



April 30, 2020

Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

Web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Social media:  

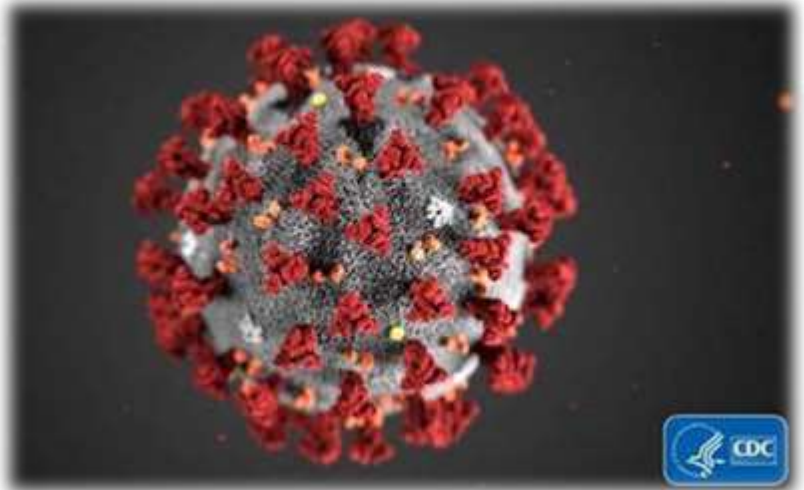
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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

We strive to be prudent and provide the best service possible while keeping our clientele and our staff safe during this uncertain time. In view of the precautions required to contain Coronavirus (COVID-19), while the center is not officially closed, its operations have been reduced to essential services. Rather than visiting the center, our grower clientele is

encouraged to contact faculty and staff via e-mail addresses provided on our web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>. In addition, we are developing a series of virtual educational seminars. The first two, vegetable grower meetings in late March and mid-April, were deemed successes with thirty-five-plus participants each. A technology-related meeting is being developed for May. More details will follow.



The following meetings/trainings have been postponed due to COVID-19:

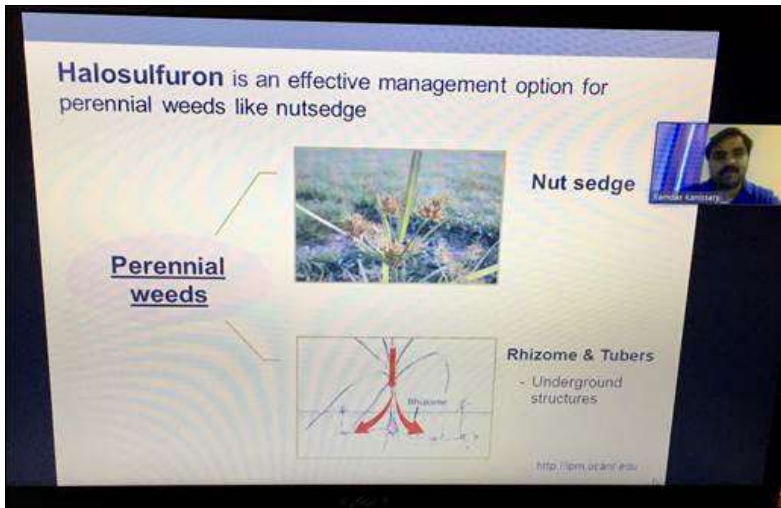
- 30th Annual UF/IFAS Farm Safety Day--May 1 & 2, SWFREC

Coronavirus Information Abounds with SWFREC Grower Expert

Associate director of stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy has been busy with media interviews in light of COVID-19. Click on the links below to read/see/hear the most recent segments/articles that include his comments and expertise:

- <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2020/04/14/coronavirus-south-florida-farmers/>
- <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2020/04/14/coronavirus-south-florida-farmers/>
- <http://vscnews.com/day-south-florida-agriculture-changed/>
- <https://news.wgcu.org/programs/gulf-coast-life-wgcu>
- <https://fortmyers.floridaweekly.com/articles/feeding-florida/>
- https://wgcu.drupal.publicbroadcasting.net/post/major-tomato-grower-responds-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1bej7RaEYOcZrG8-uA52hpxO6nqC_c8apNkAoNnADs0M7FC1QsY3VXOXA
- <https://caloosabelle.com/coronavirus/guest-commentary-the-day-south-florida-agriculture-died/>

Virtual Grower Meeting Deemed a Success



Thirty-six growers and other industry representatives participated in a Vegetable Grower Meeting last week. Focus on Weed Management included a presentation by SWFREC weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery titled **“Weed Management in Vegetable Production: Efficacy and Longevity.”** It focused on aspects of effective, long-term, and crop-safe weed suppression in vegetable production, mostly focusing on tomatoes and peppers.

Extension Publications Provide Virus Info

To read articles written by UF/IFAS faculty and staff about the Coronavirus, you can visit the Electronic Data Information Source here: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_covid19.

Survey Seeks Information from Florida Growers

UF/IFAS Extension has been hearing from agriculture and aquaculture producers throughout the state about ways the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their daily work and livelihoods. In this unprecedented and challenging time, the value of their work has never been more evident. It is with this in mind that the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department has developed five surveys, one of which is specific to agriculture and aquaculture operations designed to be completed by an agriculture and/or aquaculture professional involved in production, processing, and/or transportation. It encompasses crop production, forestry/timber, nursery and greenhouse operations, agritourism, beekeeping, etc. Click here to access and complete the survey: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3sYZE3NF19Ik949. Your participation is important during this time and is much appreciated.

Pesticide License Renewal Grace Period Extended

Florida agriculture commissioner Nikki Fried has extended the timeframe for reporting and renewing restricted-use pesticide licenses by an additional sixty days, effective April 20, 2020. Please note that UF/IFAS does offer a number of online resources for obtaining credits. Click here for more information: <https://ifas-pest.catalog.instructure.com/>.

Graduate Student Residence Progress Photos



Notice: Possible Graft Incompatibility

Recently, some apparent graft compatibility issues affecting the new citrus rootstock US-1283 and particular scions were noticed. To read a brief statement about this, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/plant-physiology/2020-02-14-Albrecht_Notice-possible-graft-incompatibility.pdf. For further information, contact SWFREC plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht (ualbrecht@ufl.edu) or Dr. Kim Bowman (Kim.bowman@usda.gov), research geneticist with USDA ARS in Fort Pierce.

Operation Clean Sweep

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announces the 2019-2020 Operation Clean Sweep program, a mobile pesticide collection effort that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended, and unusable pesticides. The free service is available to farms/groves, greenhouses, nurseries, golf courses, and pest control entities. For more information, including how to sign up, click here: <https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/operation-cleansweep-pesticides>.

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