

Suwannee Valley Watermelon Crop Update- May 20, 2019

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New Alert: Powdery Mildew found

Well, that did not take long.....Just a very brief but important update for you. We confirmed two cases of powdery mildew today. One in Levy and one in Madison County. Thanks Anthony Drew and Dan Fenneman. These are the first confirmed cases (simultaneous about 90 miles apart) of what we felt was eventually going to happen. Powdery mildew did not want to let us down! It shows up as a slight yellow spot on the upper leaf surface but as powdery gray spores on the underside of the leaf. This is one disease we expect to become very widespread this next week. I am glad several have recently sprayed Quintec or Torino in your program and with these dry conditions, I would add one of these two to your program this week, or a separate application alone to be sure. Quintec and Torino are very specific for powdery only and in a weekly schedule, should be added to a broader spectrum mancozeb (Manzate or Penncozeb) spray typically. Good luck with this additional challenge.

One more word of caution. Spray what you know you need but please be careful or stay away from cocktail mixes during this extreme heat. We are seeing more damage than good with many of the un-needed additions of all kinds of "stuff",...a little of this, a little of that,.....and there ya go.....burn the crap out of things. Just saying!!!! That is my cleaned up version.