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CONTENTS

I. NOTES OF INTEREST
   A. New Publications
   B. Vegetable Crops Calendar

II. PESTICIDE UPDATE
   A. Crisis Exemption for the Use of Trigard on Tomatoes

III. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
   A. Section 18, Specific Exemption Labels: Caution Statement

IV. HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING
   A. Know Your Minor Vegetables - Potherb Mustard
   B. Plant Science March Issue 4-H Digest
   C. 4-H Horticulture Institute
I. NOTES OF INTEREST

A. New Publications

Florida WF 75-6 and WF 75-13 -- Two Early Maturing Pepper Breeding Lines with Concentrated Fruit Set, Circular S-293, by G. J. Wilfret and D. S. Burgis is available from the Publication Distribution Center, Bldg. 664, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611.

(Maynard)

B. Vegetable Crops Calendar

1. The Third Annual Cucurbit Variety Demonstration scheduled for May 3 at the ARC, Leesburg has been cancelled.

(Maynard)

2. 4-H Horticulture Institute - June 13-17 - Camp Cloverleaf, Lake Placid, FL.

(McDonald)

3. Dr. Will E. Waters, Center Director has announced that the Agricultural Research and Education Center in Bradenton, Florida in conjunction with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service has scheduled a Vegetable Field Day for Thursday, May 19, 1983. The Program follows:

Program -- Thursday, May 19, 1983

8:45AM Assembly and Registration
9:15 Welcome and Introduction . . . W. E. Waters, Center Director
9:25 Extension Service in Florida Today
9:40 Fusarium Disease of Tomato . . . . . . . . . . . . J. P. Jones
9:50 Tomato Breeding Update . . . . . . . . . . . . J. W. Scott
10:00 Solarization and Broad Spectrum Soil Fumigants
10:10 Magnesium, Plant Nutrition and Disease Development
10:20 Bacterial Diseases of Tomato . . . . . . . . . . . J. B. Jones
10:30 Leafminer Research on Tomato . . . . . . . . . . . D. J. Schuster
10:40 Coffee Break
10:55 Weed Control Program for Vegetables . . . . . . J. P. Gilreath
11:05 Vegetable Variety Evaluation . . . . . . . . . . . T. K. Howe
11:15 Tomato Nitrification Retardants and Trickle Irrigation of Cole Crops . . . . . . . . . . . . . . A. A. Csizinszky
11:25 Water Requirements for Vegetables . . . . . . C. D. Stanley
11:35 Drip Irrigation of Tomatoes . . . . . . . . . . . . S. P. Kovach
11:45 Stability of Root Environments Using Seepage and Trickle Irrigation . . . . . . . C. M. Geraldson
Program -- Thursday, May 19, 1983 (Continued)

12:00 to 1:15PM - Dutch treat picnic box lunch under the oaks at AREC Bradenton
1:30 to 4:00 - Tour of research plots - AREC Bradenton
4:00 Adjourn

(Stall)

4. Central and South Florida Weed Tour

Drs. J. P. Gilreath, AREC, Bradenton and Joan A. Dusky, AREC, Belle Glade have announced the Second Annual Central and South Florida Weed Tour to be conducted April 20 and 21, 1983.

The tour will begin the morning of April 20 at the Bradenton Agricultural Research and Education Center and finish at the Ft. Lauderdale Agricultural Research and Education Center in the afternoon of April 21. Herbicide trials in vegetables, ornamentals, rice and aquatic will be toured.

All travel from location to location will be conducted as that during the Deep South Weed Tour.

If there are any questions on aspects of the tour feel free to contact:

J. P. Gilreath, Weed Scientist
Bradenton AREC
Bradenton, FL 33508
(813) 755-1568

Joan A. Dusky, Weed Scientist
Belle Glade AREC
Belle Glade, FL 33430
(305) 996-3062

Program

Wednesday, April 20, 1983

8:30AM Registration - AREC Bradenton (Coffee and donuts served)
8:50 Introductory Remarks
9:05 Tour Weed Control Plots (Tomato, Pepper, Collard, Cucumber)
10:45 Travel to gladiolus farm (in Bradenton) - may stop to tour weed control plots in watermelon, squash and cucumber on grower's farm 2 miles from AREC.
1:15PM Break and travel to AREC Belle Glade (lunch en route - dutch treat)
6:30 Catfish Fry - AREC Belle Glade (good spirits and food)

Thursday, April 21

8:30AM Meet at AREC Belle Glade
8:45 Tour Weed Control Plots at A. Duda & Sons (Lettuce, Celery, Carrots, Rice, Sugar Cane)
Thursday, April 21 Continued)

11:30 Break and travel to Ft. Lauderdale (lunch en route – dutch treat)
2:30PM Ft. Lauderdale AREC tour aquatic herbicide weed control plots and aquatic research center
5:00 Break

(Stall)

II. PESTICIDE UPDATE

A. Crisis Exemption for the Use of Trigard on Tomatoes

Doyle Conner, Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, utilizing the crises provisions of Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act as amended, declared a crises exemption for the use of Trigard 75WP for the control of the tomato leafminer in Florida on March 16, 1983. A petition for a specific exemption is being prepared.

(Stall)

III. COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

A. Section 18, Specific Exemption Labels: Caution Statement.

On December 3, 1973, there was published in the Federal Register (FR Vol. 38, No. 231) regulations governing the exemption of Federal and State Agencies for the use of pesticides under the emergency provisions of Section 18, of the FIFRA, as amended by the FEPCA of 1972. Under the provision of the law the Administrator may exempt a Federal or State Agency from the requirements of the Act if he determines that conditions exist which may require such an exemption.

These regulations provide for three (3) types of exemptions, Crisis, Quarantine – Public Health and Specific Exemptions.

The specific exemption is extremely important in vegetable production due to the lack of Federally registered pesticides and the abundance of difficult to control pests in the state.

Each specific exemption must be requested, in writing, by the head of a Federal Agency or the Governor of the state involved, or his official designee. In Florida, the official designee is Doyle Conner, Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Detailed information must be submitted with the request. The information package is completed and submitted to FDACS by a petition (individual or group) with the support of the product(s) manufacturer. The company must be willing to distribute the product under the proposed
emergency label. If the specific exemption is granted the product may be applied only for the pests indicated and only under the restrictions on the exempted label.

The initial Section 18 labels granted in Florida have been insecticides and fungicides. The control received under these exemptions have been very good and the crop tolerances excellent. Herbicides have also been granted specific exemptions under Section 18, in Florida.

Growers should be extremely careful in the use of new herbicides. Herbicides react quite differently in the many different soil types and environmental conditions found in Florida. It is a standard recommendation that a grower try a new herbicide on a small trial basis to check efficiency and phytotoxicity before application in a large production field. Because of the emergency nature of Section 18 labels, this is not always carried out.

Application equipment should also be carefully calibrated. There is a narrow range of rates for many herbicides that is both effective and safe for the crop.

Herbicides that have Section 18 labels many times have not been tried on all soil types in the state. What is known is that the product is effective and safe at the rates indicated from tests conducted at two or more locations within the state. County Agents, consultants and farm service and supply representatives are obligated to advise the grower that the product is labeled. It is also important that they caution the grower on its use. Herbicides should not be recommended until they are tried under local conditions.

The petitioner for the Section 18, specific exemption for Dual on broccoli, cabbage and collards, after consultation with Ciba-Geigy, has asked FDA CS to request that the specific exemption be rescinded. This request was due to the occurrence of phytotoxicity on one of the labeled crops and to cauliflower, which is not labeled. This occurred in only one area of the state.

When actions such as this must be taken, the vegetable industry as a whole in the state is affected.

An important point to remember is that the disregard of restrictions on the Section 18 label or simply not following all restrictions, plus failing to use caution in the application of the pesticide, may jeopardize the entire Section 18 program. This is true for all types of pesticides, not just herbicides. Applicators should keep in mind that:

1. A section 18, specific exemption is an emergency use label only, not a federal label.
2. All restrictions on the exempted label must be followed.

3. Caution should and must be followed in the use of the product.

Following the above practices will lead to an orderly pesticide registration.

(Stall)

IV. HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING

A. Know Your Minor Vegetables - Potherb Mustard

Potherb mustard (Brassica juncea var. japonica) is an oriental cooking green also known as mizuna, kyona, Japanese greens, and sometimes California peppergrass. It is widely grown in Japan, but only occasionally in gardens in the U.S. and Florida.

In appearance, potherb mustard has about the same plant height (12-18"), color (yellow-green), and texture (smooth and a bit fuzzy) as curly mustard, but the leaf shape is quite different. Leaves of potherb mustard are deeply-notched, feathery, and quite attractive. They are clumped in a compact 12 inch diameter bunch.

In the Florida garden grow potherb mustard at the same time of the years as other cool season greens - September through March. It withstands frost and light freezes, but is not quick to seed even in periods of warm weather which occur during the winter months.

Start potherb mustard by sowing seeds directly in the garden. Sow seeds 1/2 inch deep in rows spaced 12 to 18 inches apart. Thin out the seedlings so that plants stand 6-12 inches apart. Use the extra plants as they are thinned, or transplant to other areas of the garden.

Prepare the garden soil much as you would for other vegetables. Apply about 2 pounds (1 quart) of 6-6-6 fertilizer per 100 sq ft at planting time, broadcast into the planting bed. Then follow with a side dressing of a similar fertilizer about 3 to 4 weeks after seeding. Be sure to water frequently.

In the garden at Gainesville, few if any pests bothered the mustard in the fall and winter.

Harvest and Use — The leaves are ready for use anytime after about three weeks of growth. Break off as many leaves as needed, but keep enough young foliage to continue regrowth. If you prefer, harvest the entire plant, to make room for planting some other kind of vegetable.
The leaves may be eaten raw, as in a salad, but the taste is too mild to be enjoyed this way. The ornate leaves make the salad more decorative, however.

As a potherb it is prepared in many ways – as a steamed or boiled well-seasoned green; stir-fried; in soups; or mixed with other vegetables.

Like other mustard, potherb-mustard is rich in vitamins and minerals.

(Stephens)

B. Plant Sciences March Issue 4-H Digest

The March issue of the 4-H Digest is designed to help you take advantage of the resources available through the National 4-H Council in the program area of Plant Sciences.

There are numerous activities listed to help your 4-H'ers become more involved in areas such as entomology, commodity marketing, agriculture, gardening and horticulture and plant and soil sciences. The activities will undoubtedly develop leadership skills in both youth and adults in plant sciences and will open many doors for exploring career opportunities.

Also included in this issue are a listing of corporations that will help you stimulate excellence in these programs by providing incentives and awards and other support at county, state and national levels.

The last page of the Digest list many of the educational aids – member and leader manuals, slide sets and special publications that relate to these program areas.

A copy of the March issue of the 4-H Digest can be found in the March 1983 National 4-H News Magazine or through Dr. Tom Greenawalt, 4-H Department, 109 Rolfs Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, (904) 392-1744.

(McDonald)

C. 4-H Horticulture Institute – June 13-17, 1983

Each 4-H Agent will soon be receiving registration and program information for the upcoming Horticulture Institute at Camp Cloverleaf (June 13-17). The deadline for registration is May 10, 1983. This program is open to all 4-H members between 11-18 years with an enrollment cap at 100 participants.
The program this year will emphasize vegetable crops and touch on other areas such as ornamental horticulture and fruit crops.

For more registration information call Dr. Tom Greenawalt, 4-H Department, University of Florida, (904) 392-1744.

(McDonald)

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