Berry/Vegetable Times

September 2008

Calendar of Events

Oct. 3 Kennco Field Day, Kennco Manufacturing, Ruskin , 10:00-4:00. CORE Bingo at 2:00 for 1 CORE. For more information and to RSVP for the Bingo game, call 1800-645-2591.

Oct. 14 & Nov. 12 Pesticide License Testing. Hillsborough County Extension Office, Seffner. 9 am. For more information call Mary Beth Henry, 813-744-5519, ext 103.

Nov. 5 Florida Ag Expo at GCREC, Balm. 7:30 till 5:00. http://flagexpo.ifas.ufl.edu.

FLORIDA AG EXPO

Wednesday, November 5th
Call (813) 634-0000 or visit http://flagexpo.ifas.ufl.edu for details.
Register your entire team today!

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From Your Agent… CORE Credits for Your Pesticide License

Growers who have Private Applicator Restricted Use pesticide licenses need 4 CORE and 4 private applicator CEUs (continuing education units) every 4 years to renew their license. The 4 CORE CEUs can be hard to get since most grower meetings are given private applicator CEUs for their program content but not CORE. The Bureau of Compliance Monitoring, which makes the decisions on what credits are given for programs, gives CORE credits for a very strict set of topics that are listed in the CORE manual, "Applying Pesticides Correctly".

If you are in need of CORE credits now or want to start earning them for the next time you renew your license, here are some ways you can earn CORE credits right now. I will be doing a CORE Bingo game at the Kennco Field Day on Oct. 3 from 2:00 to 3:00. This will be good for 1 CORE credit. Kennco will be celebrating their 35th anniversary and will be having a big party from 10:00 till 4:00. Their will be food and drinks, vendors, demos and presentations. All are

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EPA Reassessment of the Fumigants: New Requirements for Buffer Zones

J.W. Noling and Alicia Whidden

Once finalized, a future outcome of the EPA Fumigant Reregistration process will include the requirement for a buffer zone surrounding fumigant treated fields. In general, buffer zones are areas that must be maintained between the outermost boundary of fumigant treated field and residential property line of people living along the perimeter of the treated field. According to EPA, buffer zones are defined as areas, measured in perimeter distances around a fumigant treated field, which are needed to ensure that airborne concentrations of a fumigant compound do not encroach into

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welcome but there is a RSVP for the CORE Bingo. Call 1-800-645-2591 right away.

Another option for earning 1 CORE credit that you need to take advantage of **very quickly** is an article Phyllis Gilreath wrote last October for Citrus & Vegetable magazine. The way this works is you read the article and then answer 10 questions on the article and if you get a score of 70 or higher you get 1 CORE point. Get in touch with me and I can provide you the article and the question set. I need the question set back to me no later than Oct. 10 for you to be able to get credit before the article expires in mid-October.

Mary Beth Henry, an Extension Agent who handles pesticide testing at the Extension office in Seffner, has a set of videos you can watch to receive 1 CORE credit. You will need to set up an appointment with Mary Beth. She can be reached at 813-744-5519, ext. 103. She also has written on article for Ornamental Outlook magazine which is good for 1 CORE. Contact her for a copy of her article and question set and return the completed questions to her.

Here are 4 ways for you to get CORE credits that are required for your pesticide renewal. Take advantage of some or all of these CORE credit opportunities. Don't wait until it is time to renew- there may not be ways available for you to earn all the credits you need on short notice. Take advantage of the opportunities you have now!

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(Continued from page 1)

the adjacent property or exceed a specified threshold concentration or dosage value of human concern. Based on measurable distance and regulatory requirement for specific fumigant use, buffer zones thus ultimately restrict where fumigant treatments, relative to the residential property line, or in some cases, occupied structure, can legally occur.

At present only a few soil fumigant products have buffer zone restrictions which must be considered as a prerequisite for their use. For example, all soil fumigants containing 1,3-dichloropropene (Telone) cannot be applied within 100 feet of an occupied structure, such as a school, hospital, business, or residence. If an occupied structure does occur within the 100 ft buffer zone, then the fumigation can proceed only if "no person shall be present within the structure at any time during the seven consecutive day period following application". With the fumigant reassessment process nearing completion, it appears that all of the remaining soil fumigants undergoing reregistration (Chloropicrin, Vapam, Kpam, Methyl iodide) will also require buffer zone considerations for their use. Like for Telone, EPA will demand that no fumigant application will be permitted within 0.25 miles of schools, licensed day care centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, clinics or prisons. More importantly, it would also appear that buffer zone distances will be measured to the property line and not to the actual structure (as with Telone). This small change will significantly increase overall buffer zone impact in highly integrated urban and agricultural areas such as Hillsborough and West Palm Beach County.

Table 1 on page 4 attempts to summarize buffer zone requirements for typical chloropicrin use rates in a variety of fruit and vegetable crops. As the table

indicates, the actual size of the buffer zone will be based upon field specific soil application rates (lb/a), field acreage treated (acres/day) and whether certain gas impermeable plastic mulches (Hytibar®, Bromostop®,etc.) are used to reduce fumigant emissions from soil. For vegetable crops like tomato and pepper, typically grown on wide beds and row centers, Chloropicrin use rate is generally less than 75 lb a.i. / acre (150 lb/ treated acre). At these per acre use rates, buffer zones requirements only become a significant issue when growers fumigant significant acreage per day (ie., 40 acres per day requiring a150 ft buffer). For strawberry growers who may use as much as 100 lb of chloropicrin per acre, buffer zones of more than 200 feet will be required when treating more than 20 acres per day. If growers are willing to incur the additional cost for certain virtually impermeable (VIF) plastic mulch films, buffer zone distances could be immediately reduced by 40 percent. If buffer zones are still a problem after utilizing VIF credit, the optimizing strategy to reduce buffer zone impacts would be to treat only as many acres along the field periphery as possible to satisfy the current distance from treated field location to residential property line. This would suggest that growers would clearly benefit from a planning and mapping process which provides adjustments to treated acres per day and for coordination of treatment schedules and field locations to minimize buffer zone impacts and distance requirements. Clearly however, partitioning fields and treatment schedules adds a new level of complexity and management expertise and other added costs resulting from use inefficiencies of land, labor, and equipment. These costs can be significant if new equipment and labor crews have to be frequently moved to satisfy treated acre per day constraints.

Another strategy growers might adopt to minimize buffer zone impact is to take advantage of 25 ft buffer zone distances when drip fumigation, rather than shank application, is used as the means of fumigant delivery. All of the specific EPA reassessments for the different fumigants appear to indicate that tarped drip irrigation applications, ie., chemigational approaches to soil fumigant treatment rather than shank injections, are the most efficient means in which to reduce buffer zone requirement. Unfortunately, this will also likely require changes to the design and zoning of irrigation delivery to accommodate treatment of appropriate field areas. For seep irrigated fields, it is also possible for growers to avoid significant buffer zone impact by treating field peripheries bounding residential property with formulation of methyl iodide to take advantage of shank applications to as much as 5 acres or more and buffer zones of as little as 25 feet.

In summary, Table 1 clearly shows buffer zone requirements increase dramatically with fumigant application rate, the number of acres fumigated per day, and when a LDPE plastic mulch is used rather than one of the approved VIF mulch films. In this regard, buffer zones are currently regarded as an objectionable prerequisite to fumigant use which growers must assume responsibility for implementation. Not every grower will be equally affected. In general, the severity of the problem to a given grower will be defined by the number and extent of residential property bounding the fumigated field border.

The entire process of fumigant reregistration has been a long, multiphase process and EPA is currently seeking stakeholder comment and critique to their final Human Health Risk Assessments for the various fumigants. In response to EPA fumigant reassessments, there is still considerable grower concern that, if mandated, buffer zone requirements will significantly impact Florida growers,

particularly strawberry growers and vegetable growers along the East Coast. We also think the real impact from EPA reassessment of the fumigants goes well beyond buffer zones, with the need for Fumigant Management Plans (FMP) (Figure 1) and air monitoring requirements for field and buffer periphery, posting and notification, and for requirements for medical certification, safety training, and fit testing to satisfy EPA respirator requirements when and if needed in the field. In total, changes required to develop and implement the FMP will be complex and comprehensive, adding a new burden of grower responsibility and liability. We would encourage concerned growers to critically review the fumigant reassessment documents. Copies of the assessments can be viewed and downloaded from the following website: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/#more . We would also highly recommend to those growers who object to these new restrictions, to submit, in writing, their comments and concerns directly to EPA via the web address: http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/#comments or to contact representatives within Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Strawberry Growers Association, Florida Tomato Exchange, or to Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. The deadline for the comment period is Oct. 30, 2008. It is very important, especially for growers, to make comments. It is felt that EPA will take notice if a large number of comments are received.

Table 1. Chloropicrin buffer zone distances (ft) based on per acre use rates and numbers of acres treated per day (Block Size). Buffer zone distances are interpolated from the EPA Fumigant Reassessment published for Chloropicrin. To use the table, per acre use rates of Chloropicrin (lb/a) must be determined as a percent of what the grower will apply of the maximum broadcast (or treated acre) use rate. For example, tomato growers typically apply 50% of the broadcast or treated acre rate (150 lb a.i./a) when the land is treated as strips(3 ft wide beds x 6 ft row centers).

Block Size (Acres)	**Per Acre Use Rate of Chloropicrin (lb a.i./ acre)**								
	65	**70**	**75**	**80**	**85**	**90**	**95**	**100**	**105**
1	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
5	25	25	25	25	25	29	36	43	50
10	43	50	57	64	71	79	86	93	100
20	46	50	71	93	114	143	179	214	250
30	60	70	107	144	181	221	264	307	350
40	86	100	150	200	250	296	339	382	425

Buffer zone distances above represent tarped bedded applications without credits or use of buffer zone mitigating practices (ie., VIF mulches). For example, field use of specific VIF mulch films will provide a 40% reduction in the buffer zone distance represented above.

Figure 1.
Site-Specific Fumigant Management Plans. Obligates Certified applicators to verify and document before proceeding:

General Site Info: Address, description, map aerial photo, property lines, surrounding structures, bus stops, schools, day care etc.

Applicator Info: License numbers, address, location & dates for completing all require training programs and health/safety certifications.

Authorized on-site personnel: Handler names and training provided.

Good Agricultural Practices: Measurement & Description of all mandatory GAPS.

Buffer Zones: Calculations & rationale for buffer zone distances, including fumigant rates used, block size, credits, start-stop time for buffer zones.

Respirators and other PPE: Verifications that PPE requirements met, respirator training, fit testing, medical certifications current.

Air Monitoring interior field and buffer zone perimeter: When, where samples acquired. Names, address of sampler.

Additional Items: Posting, Notification of neighbors, Record keeping, Emergency Hazard Communication Procedures

Sap Beetle Relief Expected

Jim Price and Curtis Nagle

Sap beetles have been problematic in strawberry production for many, many years and have been a most acute problem since Lannate (methomyl) insecticide was removed from use in strawberries over a year ago. The adult sap beetles fly into strawberry fields from nearby orchards, woodlands, or fruit crops where they and their offspring create holes in strawberry fruit and sometimes establish residence there.

The University of Florida GCREC in Wimauma has performed the research support for and the FSGA and FFVA have put together the application for a Section 18 emergency exemption to use Rimon 0.83EC (novaluron) (Chemtura Corporation) to control sap beetles in strawberries. Rimon is an insect growth regulator ("IGR") that effectively stops the reproduction of sap beetles and prevents accumulation of their larvae in fruit.

Asian cockroaches, building up in the Plant City strawberry production area over about the last 20 years, also eat holes in strawberry fruit similarly to sap beetles. GCREC data reveal that Rimon insecticide stops the reproduction of Asian cockroaches also.

If approval to use Rimon is granted, it is expected to be available by the time sap beetles become a big problem in February 2009. The label will restrict applications to a maximum of three, so there will be a period of discovering the most effective timing of the insecticide. Additionally, GCREC workers are examining adulticides to partner with the IGR for most effective control.

The introduction of Rimon would reduce reproduction and the overall load of sap beetles and Asian cockroaches in strawberry fields, reduce occurrence of feeding holes in strawberry fruit, and reduce infestations of sap beetle larvae in fruit. Benefits to fresh market production and to the late-season processing market would be realized.

Whitefly-transmitted Viruses in Cucurbits

Gary Vallad, UF/IFAS GCREC, Wimauma
Crystal Snodgrass, UF/IFAS Manatee Co. Extension
Scott Adkins, USDA/ARS, Fort Pierce

While tomato growers are quite familiar with the need to manage whitefly populations to minimize the impact of viruses like *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus* (TYLVC), now cucurbit growers need to be vigilant as well. Several new whitefly-transmitted viruses are now present in Florida, and include *Cucurbit yellowing stunt disorder virus* (CYSDV), Squash vein yellowing virus (SqVYV), and *Cucurbit leaf crumple virus* (CuLCrV). All cucurbit crops are susceptible to these viruses to varying degrees. However, these viruses pose little, if any, threat to solanaceous crops, such as tomato or pepper. An outbreak of CYSDV and SqVYV was already identified in early September in Manatee County. The following photos and descriptions are meant to aid in the recognition of some of the disease symptoms associated with these viruses. Growers are strongly encouraged to submit suspect samples to a county extension office for an accurate diagnosis, since some symptoms can easily be confused with nutritional disorders or other diseases.

Cantaloupe infected with *Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus* (CYSDV):
Causes a range of symptoms in various cucurbits including stunting, deformation of leaves, interveinal chlorosis, leaf mottling and spotting. Symptoms often start on older leaves and then progress to the younger leaves.

Watermelon vine decline caused by Squash vein yellowing virus (SqVYV):
Most severe in watermelon, causes a sudden decline of the plant near harvest that includes chlorosis and necrosis of the leaves, necrosis and collapse of petioles, and ultimately a collapse of the vine. Although fruit may appear normal from the outside, the rind is often found to be discolored (necrotic) when cut and the flesh may have a bitter taste.

Summer squash infected with *Cucurbit leaf crumple virus* (CuLCrV):
On squash, causes stunting of the plant and a thickened distortion of the leaves that give them a curled or crumpled appearance. CuLCrV also causes an uneven ripening and distortion of squash fruit, often giving them a distinctive striped appearance.

Management of these viral diseases is similar to the recommendations made for TYLCV control in tomato, focusing on the management of whitefly populations:

- Start with healthy transplants free of whitefly and virus.
- Employ a whitefly management program based on frequent scouting of crop and a proper rotation of systemic insecticides and insecticidal oils and soaps.
- Use silver reflective mulch.

Destroy crop residue immediately following harvest.

Avoid planting new cucurbit crops near older symptomatic crops.

Also be aware that mixed viral infections can occur, which can have a big effect on symptom development among the various cucurbit crops.

Additional References:

Whidden, A., J. Polston, P. Gilreath, and S. Adkins. Triple threat for cucurbits. The Vegetarian, UF/IFAS Horticultural Sciences Department Newsletter, December 2007, http://www.hos.ufl.edu/vegetarian/07/December%2007/Triple%20Threat%20for%20Cucurbits.htm

Webb, S.E., F. Akad, T.W. Nyoike, O.E. Liburd, and J.E. Polston. Whitefly-transmitted cucurbit leaf crumple virus in Florida. EDIS, Fact Sheet ENY-477, http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN716)

Controlling Powdery Mildew on Strawberry

Jim Mertely and Natalia Peres

Powdery mildew, caused by the fungus *Podosphaera macularis*, is one of the first diseases that appear after strawberries are planted. It is also the first disease that requires adding additional fungicides to the spray tank. Powdery mildew is a sporadic problem that is damaging some seasons, but not others. Disease severity depends on three main factors: 1) presence of the fungus early in the season, 2) susceptibility of the cultivar being grown, and 3) the weather. Under favorable conditions, *P. macularis* produces millions of spores that germinate and infect new leaves within 24 hours (Photo 1—left). Thus, the disease can rapidly get out of control and cause epidemics. Good disease management depends on spotting the fungus early and starting an appropriate spray program without delay or routinely applying protective sprays during periods favorable to the disease.

Strawberry transplants are commonly infected by powdery mildew, which is not surprising given the dense plant populations and summer growing conditions found in most nurseries. Some spores and mycelium are still living when the transplants arrive in Florida, but they do not immediately cause an outbreak. Unlike many other plant pathogens, *P. macularis* is suppressed by water due to rainfall or overhead watering during the establishment period. After establishment, disease development occurs during periods of mild temperatures (60 - 80° F) and high relative humidity (75-95%). These conditions can occur anytime from October to mid-December. Growers should be especially vigilant during this period regardless of the disease control strategy they follow. Proactive growers apply powdery mildew fungicide(s) on a 7- to 14 day schedule during November and early December, whether or not the disease is visible. These fungicides do not include captan or thiram which are not very effective against powdery mildew. A variant on this strategy would be to apply suitable fungicides during this period whenever temperature and relative humidity favor disease development. Those who apply fungicides only when the disease is discovered should scout their fields frequently, looking for whitish fungal growth on the undersides of the leaves (Photo 1—right). Sometimes this growth is sparse and hard to see, especially in 'Camarosa'. Therefore the scout should also be alert for the first signs of purpling and upward curling of the leaves (Photo 2). Anyone trying to control powdery mildew should keep in mind that fungicides work best during early stages of the disease when the number of spores is relatively small and controllable.

For this season, the list of fungicides available for powdery mildew control has changed and grown. Nova, which contains the active ingredient myclobutanil, has been renamed Rally. Sonoma is a competing brand

that also contains myclobutanil. Fungicides in the same chemical class as myclobutanil (Rally and Sonoma) include trifumizole (Procure), and two brands of tetraconazole (Bumper and Orbit). These products are mentioned as a group since they have similar properties. All are systemic fungicides with curative action, which comes in handy if a grower is delayed in starting his control program. All share a common, single mode of action and, for this reason, should be rotated with other fungicides with different properties to counteract the development of resistance. Rotation partners include the strobilurin fungicides Abound, Cabrio, and Pristine. In addition, powdery mildew was recently added to the label of Switch. Quintec, a new and effective product with a different mode of action from other powdery mildew products, also has been labeled for strawberries. Quintec has a 12 month plant-back interval for crops not on the label. Fortunately, peppers, and cucurbits with non-edible peels such as cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon have been added to the label and may be planted immediately after strawberry if Quintec is used.

Alternative products for powdery mildew control include the bicarbonates (Amicarb, Kaligreen, and Milstop), hydrogen peroxide (Oxidate), sulfurs, oils, and potassium silicate (Sil-Matrix). Care must be exercised when using the sulfurs when temperatures exceed 80 to 85°. Oil-based products are occasionally phytotoxic under Florida conditions and may suppress plant growth. Additional information on strawberry powdery mildew and the products used to control it are given in a fact sheet (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP129) on the University of Florida's EDIS website.

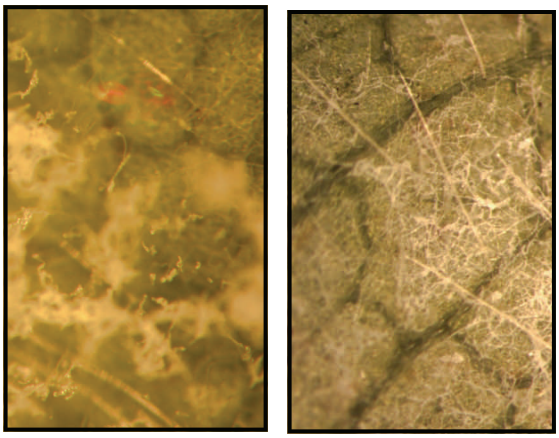

Photo 1. Left: Fungal growth with chains of spores (60X). Right:Fungal growth on lower leaf surface (15X)

Photo 2. Left: Leaf purpling. Right: Leaf curling.

Soil Fumigation with K-Pam: Importance of Water Volumes and Fumigant Concentration for Nutsedge Control

Bielinski M. Santos
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Background. The search for methyl bromide (MBr) alternatives has been a vast source of research during the last decade, in which hundreds of trials have been conducted statewide to examine different combinations of soil fumigants in polyethylene-mulched tomato, pepper, strawberry, and cucurbits. Although, a great deal of progress has been achieved in this field, currently there is no single molecule

to replace MBr. Instead, on-going research focuses not only on certain fumigant and herbicide active ingredients, but also on application techniques and formulations to improve efficacy on weeds.

Nutsedge species are the most troublesome weeds to control in polyethylene-mulched beds. Both purple and yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus* spp.) have the ability to emerge through the mulch films and cause yield and quality losses. A great deal of research has been conducted on tomato, where some important alternatives are available. However, in other vegetables and ornamentals, these alternatives do not look as clear as for tomato. Examples of these are the methyl isothiocyanate generators dazomet, metam sodium, and metam potassium (K-Pam). The first two molecules have been the subject of extensive scrutiny with mixed results on nutsedge control. Recently, various reports have suggested improved K-Pam performance on these weeds. However, K-Pam rates, application techniques and formulations are blamed for the inconsistent results on nutsedge. Field research with drip-applied K-Pam has focused on determining the most appropriate water application volumes and flow rates, injection rates, and concentrations for nutsedge control.

Water Application Volume and Flow. Research plots were established at the GCREC to determine the effect of water volumes and flow levels of K-Pam on nutsedge control. For these trials, 8 inch tall by 28 inch wide beds were pressed and covered with low-density polyethylene mulch. Two drip irrigation lines with emitters every 12 inches were placed under the plastic. A single K-Pam rate of 60 gal/acre was injected with 1 (»3000 ppm) and 2 acre-in/acre (»1500 ppm) of water. The flow rates were 0.22, 0.34, and 0.45 gal/min/100 ft within each water volume. An untreated control was included. Nutsedge was counted at 2, 10, and 15 weeks after treatment (WAT). The results indicated that the application of K-Pam improved nutsedge control at 2 WAT. However, this effect disappeared at 10 WAT and beyond. There were no differences among these water flow levels and volumes, indicating that speed of K-Pam injection did not improve efficacy. This finding suggested that K-Pam rates and concentrations had to be studied more closely to improve performance.

Application Rates. Field trials at the GCREC were carried out as described above. Application rates were: a) 30 gal/acre applied with 0.5 acre-inch/acre of water (»3000 ppm); b) 60 gal/acre in 0.5 acre-inch/acre of water (»6000 ppm); c) 60 gal/acre in 1 acre-inch/acre of water (»3000 ppm); d) 120 gal/acre in 1 acre-inch/acre of water (»6000 ppm); e) 120 gal/acre in 2 acre-inch/acre of water (»3000 ppm); and f) 240 gal/acre applied with 2 acre-inch/acre of water (»6000 ppm). Nutsedge was counted at 4 and 10 WAT. All the K-Pam treatments improved nutsedge control with respect to the untreated check. These trials confirmed that water volume alone was not an important factor to improve efficacy. Instead, water volume and rate combined played significant roles in the definition of the concentrations applied in the field. Those treatments with 6000 ppm, regardless of the water volume and rate, had better nutsedge control than those with 3000 ppm.

Concentration Levels. The effect of K-Pam concentrations on nutsedge growth was assessed using similar methodology as explained previously. The applied concentrations were 0, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, and 6000 ppm. Nutsedge densities were determined at 4, 6, and 10 WAT. The application of 2000 ppm caused a sharp decrease on the weed population, followed by slow density reductions thereafter (Figure 1). At 4, 6 or 10 WAT, there were no differences in efficacy between 5000 and 6000 ppm. This indicated that 5000 ppm appeared to be the critical K-Pam concentration to obtain nutsedge densities

below 100 plants/10 ft row. The application of 3000 ppm had poor performance in the trials. This concentration has been usually recommended based on 60 gal/acre of K-Pam applied with 1 acre-inch/acre of water. These trials consistently show that concentration is more important than rates for effective nutsedge control with K-Pam.

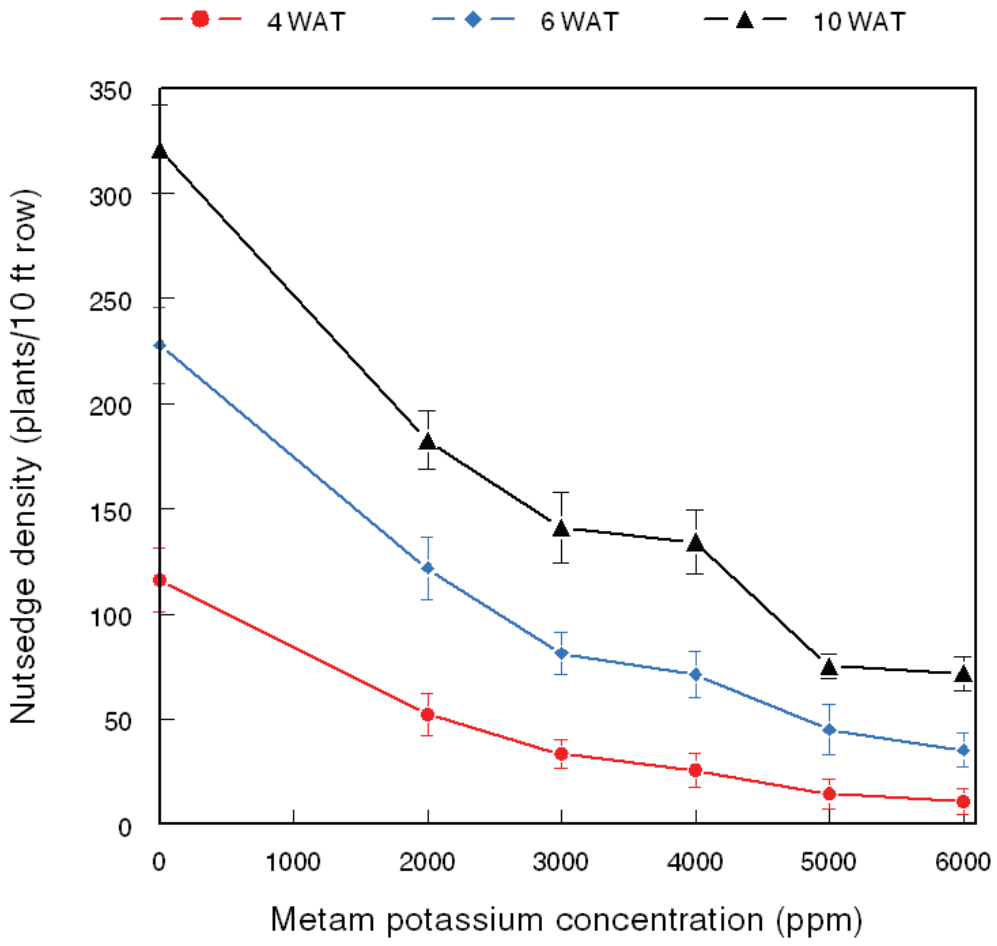

Figure 1. Effect of metam potassium (K-Pam) concentrations on nutsedge densities (WAT= weeks after treatment).

Brazilian Strawberry Symposium and Workshop on Colletotrichum Diseases of Fruit Crops

Natalia Peres

At the beginning of August, Craig Chandler and I went to Brazil to give presentations at the Brazilian Strawberry Symposium. The symposium was organized by EMBRAPA (Brazil's equivalent to the USDA) and was held in Pelotas in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in southern Brazil. The meeting was attended by about 250 people including researchers, extension agents, consultants, growers, and students from about 10 different states in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. After the symposium, the Brazilian representatives for Viansa strawberry nursery of Argentina served as our hosts to visit a couple of strawberry growers in the area. One of those growers has been very successful in producing 'Strawberry Festival' on a semi-hydroponic system. In the past few years, 'Strawberry Festival' has become one of the most popular short day cultivars in the major strawberry growing areas of Brazil. More information about strawberry production in Brazil can be found in the April 2007 issue of the BVT Newsletter (http://strawberry.ifas.ufl.edu/BerryTimes/2007/BVT0407.pdf).

In the middle of August, I had the opportunity to attend the International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) which was held in Torino, Italy. The meeting was attended by about 1800 plant pathologists from all over the world and it was a great opportunity to interact with researchers from many different places. Dr. Pete Timmer (from the UF-CREC, Lake Alfred) and I organized a one-day workshop on Colletotrichum Diseases of Fruit Crops prior to the general ICPP. The workshop dealt with the species, populations and control of diseases caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum* on many crops such as strawberries, blueberries, citrus, apples, grapes, olives, almonds and tropical fruits. About 40 investigators from many different countries attended the workshop. The principal talks were presented by invited speakers from Costa Rica, Israel, New Zealand, Spain and the U.S. (AR, CA, FL, NC, and NJ). In addition, there were 12 contributed posters and short talks by experts from other countries such as Belgium, England, Norway and Australia. A booklet was prepared in advance including summaries of all the invited talks and abstracts of the contributed posters. A CD is being prepared of the written summaries and the PowerPoint presentations and will be distributed to all the participants as well as to others with interest in the area that were unable to attend. More importantly, the workshop served to stimulate interesting discussions on the status of knowledge on these diseases and hopefully served to generate future collaborations among researchers working on diseases caused by Colletotrichum. The ICPP meeting is only held every 4 years and, unfortunately, it coincided with our Agritech meeting this year. I apologize for missing Agritech and I hope to make it up to you during our AgExpo on November 5!

Help us Help the Environment

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