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PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER



September/October 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Kiley Harper
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September 5-10	31st Joint Tomato Conference. Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Naples. Contact Phyllis Gilreath, 941-722-4524.
September 8 11:00 am	"Hurricane Preparation and Recovery for the Home Landscape" , Gene Joyner, UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center Conference Room, Belle Glade
September 18 8:00 am - noon 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pesticide Applicator Testing, West Palm Beach (8 am - 4 pm any category exam) General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs) Aquatic Weed Control Test Review (2 CEUs)
September 18 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Spanish Pesticide Applicator Test Review, West Palm Beach (Mounts Building) General Standards/Core Test Review
September 19 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Spanish Pesticide Applicator Test Review, West Palm Beach Ornamental and Turf Test Review
September 20 8:00 am - 10:00 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pesticide Applicator Testing, Belle Glade (8 am - 4 pm any category exam) General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs) Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs)
September 21 8:30 am	Agro-Terrorism and Crime Prevention for Farms and Ag Businesses, UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center Conference Room, Belle Glade. Lunch provided. Please R.S.V.P. to Agunit@pbsso.org or contact the PBC Sheriff's Office at 561-996-1680.
September 22 7:45 am - noon	American Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Florida Division 2006 Annual Meeting, UF/IFAS EREC Conference Room, Belle Glade. Business session and technical presentations (renewable energy issues and ethanol will be addressed). Registration \$10.
October 2 8:00 am - 10:00 am 10:00 am - noon 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pesticide Applicator Testing, West Palm Beach (8 am - 4 pm any category exam) General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs) Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs) Ornamental and Turf Test Review (2 CEUs)
October 4 8:00 am - 10:00 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pesticide Applicator Testing, Belle Glade (8 am - 4 pm any category exam) General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs) Agricultural Row Crop Test Review (2 CEUs)
October 8 12:00 pm	Lettuce Advisory Committee, Everglades Research and Education Center Conference Room, Belle Glade. Lunch provided. Contact Darrin Parmenter, 561-233-1725.
October 18 9:00 am - 1:30 pm	WPS Train-the-Trainer, UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center, Belle Glade Worker protection and compliance. (3 CEUs)

AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES

Africanized Honey Bees (AHB) are in South Florida, and are here to stay. With populations rapidly on the rise, AHB now represent a growing safety issue for all Floridians living and working in rural and urban communities, including agricultural and natural environment settings.

In 1956, AHB (aggressive, low-honey producers) were introduced to Brazil and interbred with European Honey Bees (EHB: docile, high-honey producers favored by beekeepers). The intention was to produce honeybees with desired European traits that could also withstand harsh tropical climates. However, aggressive traits remained in the hybrids, and the accidental escape of African queens the following year set the stage for rapid AHB expansion throughout south and central America, finally arriving in Texas in 1990. Beginning in 2000, AHB has gradually expanded to inland Florida, and containment efforts are no longer realistic.

AHB defend (stinging behavior) their nests/hives with far greater intensity than their European counterparts. A disturbance to an AHB nest could very well empty the nest within seconds, with the potential for 100s of stings. AHB release an "alarm

pheromone" during stinging, thus with each sting they basically tag the victim with a sign that says "sting here".

AHB are extremely persistent, and will pursue a victim over the length of 3 football fields (900+ feet). Victims of an attack should immediately seek enclosed shelter (car, home), remembering that while some bees will enter the shelter and continue stinging, this scenario is far better than remaining outside with 1000s of stinging bees. Do not seek "shelter" underwater since angry AHB will likely remain in the area for at least 30 minutes. Do not stand still and swat bees, this will only anger AHB. If no shelter is available, then simply run a straight line as far as you can go until the bees quit their pursuit.

Visually, even bee experts cannot positively identify AHB from EHB since they are both the same species (*Apis mellifera*). A positive ID requires DNA testing. A concern for citizens is that AHB are not selective when choosing nesting sites. While EHB prefer large, above-ground, clean, dry voids (hollow trees, wall cavities, etc.), AHB will occupy much smaller, less-protected environments including



small tree branches, sprinkler control boxes, downspouts, tractor fenders, mailboxes, discarded tires/buckets, BBQ grills, bird houses, roof vents, A/C units, wood piles, culverts, etc.

Children, the elderly, and the handicapped are at highest risk. Anyone likely to interact with bees (landscapers, utility workers, land clearing operators, agricultural workers, rescue personnel, bee keepers, outdoor enthusiasts) need to keep a look-out for AHB. If you discover a new bee hive on your property, exercise caution, otherwise you might endanger yourself and many others around you. Unless you have specific training, do not attempt to destroy the hive yourself. Contact a local pest-control operator to address your bee issue.

Author: Ron Rice, Sugarcane, Rice, and Sod Agent

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CHEMICAL NEWS AND NOTES

- ✓ On July 17, the FDACS registered Agriliance's Delta Gold® (deltamethrin) insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 264-1011-1381) for control of insects in bulb vegetables, cucurbit vegetables, fruiting vegetables, root vegetables, tuberous and corm vegetables, and field/pop/sweet corn. (PREC Agenda, 8/3/06).
- ✓ The special local needs registration SLN FL-880004 (Lannate® use in radish) has been revised to include product limitations (no more than 12 pints/acre/crop) and application limitations (no more than 8 applications/crop). (FDACS letter of 7/28/06).
- ✓ Dow AgroSciences has voluntarily cancelled the use of spinosad (Spintor®) insecticide on collards and other leafy brassica crops in Georgia as a safeguard against growing diamondback moth resistance to the chemical. A program to educate growers on preventing resistance has been running for several years, but the problem has not abated, largely because of misuse and overuse of spinosad by a small minority of growers. (IR-4 email, 6/28/06).
- ✓ Effective September 18, 2006, the Gowan Company will offer a new herbicide to sugarcane growers in the United States called Yukon. Yukon is a combination of two active ingredients, halosulfuron and dicamba. There will be a lunch meeting September 27th at the UF/IFAS EREC, Belle Glade, to discuss use of the product in detail. Contact Parker Oswald at (863) 675-7351 for details.

PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED:

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO LAKE OKEECHOBEE REGULATION SCHEDULE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is hosting public meetings on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on proposed revisions to the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan. **Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by public comment.** For more information, contact Barry Vorse, at 904-232-2236 or visit the web at: http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/cco/lorss_desc.htm

Dates and locations for public meetings on proposed revisions to the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan.

Date	City	Location
September 12	Stuart	Indian River Community College/Chastain Campus, Wolf High-Technology Center, 2400 SE Salerno Rd.
September 13	Okeechobee	Okeechobee Civic Center, 1750 Highway 98 North
September 14	Ft. Myers	Lee County Commission Chambers, 2120 Main St.
September 18	Clewiston	John Boy Auditorium, 1200 WC Owen Avenue

SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE EVERGLADES MASTER RECREATION PLAN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District are hosting public meetings to present the Everglades Master Recreation Plan. The plan aims to identify and address the impacts of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation on existing recreational use and identify potential new recreation and public use opportunities.

Anglers, hunters, hikers, boaters, community leaders, business owners, and others interested in recreational opportunities should attend.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by public comment.

Two upcoming meetings are being held in Palm Beach County:

- Monday, Sept 25, 2006
Tanner Park Community Center 105 E. Palm Beach Rd., South Bay.
- Tuesday, Sept 26, 2006
UF/IFAS EREC, 3200 E. Palm Beach Rd., Belle Glade.

The plan can be viewed on the Web at: http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/progr_master_rec_plan.cfm

PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION WELCOMES NEW AG SAFETY AGENT

University of Florida/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension is pleased to introduce Kiley Harper, our new Agricultural Safety Training Agent based in Belle Glade.

She joined our staff on July 14 and took the position formerly held by Laura Powell. Her educational programs will focus on all aspects of agricultural safety including pesticide, worker protection standards and equipment training. She will be teaching the pesticide review courses and administering the corresponding exams.

Kiley comes to us from the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau where she was the Community Relations Director. While attending college, Kiley was the Communications Director for the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA), an Alabama Cooperative Extension System supported organization. She is a 2005 magna cum laude graduate of Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.) with a bachelor's of science in Agricultural Communications and a minor in Agricultural Leadership and Development.



You can contact Kiley Harper, Agricultural Safety Training Agent, at (561) 996-1657 or via e-mail at kiley@ufl.edu.

WHITEFLY Q BIOTYPE CONFIRMED

University of Florida/IFAS has confirmed that the silverleaf whitefly Q biotype (*Bemisia tabaci*) has been found in five Florida counties. The confirmations were from plant nurseries in Dade, Lee, Hillsborough, Suwannee, and Orange Counties, and in most cases the infested plants were hibiscus. The Q biotype is thought to have originated from the Mediterranean region and has been associated with whitefly control problems and has been shown to be virtually immune to the IGR pyriproxyfen, having strikingly reduced susceptibility to the IGR buprofezin, and a reduced susceptibility to the neonicotinoids insecticides imidacloprid, acetamiprid and thimethoxam.



Left: The silverleaf whitefly Q biotype (*Bemisia tabaci*) found in five Florida counties.

The Q biotype is indistinguishable from the B biotype (more common). While B out-competes Q in the absence of insecticides, Q out-competes B in the presence of many insecticides, and Q can transmit TYLCV at least as efficiently as B. Therefore, if both biotypes are

present and growers spray heavily, they may be selecting for the Q biotype. This makes spraying as little as possible and following resistance management recommendations even more critical, including rotation of chemicals and the inclusion of a crop-free period into the production cycle.

For more information on control and identification, please contact Darrin Parmenter at (561) 233-1725 or visit <http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Iso/bemisia/bemisia.htm>.

Thank you

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