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Panhandle: Hay production in North-west Florida is close to normal due to the recent rains. Conditions for hay production, although not excellent, have been adequate. In the area, the second hay cutting was in August and the third by the end of September. A lot of hay that was ready to be cut was on hold due to the recent tropical storm but was eventually cut. This year producers had 2-3 cuttings because early in the season it was slow due to lack of moisture, but there has been a dramatic change; if normal conditions had prevailed from the beginning of the year, 3 to 4 cuttings on Coastal or 4 to 5 could be expected on Tifton 85 bermudagrass. Prices of hay remain high $ 45-50 for round bales, and $ 6-7 for square bales.

Central Florida: Spring and early summer with reasonable hay making conditions that allowed for 1 cutting, followed by drought and immediate excessive high moisture that has not allowed any hay production. Recent storm impacts were most severely in the Atlantic coast of this region, in Brevard county, where over 1 foot and in some areas more than 2 were dumped by the storm. Central Florida challenges are expected with pests (mole cricket and worms).

South Florida: Conditions for pasture growth or hay production in the area have been extreme throughout the year, with no hay production and dry pastures from severe drought until the second week in July. Recent tropical storm ‘Fae’ dropped from 5-12 inches of rain in the area which has allowed to get caught up. Current stocking rates are good but there is not over production of pastures.

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Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5-9</td>
<td>American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Sunbelt Ag Expo</td>
<td>Moultrie, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Pasture Weed Day</td>
<td>UF/IFAS Ona Range Cattle Research Center, Ona, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>2008 Florida Ag Expo</td>
<td>Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Balm, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11-14</td>
<td>Methyl Bromide Alternatives Conference</td>
<td>Orlando, FL, <a href="http://mbao.org/">http://mbao.org/</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Winter forages in the state cannot be recommended in a ‘recipe’ fashion as they don’t grow in all places and all soil types. Winter grasses like cereal Rye adapt well to drier soils but others like ryegrass (cool-season grass, not a winter grain) require substantial moisture to grow properly. In North and North-central Florida ryegrass and most of the small grains are recommended. Recommendation for South Florida is almost exclusively Ryegrass because of the small window of cold temperatures; also temperature and disease pressure are too high to use any of the small grains for the mid-south and south Florida.

**Following are the recommend grass varieties for 2008 by maturity (early, medium, and late), and legumes:**

### Rye:
- **Early:** FL401 (for early grazing or use in blends), AGS 104.
- **Medium:** Wrens 96, Wrens Abruzzi, Pennington Wintergraze 70, and Early Graze.
- **Late:** Bates, Oklon.

### Oat:
- **Medium:** Horizon 201, Horizon 270, Horizon 321, Horizon 474, SS76-40, and NK-Coker 227
- **Late:** TAMO 406

### Wheat:
- Recommended varieties are all grain types that may be used for forage.
- **Medium:** AGS 2000 and Pioneer 26R61
- **Medium-late:** USG 3592

### Ryegrass:
- *Recommended cultivars with good season long productivity:
  - **Early:** Ed*
  - **Mid to late**: Jumbo, Florlina, Big Boss, Surrey II, Jackson, TAM 90, Brigadier, Fantastic.
  - **Late:** Jumbo, Prine, Big Daddy, Passeral plus.
- Other varieties may be suitable but have not been recently or tested enough years in Florida.

### Legumes - Recommended Varieties

#### White Clover:
- Osceola (developed in Florida), Louisiana S-1, Regal, Ladino, Durana and Patriot. Commercial seed production of white clover will be limited in 2008.

#### Red Clover:
- Southern Belle, Cherokee (both developed in Florida), Bulldog Red, Kenland, and Redland III. Commercial seed production of red clover will be limited in 2008.

#### Alfalfa:
- Alfalfa is usually grown as a winter short-term perennial in Florida, mainly in north FL. Florida 99, Bulldog 805, and Amerigraze 702.

#### Crimson Clover:
- Dixie and AU-Robin. Flame, Chief, and Tibbee. Commercial seed production for these cultivars will be limited in 2008.

#### Arrowleaf Clover:
- Apache and Yuchi. Apache has improved virus resistance compared to Yuchi.

#### Lupine:
- Tifblue. Tifwhite and Frost are also recommended, however, seed is currently unavailable.

#### Sweetclover:
- Hubam. New varieties should be commercially available shortly.

#### Austrian Winter Peas:
- Common. Commercial seed production of Austrian winter pea will be limited in 2008.

#### Vetch:
- Americus, AU-Early Cover, Cahaba White, and Nova II. Commercial seed production of most vetch varieties will be limited in 2008.

#### Ball Clover:
- Segrest and common. Commercial seed production was fair in 2008 and pre-inoculated seed will be available.

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The faculty at the North Florida Research Centers in Marianna and Quincy recently completed a two year study on control of Asian Soybean Rust on soybeans grown for forage. Soybean hay is highly nutritious and several north Florida beef and dairy cattle operations are growing Hinson Long Juvenile (non-GMO) forage soybean as a hay or silage crop. One problem with soybeans grown as a forage crop is the emergence of a new rust that hurts the foliage of the plant and reduces leaf and seed yields. There are few legal fungicides to use to protect a forage type crop and they are expensive. Cooperative efforts among faculty at the NFREC-Quincy have shown that Basic Cu Sulfate and Champion WP gave us the best control of Asian Soybean Rust when applied at the recommended rates and timing of application supplied by the manufacturers.

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NF REC - Quincy: Dr. James Marois, Dr. Cheryl Machowiak, Dr. Stephen Olson, Dr. David Wright
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Asian soybean rust has been identified all across north Florida this year with most of the sentinel plots being positive as well as numerous kudzu sites. We have monitored these plots throughout the season and have watched the disease progress. **Average or better rainfall since late June has resulted in more soybean rust and earlier infections than had occurred in the previous 2 dry years.**

There have been a few commercial fields that had the disease and some of these were sprayed with a fungicide in mid August. More than likely, these fields were infected before spraying in mid August. Fungicide trials at Quincy have had heavy pressure and should result in good information on best fungicides and the most effective time of application. We have had several training sessions for county and state extension faculty and have trained consultants and others on identification and control. Much research effort is being expended to find resistant germplasm and how it can be controlled effectively.

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Dr. James J. Marois, Plant Pathologist
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Prickly pear is a not a wide-spread problem in Florida pastures, but can devastate a pasture if allowed to establish. It can be particularly troublesome in pastures that are regularly mowed. This is because prickly pear spreads by fragmentation. As pads are removed from the parent plant, they have the ability to root and form new colonies. Therefore, mowing a pasture with prickly pear simply increases the infestation.

Control of prickly pear has traditionally been a slow and laborious process. The only effective herbicide was Remedy mixed as a 20% solution with basal oil or diesel fuel. Although effective, this is an expensive mixture and requires each individual colony to be sprayed. This has led ranchers and researchers alike to seek a new control method that will allow broadcast herbicide application in place of spot treatment.

Research conducted in Florida and Texas has shown that Cleanwave herbicide at 50 fl. oz/A to be an effective broadcast treatment when applied in the fall. Cleanwave is not a restricted use pesticide and cost will be approximately $25/A. However, it must be noted that control of prickly pear is an extremely slow process. Generally speaking, prickly pear will often survive for over 1 year after application. Therefore, it is important to allow the herbicide sufficient time to act before decisions about success or failure can be made. Also, do not expect 100% control with one application of Cleanwave. It is likely that Cleanwave will control a majority of the prickly pear that is present. However, a follow-up application of Remedy may be necessary two years later to spot-treat colonies that survived the initial application.

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Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Specialist  
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Wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera L.) is a native plant to the southeastern U.S. In most cases, it is scattered throughout native ecosystems in Florida. However, it can be quite problematic in pastures if left uncontrolled. It can become a dominant shrub in a pasture landscape that reduces forage yield. In rangeland, wax myrtle can be suppressed through burning. Then again, there is usually insufficient fuel to carry a fire into a wax myrtle canopy in an improved pasture setting. Therefore, herbicides applications are usually necessary in pastures.

Control of wax myrtle can be challenging. Considering that this plant can reach heights of at least 20 feet tall, with canopy widths of 20 to 40 feet, control of this plant can be extremely difficult. In pastures, the herbicide recommendation for wax myrtle control is Remedy at 2 pt/acre. However, there are some things that need to be considered before applying Remedy to control wax myrtle.

First, the response of wax myrtle plants to Remedy can be quite variable. This is largely due to the size of the plant at application. Research by Dr. Rob Kalmbacher, a retired professor at the Range Cattle REC, determined that control of plants larger than 2.5 feet was erratic. He found that wax myrtle plants larger than 2.5 feet should be mowed or chopped, followed by treatment of regrowth. It is recommended that wax myrtle be chopped in the late fall or early spring followed by treatment of the regrowth the following fall.

Second, timing of the herbicide application does make a difference. Again, Dr. Kalmbacher found that late summer/early fall applications of Remedy were quite effective. Why? This is the time that wax myrtle plants are beginning to store energy to over-winter. Therefore, when the herbicide gets into the plant, it is also transported to the root system with the energy reserves, resulting in more consistent control of the plant.

Keys to controlling wax myrtle in Florida pastures:

♦ **Plants should be no taller than 2.5 feet.** If they are larger than this size, the plants should be chopped or mowed at least 6 months before herbicide application.

♦ **Treat regrowth** of wax myrtle plants in late summer (no earlier than August) or early fall (no later than October) with 2 pt/acre Remedy.

Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Specialist Range Cattle REC, Ona sellersb@ufl.edu
Normal recommended planting dates for wheat for grain in Florida is November 15 to December 15.

Many growers plant as early as the first week of November which can be risky with certain wheat varieties. Different wheat varieties have different vernalization requirements. Vernalization is a period of low winter temperatures (40-50 degrees F) that is required to initiate flowering or heading and is often referred to as chilling hours. Varieties with low vernalization requirements may head out early if planted in early November and then would be subject to freezes if they head out by mid March. Other varieties of wheat have a longer vernalization requirement and should not be planted late since they may not receive enough chilling hours to initiate heading. Generally the later maturing varieties should be planted early and the early maturing varieties should be planted later. Some varieties may never head out if planted too late due to not enough chilling hours. Earlier planted grain normally results in higher yields than when late planted. Check variety test information for recommended varieties. 


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New Oat Cultivar for 2008 Fall Planting

*Horizon 201* is a new winter oat variety that was co-developed by the University of Florida (UF) and Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSUAC) and is released under the SUNGRAINS cooperation. *Horizon 201* (experimentally tested as FL99201) has considerable potential for grain, forage, conservation tillage, and wildlife purposes in the southern U.S. *Horizon 201* is typically one of the highest seed yielding entries in regional trials. *Horizon 201* is a good forage oat because of its vigorous growth and aggressive tillering. Throughout field testing, it was noted as having a high leaf to stem ratio and was considered a superior forage type. It has excellent grain and forage yield, tall plant height, average test weight, medium maturity, and excellent crown rust resistance. However, it is susceptible to stem rust. *Horizon 201* is adapted from North Carolina to Texas. This oat also fits in dairy silage operations where high quality, cool-season forages are utilized for greenchop or silage. Seed of *Horizon 201* is available from Plantation Seed Conditioners, Inc., Newton, GA (800-543-4164 or plantationseed@starband.net).

**Horizon 201**

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Dr. Ron Barnett, NF REC - Quincy
Extension Small Grains Breeding Specialist
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Pesticide Disposal Opportunity Offered

*Operation Cleansweep* is an opportunity for agricultural operations, golf courses, and pest control companies that reside in Florida to properly dispose of cancelled, suspended, and unused pesticides.

The program is not intended for universities, pesticide manufacturers and distributors, homeowners, institutions, or state and local government. Homeowners with pesticides and other household wastes can locate a collection facility in their area by checking [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org). *Operations Cleansweep* has been a success throughout its history considering the number of pounds of unused pesticide wastes collected (see table).

![Pesticide Disposal Opportunity Offered Table](image)

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*Program funding significantly reduced beginning in 2004-05.*

The 2008 Florida Legislature appropriated $100,000 for this fiscal year to contract a private collection firm to operate a mobile pickup service. *Operation Cleansweep* provides for a contractor to come directly to a farm or pesticide application business for pickup and disposal of pesticides when there is a sufficient quantity in a defined area. A list of participants, quantities, and products will be compiled in advance of scheduling a pickup or collection. The lists will be compiled by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Program Manager. When a list in a region or county reaches a quantity of 2,000 pounds, a collection will be scheduled by the private contractor.

Acceptable pesticides for pickup include those held in original, unbroken containers, broken or partial containers, and formulations in aerosol dispensers. Container labels should be intact; however, in instances where the label is not legible, a decision will be made at the collection site by FDACS if the material is acceptable for pickup. Leaking containers will be overpacked at the collection site and accepted for disposal. Gas cylinders are not acceptable.

There is no cost charged to those who participate in the program. For more information, and to be placed on the list, contact Robin Waddell of FDACS at 1-888-851-5285 or waddelr@doacs.state.fl.us. Collection events will begin in December.

Cleansweep Website: [www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/).

Dr. Fred Fishel  
Pesticide Information Officer  
weeddr@ufl.edu
Soil Tests taken immediately after harvest of crops in the fall can be used to determine fertility requirements and lime needs for the coming year. Nematode samples can also be taken to help determine rotations.

*Lime should be applied in the fall if needed to affect a pH change by the spring.*

If cover crops are to be planted and the following crop is a grass or cotton crop, consider planting a few pounds of crimson clover or other legume to help reduce the commercial nitrogen needed for the following crop. Small grain cover crops usually need some nitrogen to make adequate growth unless planted behind peanut of soybean. On sandy soils, some N is needed to make 2 tons or more of dry matter for planting into the following year.

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**Soil Test and Cover Crops in the Fall**

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**Improving Soil Conditions**

**Marketing Hype vs. Scientific Data**

*Are the products I’m buying working*

Crop growth and good yields are usually made with the right combination of water, nutrients and sunlight. Good varieties, management, weather, and markets determine whether crops are profitable. As crop prices rise, we get many questions about materials that are advertised that reduce soil compaction, enhance nutrient uptake, reduce fertilizer needs, increase rooting, help test weight, decrease nematode activity, etc. In general, these materials cost only a few dollars per acre and can be applied at very small rates with claims to having many times the return in crop yield. These high returns for a small investment usually come with testimonials but often lack scientific data to back it up.

**Soil activators, conditioners, yield enhancers and other products - Do they work?**

Generally, if materials do work, they have been tried and tested in many scientific scenarios and the materials will be recommended in production guides by state extension services. Where products really work, the companies are willing to have their products tested against other materials which will bring to light the value of the materials. With technology being introduced faster and faster, it is difficult for growers to know what has been scientifically proven vs. marketing hype. **You can usually recognize these products in several ways,** including:

⇒ They rarely have scientific data to back up the claims.
⇒ Most have testimonials from customers.
⇒ They often have not been tested by the land grant universities.
⇒ The claims are too good to be true.

If you do try these materials on your own farm, always leave test strips that are untreated and test them in several fields with untreated areas in each field.

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