



# Berry/Vegetable Times

## December 2005



### From Your Agent... Upcoming Grower Meetings

#### 2005—2006 Calendar of Events

Dec. 8 Cucurbit Production Workshop, GCREC, Balm. FREE. For more information contact Alicia at 813-744-5519, ext. 134 or Phyllis at 941-722-4524, ext. 229. Please RSVP. More information in newsletter.

Dec. 13 Pesticide License Testing. Hillsborough Co. Extension Office, Seffner. 9 am. For more information call Dave Palmer, 813-744-5519, ext 103.

Dec. 14-15 Spanish Pesticide License Training and Testing. Manatee Co. Extension Office, Palmetto. 8:30-5:00. \$10/day. CEUs offered for those who already have a pesticide license. If seeking a pesticide license you must attend both days. For more information or to register call Betty at 941-722-4524.

Jan. 4-6, 2006 North American Berry Conference. Savannah, Ga. Website for more information - nasga.org.

Jan. 5-7, 2006 Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference. Savannah, Ga. Website for more information - vga.org.

Jan. 25, 2006 Frost/Freeze Protection Workshop for Strawberry, Blueberry, and Ornamental Plant Nursery Operations. Hillsborough County Extension Office, Seffner, 11:00 -4:30. Lunch provided. Please RSVP to Alicia Whidden at 813-744-5519, ext. 134.

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In the next 2 months there are three grower meetings scheduled. Two are for growers in our area and the third is more regional in scope. The first one will be the Cucurbit Production Workshop on Dec. 8 at GCREC in Balm. This is a broad topic to cover in an afternoon but we will be covering all aspects of growing squashes, melons and cukes and the problems you might be having.. The auditorium will be divided with talks on one side starting at 1:30 and the other side will be a trade show. There will be a break so you will have time to visit with the vendors and have refreshments. Vendors will be available to talk with you before and after the talks also. A schedule of the talks is at the back of the newsletter. Please RSVP if possible just so we will an idea of

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### Intrepid® 2F Insecticide Registered for Armyworms in Strawberry

Jim Price and Curtis Nagle

Dow AgroSciences has registered Intrepid® 2F methoxyfenozide for armyworm and corn earworm control in strawberries. This action was taken via a supplemental labeling procedure under the specimen label for certain fruits, nuts and vegetables. This product is unlike any other used in strawberries and represents an effective complement to other good caterpillar insecticides now available. Methoxyfenozide has very little effect on other arthropod groups so it will be compatible with sound IPM practices that encourage activities by beneficial insects and mites. Its use for armyworms and corn earworms will not disrupt biological control of spider mites by *Phytoseiulus persimilis* or *Neoseiulus californicus*.

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*(Continued—Grower's Meetings)*

the number who will be attending but even if you don't RSVP you can still join us on Dec. 8. CEUs and CCA credits will be available.

The regional meeting for growers will be held in the lovely town of Savannah, Georgia from January 4-7 and will have talks on many crops. Part of the meeting is the North American Berry Conference which will be held January 4-6; this includes the North American Strawberry Growers Association (NASGA) Annual Meeting. Then from January 5-7 the 2006 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Winter Conference will also be going on. This is being billed as the largest educational conference and trade show to be held in the southeast. The conference includes the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Association, Georgia Peach Council, Georgian Blueberry Growers Association, Georgia Strawberry Association, Georgia Muscadine Association, NASGA, North American Bramble Growers Association, South Carolina Strawberry Association and many others. The joint meeting will be held at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. For more information, go to [gfvga.org](http://gfvga.org).

The third meeting will be the Frost/Freeze Protection Workshop for Strawberry, Blueberry and Ornamental Nursery Operations. This will be held at the Hillsborough Extension Office at 5339 CR 579 in Seffner on Jan. 25. It will start at 11:00 and last till approximately 4:30. Lunch will be provided so please RSVP to me at 813-74405519, ext. 134.

*Have a great holiday season!*

**Alicia Whidden**

813-744-5519, ext. 134

[ajwhidden@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:ajwhidden@ifas.ufl.edu)

*(Continued—Intrepid®)*

The label states that Intrepid® 2F is for early season application only to young crops and small plants. Plant City area caterpillar problems are usually greatest during this period. The product must be ingested by the caterpillar in order to function, so thorough plant coverage when caterpillars are feeding is important.

Methoxyfenozide is an insect growth regulator that causes target caterpillars to go through an incomplete, lethal molt. It can be sprayed at 6-12 ounces of formulated product per acre per application but is restricted to a maximum of 64 ounces per acre during one season. Feeding and other activity ceases soon after the caterpillar ingests the toxicant but the insect may not die for several days.

A 4 hour re-entry interval and a 3 day pre-harvest interval must elapse between application and re-entry or harvest. Any food and feed crop can be planted in treated areas 7 days after the last application.

The availability of Intrepid® 2F can be particularly important to strawberry farmers using predatory mites who experience early season armyworm problems and wish to reserve allotted SpinTor® or Entrust® for later thrips management. Strawberry farmers can expect good control of armyworms and corn earworms when this product is applied according to label instructions.

***The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee or warranty of the products names and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others of suitable composition.***

***Use pesticides safely.***

***Read and follow directions on the manufacturer's label.***

## Nuffield Farming Scholar Visits GCREC

Craig Chandler

David Northcroft, recipient of a 2005 Nuffield Farming Scholarship, recently visited GCREC to learn more about the Florida strawberry industry and the center's strawberry research and extension programs. The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust was established in Great Britain in 1947, and is dedicated to the promotion of plant and animal agriculture, forestry, and rural lands management education. The Trust does this primarily through scholarships. These scholarships make it possible for recipients to travel to other parts of the world to learn about practices and techniques that relate to their chosen agricultural topic of study. Scholars must write a report at the completion of their travels, and summaries of these reports are available on the Trust's web site [www.nuffieldscholar.org.uk](http://www.nuffieldscholar.org.uk). Funded by the agriculture and food industry, charities and trusts with agricultural objectives, and past Scholars themselves, the Trust makes about 20 new awards each year.

Northcroft, an engaging and bright young man who has a masters degree in crop plant health, has chosen as his topic "Responding to consumer pressures in soft fruit [strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, and blueberry] production". Northcroft's first stop on his 80 day, round the world trip, was the Dover/Plant City area, where he met with growers, shippers, technical reps, and FSGA executive director Chip Hinton. Then, after spending a day at GCREC, he was off to learn about how soft fruits are produced and marketed in Oregon, California, Australia, and China.

Northcroft works for KG Growers Ltd., a growers cooperative based in England. KG Growers is the United Kingdom's largest soft and stone fruit cooperative, with over 70 growers providing about 50% of the soft fruit marketed in the UK.

## Phytophthora crown rot vs. Colletotrichum crown rot

Natalia Peres and James Mertely

Phytophthora crown rot produces a sudden wilt of plants in strawberry fields. This disease is caused mainly by the species *Phytophthora cactorum*, although *P. citricola* has also been reported. The wilt and crown rot symptoms are difficult to distinguish from those produced by Colletotrichum crown rot (caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*) (Figs.1 and 2). Thus, it is necessary to make isolations of the fungus from recently infected plants for identification of the pathogen. Phytophthora crown rot, as well as Colletotrichum crown rot, is favored by warm temperatures and prolonged periods of wetness, conditions that are typically observed during the plant establishment period in Florida. The inoculum of Phytophthora does not persist in infested soil and plant debris during the hot summer in Florida and fumigation with methyl bromide (as long as is still available) and chloropicrin help to prevent the disease. Thus, in Florida, the primary source for Phytophthora crown rot is infected transplants. Cultivars vary considerably in resistance to Phytophthora crown rot, however little research has been done under Florida conditions.

Although symptoms are similar, control measures for Phytophthora and Colletotrichum crown rots are distinct. In order to prevent Phytophthora epidemics in fruit production fields, mefenoxam (Ridomil Gold®), fosetyl-aluminum (Aliette®) or phosphite products should be applied preventively or as soon as the disease is found in the field. Ridomil Gold® can be applied as a foliar spray or through the drip irrigation system from plant establishment period and until the plants flower. Fosetyl-aluminum and the phosphite materials also can be applied during the season, when Ridomil applications are not permitted. If the problem is Colletotrichum

crown rot, foliar sprays of Captan or Topsin should be applied to prevent spread of the disease.

Growers are encouraged to submit samples of crown rot affected plants for diagnosis at the GCREC Diagnostic Clinic prior to making applications for disease control. For more information, consult our website at <http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.

For information regarding *Colletotrichum* crown rot control, consult our article in the May issue of the Berry Times.



Fig. 1. Crown symptoms of *Phytophthora* crown rot.



Fig. 2. Crown symptoms of *Colletotrichum* crown rot.

## GCREC to Host North Carolina Strawberry Growers Association

Christine Cooley

Upcoming in January 2006, the North Carolina Strawberry Association is sponsoring an opportunity to visit strawberry growers in Florida to see how they handle growing, picking, packing, and marketing of their berries. They will get to interact with these growers and see the equipment they use on their farms. They also plan to visit the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center as well as research at the Florida Strawberry Growers Association's new educational facilities, which is located at the former Dover Research Center. The participants will have the rare opportunity, as a small group of about 50, to see and learn from some of the top strawberry professionals on the East Coast.

During their visit to GCREC, the association members will tour the strawberry fields, grading rooms and laboratories. Several faculty members will be giving presentations on topics of interest such as mites, methyl bromide and strawberry varieties.

GCREC welcomes the opportunity to share research and information on the commodities grown and studied here at GCREC. For tour information, call the center at (813) 634-0000, Ext. 3101 or visit the website at <http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.



**For your information, GCREC will be closed from December 25 through January 2nd. We will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, January 3rd.**



## Cucurbit Production Workshop

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Gulf Coast Research & Education Center, Balm

If you grow watermelons, cantaloupe, squash or cucumbers, this meeting is a must. Learn about current pest problems, new control measures, varieties and irrigation/fertilizer management. Visit with vendor/sponsors to learn more about the latest control materials and what's coming for the future.

### Agenda

- 1:30 pm **Cucurbit virus and insect problems.** New control materials.  
*Dr. Susan Webb, UF/IFAS, Extension Entomologist, Gainesville*
- 1:55 pm **Major cucurbit diseases and control measures. Watermelon vine decline update.**  
*Dr. Pam Roberts, UF/IFAS, Pathologist, SWFREC, Immokalee*
- 2:20 pm **Nematode problems in cucurbits. Life after methyl bromide?**  
*Dr. Joe Noling, UF/IFAS, Nematologist, CREC, Lake Alfred*
- 2:40 pm **Weeds, weed competition and weed control.**  
*Dr. Bill Stall, UF/IFAS, Extension Weed Specialist, Gainesville*
- 3:00 pm **Break** – Enjoy refreshments and visit with vendors.
- 3:30 pm **Fertilizer and irrigation management for cucurbits, including doublecropping.**  
*Dr. Eric Simonne, UF/IFAS, Extension Specialist, Gainesville*
- 3:50 pm **Personal melons, melon pollinizers and new melon varieties.**  
*Dr. Don Maynard, UF/IFAS, Professor Emeritus, GCREC, Balm*
- 4:10 pm **Squash, cantaloupe and cucumber variety update.**  
*Alicia Whidden, UF/IFAS, Extension Agent, Hillsborough County*
- 4:30 pm **Adjourn**, visit with vendors

**Meeting is free. Pre-registration is requested.**

Please call Alicia at 813-744-5519 or Phyllis at 941-722-4524.

2 CEUs and 2.5 CCA credits have been approved.