

Suwannee Valley Watermelon Crop Update- May 24, 2019

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**New Alert: Downy Mildew found in Southern part of Suwannee Valley Region**

There are 4 new confirmed cases of downy mildew as of yesterday and today. Thanks to Tatiana Sanchez for finding the first and Anthony Drew a close second place, but the Blue Ribbon **again** goes to Tatiana Sanchez, Alachua County Extension Agent. These are the first confirmed cases of what we hoped would not happen. This is the disease traditionally known as “wildfire”. Because of the high risk of damage and movement throughout the region, we are expressing our concern. You should consider adding one of these two to your program this week. The two choices are Ranman or Orondis Ultra and should be added to a broader spectrum mancozeb (Manzate or Penncozeb) spray plus either Quintec or Torino for the continued pressure from powdery mildew. Good luck with this additional challenge. For those fields where downy has been confirmed, we suggest starting with Orondis Ultra this week and Ranman next week. Where downy mildew has not yet been detected, you could start with Ranman.

We are seeing populations of rindworms too so keep up with your worm sprays.

Water, Water, Water.

God bless you all and the challenges being faced.