



# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

**May 29, 2019**

**The 2018 -2019 South Florida vegetable deal wound down quickly with many growers finishing up in late April – early May.**

**The season ended earlier than normal with much of south Florida warmer than normal for much of the spring season advancing maturity on many crops.**

**Despite a wet start to the month, hot dry conditions over the past two weeks have dried things out and dropped water tables in canals and wet lands.**

**FAWN Weather Summary**

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	62.37	62.37	2.62	75	0.16
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	63.70	92.43	4.80	84	0.16
<b>Clewiston</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	63.82	91.67	4.46	81	0.17
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	67.10	94.96	3.34	77	0.18
<b>Homestead</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	64.02	91.78	1.91	78	0.18
<b>Immokalee</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	61.48	95.59	4.78	75	0.18
<b>Okeechobee</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	57.69	95.00	5.58	82	0.17
<b>Wellington</b>					
5/1 – 5/29/2019	66.31	93.72	6.31	79	0.17

**“Remember, when in doubt - scout.”**

**The National Weather Service forecast indicates that a strong ridge of high pressure will continue to dominate the South Florida weather pattern and ensure another dry day is in store for South Florida with temperatures in the upper 80s and 90s.**

**High pressure will gradually drift eastward into the western Atlantic, this will allow low level flow to become a little more southerly allowing for increased moisture in the atmosphere.** Rain chances will remain below normal for this time of year at least through the end of the week and the first half of the weekend favoring the west coast and interior during the afternoon/evening and overnight showers over the Atlantic and along the east coast. Daytime highs will remain above normal with overnight lows running several degrees above normal, especially along east coast.

**By late in the weekend, a trough moves east leading to increased chance of precipitation and more of a diurnal rainy season pattern with POPs 20-40 percent.** High temps will remain in the upper 80s and 90s across the region, with overnight lows in the mid to upper 70s.

**For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>**

## **Sanitation, Sanitation, Sanitation...**

Once again as we near the end of the deal, 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 several scouts over the past few years have reported that they 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 and other viruses to subsequent crops and also eliminate inoculum from late blight and other fungal

diseases. This is particularly important in the case of TYLCV and other viruses, as sanitation, a crop free period, and whitefly/thrips 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 diamondback moth, pepper weevil, tomato pinworm, whitefly and thrips 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 and will become increasingly important in the post- methyl bromide era. 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 and again promises to become more important in the absence of methyl bromide as a component of a comprehensive methyl bromide alternative strategy. 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 nutsedge. 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 throughout the summer period to reduce weed pressure in subsequent crops. One approach uses glyphosate to kill weeds during the crop free period. Note with some combinations of high use rates, heavy weed infestation, soil fumigation, short plant back times and other factors growers have experienced carryover resulting in phytotoxicity and plant damage in subsequent crops on sandy soils.

Some growers have had success controlling glyphosate resistant weeds by utilizing alternative modes of actions such as the organo-auxin herbicides such as 2, 4-D during the summer fallow season.

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

With new regulations for fumigants, building soil organic matter content with summer cover crops can help provide credit which will allow reductions in the proposed required buffer zones which will come into effect in 2012. For example by raising soil organic content to the 1 - 2 % level in the fumigated block you can reduce buffer zones by 20%, increase soil organic content to 2 - 3 % and you get a 30% buffer zone reduction.

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.

USDA-ARS, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory in Fort Pierce, FL has also performed research looking at anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD) combined with soil solarization as an alternative to methyl bromide and found that ASD combined with solarization may provide an alternative to chemical soil fumigation for control of soilborne plant pathogens and plant parasitic nematodes in Florida raised-bed vegetable production systems.

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.

The end of the season is also the ideal time to take samples taken to predict the risk of nematode injury to fall crops well in advance of planting to allow for sample analysis and treatment periods if so required. For best results, sample for nematodes at the end of the growing season, before crop destruction, when nematodes are most numerous and easiest to detect.

Collect soil and root samples from 10 to 20 field locations using a cylindrical sampling tube, or, if unavailable, a trowel or shovel. Since most species of nematodes are concentrated in the crop rooting zone, samples should be collected to a soil depth of 6 to 10 inches.

Sample in a regular pattern over the area, emphasizing removal of samples across rows rather than along rows. One sample should represent no more than 10 acres for relatively low-value crops and no more than 5 acres for high value crops.

Fields which have different crops (or varieties) during the past season or which have obvious differences either in soil type or previous history of cropping problems should be sampled separately. Sample only when soil moisture is appropriate for working the field, avoiding extremely dry or wet soil conditions. Plant roots should also be examined visually for the telltale signs of galling caused by root knot nematode.

Recognizing that the root-knot nematode causes the formation of large swollen areas or galls on the root systems of susceptible crops, relative population levels and field distribution of this nematode can be largely determined by simple examination of the crop root system for root gall severity. Root gall severity is a simple measure of the proportion of the root system that is galled. Immediately after final harvest, a sufficient number of plants should be carefully removed from soil and examined to characterize the nature and extent of the problem within the field. In general, soil population levels increase with root gall severity. This form of sampling can in many cases provide immediate confirmation of a nematode problem and allows mapping of current field infestation.

The detection of any level of root galling usually suggests a nematode problem for subsequent plantings of susceptible crops. Detection of a potential problem well in advance of the next growing season will provide ample time to devise and implement an effective management strategy.

Integrated pest and disease management is a year round commitment that should incorporate a combination of cultural, biological and chemical pest management techniques.

## **News You Can Use**

### **Need to get rid of Unused/Unwanted Pesticides?**

**Operation Cleansweep** provides farmers, nursery operators, golf course operators and pest control services a one-time safe and economical way to dispose of their canceled, suspended and unusable pesticides.

Some of these materials may be very old and in containers that are deteriorating. Some, such as chlordane and DDT, are so toxic to humans and hazardous to the environment that they are no longer allowed to be used. Proper disposal can be costly and a regulatory burden for small farmers and other pesticide users.

Operation Cleansweep offers an opportunity to avoid these formidable barriers and to promote safe and environmentally sound pesticide use, handling and disposal.

Operation Cleansweep began in 1995 with a statewide collection of more than 70,000 pounds of lead arsenate, a widely used pesticide for citrus operations that was banned from use by the EPA. Through June 2017, Operation Cleansweep collected and disposed of more than 1,762,000 pounds (881 tons) of canceled, suspended and unusable pesticides from more than 2,400 participants in all 67 counties.

For more information about participating, contact Shannon Turner at 877-851-5285 or [Shannon.Turner@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Shannon.Turner@freshfromflorida.com).

### **Tips to Avoid Heat Related Illness**

It is hot out there - remember to take care of yourself and your workers in hot weather and avoid heat related illness.

Summer in Florida can be overwhelmingly hot, even for long-time residents. Heat stress, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke are illnesses that can overcome you when your body is unable to cool itself.

Heat stress hits quickly, and it may be deadly.

The most serious forms of heat related illness include heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

As many as 600 people die of heat-related causes a year across the United States.

Never leave children or pets in a parked car. The temperature inside cars can rise to 135°F in less than ten minutes, which can kill children or pets. If you see a child or pet left unattended in a parked car, you should call 911.

Slow down. Strenuous activities should be reduced, eliminated, or rescheduled to the coolest time of the day. At-risk Individuals should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.

Clothing is important. Dress for summer. Use common sense and wear light colors, a loose weave, long sleeves and a hat. Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight and helps your body maintain normal temperatures.

Put less fuel on your inner fires. Foods that increase metabolic heat production--such as proteins--also increase water loss.

Drink plenty of water and other nonalcoholic fluids. Your body needs water to keep cool.

Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.

People who may be at most risk:

- (1) have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease;
- (2) are on fluid-restrictive diets; or
- (3) have a problem with fluid retention, should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids.

Do not drink alcoholic beverages. Alcohol dehydrates you.

Do not take salt tablets unless specified by a physician. People on salt-restrictive diets should consult a physician before increasing their salt intake.

Spend more time in air-conditioned places. Air conditioning in homes and other buildings markedly reduces danger from the heat. If you cannot afford an air conditioner, spending some time each day in an air-conditioned environment (during hot weather) can offer some protection.

Don't get too much sun. Sunburn makes it harder for you to cool off.

## **REMEMBER TO DRINK BEFORE YOU FEEL THIRSTY!**

### **Factors Leading to Heat Stress:**

- High temperature and humidity
- Direct sun or heat
- Limited air movement
- Physical exertion
- Poor physical condition
- Some medicines
- Inadequate tolerance for hot workplaces

### **Symptoms of Heat-related Illnesses**

**Heat Cramps** - Rest in a cool place, drink sports drink, and stretch the cramped muscle.

**Heat Exhaustion** - Hot and sweaty.

Headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness, or fainting

Weakness and moist skin

Mood changes such as irritability or confusion

Upset stomach or vomiting

Move the victim to a cool place, give the person sports drinks, lay them down and elevate their legs, remove excess clothing, sponge with cool water and fan the person. If there's no improvement within half an hour, call 911.

**Heat Stroke** - Clammy and dry.

Dry, hot skin with no sweating

Mental confusion or loss of consciousness

Seizures or fits

This is The Big One! This one can, and does, kill. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY even if the victim seems to be improving; move the victim to a cool place, remove excess clothing, keep the head and shoulders slightly elevated, fan the victim and spray with water, place ice packs under the arms, by the groin and sides of the neck where the big veins are. Ice will help cool the blood.

### **Preventing Heat Stress**

- Know the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses, and monitor yourself and your coworkers.
- Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
- Use cooling fans and air-conditioning; rest regularly.

- Drink lots of water--about one cup every fifteen minutes.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks, and heavy meals.

### **How to Treat Victims of Heat-related Illness**

Call 911 (or local emergency number) at once.  
Move the affected person to a cool, shaded area.  
Loosen or remove heavy clothing on victim.  
Provide cool drinking water to victim.  
Fan and mist the person with water.

### **When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors**

The rainy season also brings with it an elevated risk of lightning strikes and several people are killed each year in Florida, (1 so far in 2015) many of them employed in outdoor jobs. Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills an average of 49 people in the United States each year, and hundreds more are severely injured.

Be safe and go indoors when you hear thunder. Lightning can travel 10-15 miles away from the main storm in some instances.

There is little you can do to substantially reduce your risk if you are outside in a thunderstorm. The only completely safe action is to get inside a safe building or vehicle.

You are not safe anywhere outside. Run to a safe building or vehicle when you first hear thunder, see lightning or observe dark threatening clouds developing overhead. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder. Do not shelter under trees.

### **Plan Ahead!**

Your best source of up-to-date weather information is a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Portable weather radios are handy for outdoor activities. If you don't have NWR, stay up to date via internet, smart phone, radio or TV. If you're in a group, make sure the group has a lightning safety plan and are ready to use it. If you're in a large group, you'll need extra time to get everyone to a safe place. NWS recommends having proven professional lightning detection equipment that will alert your group when lightning is nearing the event site.

### **When a Safe Location is not nearby**

Remember, there is NO safe place outside in a thunderstorm. If you absolutely can't get to safety, this section may help you slightly lessen the threat of being struck by lightning while outside. Don't kid yourself--you are NOT safe outside.

Know the weather patterns of the area you plan to visit. For example, in mountainous areas, thunderstorms typically develop in the early afternoon, so plan to hike early in the day and be down the mountain by noon. Listen to the weather forecast for the outdoor area you plan to visit. The forecast may be very different from the one near your home. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, stay inside.

These actions may slightly reduce your risk of being struck by lightning:

- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top.
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine or other low area. Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning.
- Stay away from water, wet items (such as ropes) and metal objects (such as fences and poles). Water and metal are excellent conductors of electricity. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances.

For more information please see the following statistics on a map with details of what the unfortunate individuals were doing when struck by lightning. <https://www.weather.gov/media/safety/Analysis06-18.pdf>

For more information on lightning safety, see <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>

### **NOAA is predicting a “near-normal” hurricane season in 2019**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a “near-normal” hurricane season in 2019, with between two and four major hurricanes expected. However, only two major hurricanes hit in 2018, but both made direct strikes on the United States, causing billions of dollars in damage and claiming dozens of lives.

Gerry Bell, NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center lead hurricane forecaster, emphasized Thursday that communities should take the hurricane season seriously because, as 2018 showed, even an average number of storms can cause significant damage.

“We’re expecting a near-normal season but regardless, that’s a lot of activity, and we need to get ready now,” Bell said. NOAA believes its hurricane season forecasts to be about 70% accurate, he added.

Scientists say that global warming is making hurricanes more deadly- in part because warmer air can hold more water. Bell did not directly address a question as to whether climate change impacts the hurricane forecast, but said that El Nino and La Nina conditions, as well as 25 to 40-year cycles that affect ocean surface temperature, can impact hurricane forecasts from year to year. He said the Atlantic has experienced warmer surface temperatures since 1995, and as a result the region has been experiencing a “high activity era.”

Here’s what you need to know about the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season.

When does hurricane season start?///The 2019 Atlantic hurricane season starts on June 1 and will run until Nov. 30. However, Subtropical Storm Andrea has already formed, making 2019 the fifth consecutive year to have a named storm outside of the Atlantic hurricane season.

What are the predictions for hurricanes in 2019? About nine to 15 named storms are expected to form, including four to eight hurricanes and two to four “major” hurricanes—storms that reach Category 3 to Category 5. This year, there is an ongoing weak El Nino, which is expected to suppress activity. At the same time, however, warmer water temperatures and a stronger than average West African monsoon are expected to increase the odds of hurricanes.

What will the storms be named? The 2019 Atlantic hurricane season hasn’t started yet, but the World Meteorological Association already has a list of names for this year’s tropical storms and hurricanes. The association’s hurricane committee has a rotating list of hurricane names that is reused every six years. If a storm

causes major damage—such as Katrina, Florence or Michael – its name is retired. The storms aren't named after anyone and particular, but they're designed to be familiar—and easy to remember—names for people who live in the region.

The names you can expect to see in 2019 are: Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Imelda, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, and Wendy

## Up Coming Meetings

**June 6, 2019**

**WPS Train the Trainer**

**8:30AM – 3:30PM**

Clayton Hutcheson Ag. Center  
Exhibit Hall A  
Palm Beach County  
Cooperative Extension Service  
559 N. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Lunch & Handouts Included - Cost \$25.00

Contact Ethel Scott with any questions at 561.233.1725 or [eescott@pbcgov.org](mailto:eescott@pbcgov.org)

**July 24, 2019**

**Certified Pile Burners Course**

UF/IFAS Hendry County Extension Office  
1085 Pratt Boulevard  
LaBelle, Florida 33935

Information for the next Certified Pile Burners Course:

The Florida Forest Service and University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting a Certified Pile Burners Course on **Wednesday, July 24, 2019**. This course will show you how to burn piles *legally, safely and efficiently*. Most importantly, it could save a life. If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn. Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations. Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED.

This training will be held from 8:30 am till 4:30 pm at the **Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee, Florida**. Included are a registration form and program agenda.

Registration is required to attend and class size is limited. To attend please send the following information (see form on next page):

1. Your full name (as wanted on your pile burning certificate).
2. Your mailing address (where you want the certificate mailed).
3. Your Florida Forest Service Customer Number (It is the number that you are required to give the FFS when you call in for your burn permits. If you do not know it please call the local FFS office and ask them to create one for you).
4. Your email address (if you have one) and/or contact phone number.
5. A check made out to: Hendry County 4-H for \$50.00.

The first fifty individuals to provide these five requirements will be registered; there will be a 7-day non refundable fee limit. If you do not make the training and did not contact our office at least one week before the class, you will not receive a refund. There will be a test at the end of the session. You must receive a grade of 70% or higher on the exam and demonstrate a proper pile burn with your local FFS office to become certified. Once you are certified it will be noted with your customer number, thus it is important for us to have the proper number. If you do not have a customer number the FFS office will set one up for you. Fill out the registration form on the next page and return as directed.

**For Questions Contact: Dr. Mongi Zekri at maz@ufl.edu or 239-595-5494**

**Registration Form:**

**Florida's Certified Pile Burner Program**

*Wednesday, July 24, 2019*

**Location: Southwest Florida Research and Education Center**

**2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142**

**(239) 658-3400**

**Please send this form and a check for \$50.00 made payable to:**

**Hendry County 4-H**

**Mail to: Dr. Mongi Zekri**

**Hendry County Extension Office**

**P. O. Box 68**

**LaBelle, FL 33975**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Florida Forest Service Customer Number, <https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/Field-Operations/County-Foresters/Find-a-County-Forester> Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training**

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019**

**Please bring a Pencil for the Exam!**

1. Opening Comments and Introduction 08:30 – 09:10
2. Fire Weather 09:10 – 09:50
3. BREAK 09:50 – 10:00
4. Smoke Management 10:00 – 11:20
5. Open Burning Regulations 11:20 – 12:15
6. LUNCH (provided) 12:15 – 01:15
7. Planning and Implementation 01:15 – 02:30
8. Safety 02:30 – 03:10
9. BREAK 03:10 – 03:20
10. Public Relations 03:20 – 04:00
11. Wrap Up & Test 04:00 – 04:30

## **Location & Contact Information:**

**Location: Southwest Florida Research and Education Center  
(Immokalee IFAS Center)**

2685 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142 (239) 658-3400

**Contact: Dr. Mongi Zekri, Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent  
Hendry County Extension Office, P.O. Box 68, LaBelle, FL 33975**

**Office Phone: 863 674 4092**

**Cell: 239 595 5494**

**E-mail: maz@ufl.edu**

## **Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training *Frequently Asked Questions***

### **Q: Why should I be a certified pile burner?**

A: Certified pile burners are trained to burn piles *legally, safely and efficiently*. Most importantly, it could save a life. Also, when the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations.

### **Q: What is a Pile Burner Customer Number?**

A: When you call the FFS for an authorization to burn, you will be assigned a personal customer number. This number references your information so it doesn't need to be gathered each time you call for an authorization. You must have your individual FFS customer number in order to be certified.

### **Q: Is there a test?**

A: Yes, the test is 20 questions and open-book. You must receive a score of at least 70% to pass.

### **Q: What if I don't pass?**

A: Very few people fail the test but if you do, you will be provided another opportunity to take the test at a later date. If you fail the second time, you must re-register and take the training again.

### **Q: Why do you ask for my email on the application form?**

A: Email is the fastest and most convenient method to inform registrants of their registration status. If no email address is provided then all correspondence will be sent through the federal mail. This can take several days to relay messages and this may not be practical if changes are made to the course schedule or for last minute registrations.

### **Q: How much does it cost to register for the training?**

A: Registration for the training is \$50 per person and includes lunch, training materials and testing.

### **Q: How long does my certification last, and how long do I have to complete the certification from the time I finish the class?**

A: As long as the person with the certification uses their number at least 5 times in a period of 5 years their certification will not expire under the current program. You **MUST** complete the certification burn within a year of taking the class.

### **Q: Will certified burners be notified if their certification expires?**

A: Yes, notification will be sent out to them to let them know of their upcoming certification expiration date.

### **Q: Will I be certified at the end of the one day training?**

A: No, you will need to follow the written instructions that you will receive from the FFS to become certified. You will need to complete a simple burn plan, have it reviewed and approved locally by the FFS and also have the burn itself reviewed and approved by the FFS.

### **Q: Is there a minimum age to be a certified pile burner?**

A: Yes, you must be at least 18 years old to take the test and be a certified pile burner.

## Websites

**How to communicate science so it makes sense.** You may ask as a farmer or agriculturalist, why I should bother to try and educate the public about the science of agriculture. Because if you are not at the table you are on the menu! <http://www.foodnutritionscience.com/articles/how-to-communicate-science-so-that-it-makes-sense/>

**PERC** is the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative – the website provides a wealth of resources to help you understand and comply with the 2015 Revised WPS including training materials, the “new” WPS poster, handouts and WPS respiratory guide.

### WPS Compliance Suite — Training Materials

Under the newly-revised Worker Protection Standard (WPS), training materials must be EPA-approved when officially training workers, handlers, and trainers.

- Expanded training concepts will be required starting January 2, 2018.
- Training must be delivered in a manner that can be understood, in a location relatively free from distractions.
- When training workers or handlers, the trainer must remain present at all times to be available to answer questions, even when showing a video.
- Trainers must be qualified, most often by holding a pesticide applicator's license or by completing an EPA-approved Train-the-Trainer course.

Training Materials for Workers and Handlers - <http://pesticideresources.org/wps/temp/training/index.html>

**Need CORE CEU's?** – here is an easy way to obtain CORE CEU's on-line by reading an article and answering questions regarding the online. A passing score obtains one Core CEU.

CEU Series: Mix and Load Pesticides Safely

CEU Series: Protect Crops and the Environment

CEU Series: Make Sure to Stow Your Pesticides before You Go

CEU Series: Avoid Mishaps When Handling Pesticides

CEU Series: Be Aware of Bees When Applying Pesticides

CEU Series: Place Priority on Preventing Pesticide Poisoning

CEU Series: Learning about Pesticide Resistance Is Anything but Futile

Go to <http://www.growingproduce.com/?s=CORE+CEUs>

**Check out Southwest Florida Vegetable Grower on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Florida-Vegetable-Grower/149291468443385> or follow me on Twitter @SWFLVegMan - <https://twitter.com/SWFLVegMan>

**UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension:** <http://discover.pbcgov.org/coextension/Pages/default.aspx>

**This will be the last hotline for the season – wishing you all the best for a safe and restful summer season!**

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