

Small Farms, Big Business



IFAS EXTENSION MARION COUNTY

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Watch out for those Bugs



Insect eggs on leaf underside.

Correct identification of pest problems is the beginning of a successful integrated pest management. Regular scouting can provide an early warning of problems. Two or more methods of pest control are usually more effective than a single method. The following five methods

can be used to prevent and control the invasion of pests into your crops:

- Mechanical Control - use of machinery or hand labor
- Physical Methods - manipulating environmental factors such as temperature, light, humidity, heat, and/or solarization
- Cultural Methods - growing plants that resist pests, crop rotation, planting dates, fertilization, irrigation, elimination of crop residues, or other practices that keep pests away from the crop
- Biological Control - natural enemies such as parasites, predators, or microbes

- Pesticide Use - for prevention and control of pests. For specifics on pesticide use contact the Extension office. It is highly encouraged that you get a certified pesticide applicator's license.

Scouting your crops

Early detection of pests is important because crop damage may be severe and/or management options limited if problems are not detected early.

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Planning for Your Successful Farm Short Course

This course is for aspiring and beginning farmers, second career farm entrepreneurs, and landowners interested in developing farming enterprises, which include fruit and vegetable production and who have 0- 5 years experience managing a farm.

What is it about? Participants will develop key skills and knowledge that are criti-

cal to manage a successful fruit and vegetable farm operation. Participants will assess their resources and select various options for developing individual farming plans, such as:

- Crop Selection
- Marketing
- Soil Management
- Fertility Management

- Integrated Pest Management
- Cropping Systems

This training will provide the new and potential farmer with the necessary information that is crucial for the success of the beginning farm. For more information click the following link:

<http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Upcoming Events

- **Planning for Your Successful Farm Short Course**

<http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu/>

- **Master Goat and Sheep Program**

May 4th-5th;

18th-19th

- **Planning for the Future of your Family Lands**

May 24th

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3000930865>

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Watch out for those Bugs

Regular scouting can:

- Prevent a serious problem
- Determine the exact cause of the problem
- Determine where the problem occurs
- Determine the most economical option for control
- Provide evidence for effectiveness of the control methods used

Once you found the bug...

Pest identification is the most important step. Once you find the culprit you can use identification guides or the Extension services to confirm the identity of your suspect. Not all insects are susceptible to the same pesticides regardless of organic or traditional culture methods.

The Usual Suspects

When scouting, look for plant damage, feces in the plant material, unusually shaped portions of the plant, egg clusters or other unusual visual cues. You can use a white cloth or cardboard to put under the plants while you shake them gently. Check the white surface after this and collect the bugs that you find.

Some of the most common insect pests are:

Aphids (a) - Soft bodied insect, usually found in undersides of new and tender leaves and shoots. Generally are dark and/or green. Adults are generally wingless. Most female aphids reproduce asexually, giving birth to live young. Their short life cycle accounts for rapid increases in population.

Thrips (b) - Tiny and very slender. The adults are very active and when disturbed move quickly and disperse. Their mouthparts can either chew or pierce and the damage caused by their feeding activities makes the leaves look as if they had silver spots.

Caterpillars (c) - usually the caterpillars that we encounter in our vegetables are the younger morph of moths and not butterflies. They have biting mouthparts and will feed constantly. When scouting, look for biting damage on leaves. Cutworms will hide on the soil when plants are young and can cut the stems off of young transplants.

Stinkbugs (d) - these groups of bugs have piercing mouthparts like aphids. Green and black stinkbugs, squash bugs, leaf-footed bugs and others can carry viruses that can affect the growth of the plant and the shape of the fruit. These bugs will lay eggs on the underside of the leaves of many cucurbits such as squash, cucumbers and zucchini.



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