to-date information on a variety of agricultural topics including: industry research, marketing, upcoming classes, new pests and diseases, regulatory information, CEUs and pesticide training, and many others. The agent sends important information via e-mail, newsletter, and website postings. If you are not on the Vegetable Industry e-mail or mailing list and would like to join, please call Crystal at (941) 722-4524. You can find pertinent information at the Manatee County Extension Service Website: <http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu/>. The agent also offers Vegetable Industry meetings on pertinent topics in which CEUs may be available.