

Alachua County Operation Cleansweep Pilot Collections, 1996 and 1997

Alachua County is a mostly rural county in north central Florida with a population of about 200,000 (in 1997). Gainesville is the largest city with a major university and several large medical facilities. Agriculture is also major economic activity.

Collections were held on July 26 and 27, 1996 and again on April 26, 1997. Representatives from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Alachua County and United Agri Products were present at both collections.

The 1996 collection took place on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27, at an agriproducts distributor facility near Alachua, FL. In addition to pesticides, triple-rinsed, empty pesticide containers were accepted for recycling. This container recycling was sponsored by the St. Johns Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District, the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) and the Farm Bureau. The 65 participants brought in more than 5,200 pounds of cancelled, suspended or unusable pesticides (CSUP). The top 10 pesticides collected at the 1996 collection are shown in the table below.

Pesticide	Gallons	Pounds	Total Pounds*
Ambush	36		360
Arena	8		75
Banvel	5	225	270
Bayleton	10		100
Defol	8		80
Herbicide	30	70	370
Sulfur	18		175
Tobacco Dust		165	165
Other**	43	86	511

*Gallons were converted to pounds using 1 gal = 10 pounds conversion factor.

**Other: Small Containers (1 oz, 1qt); Experimentals; Unknowns

The 1997 collection took place on Saturday, April 26, at the facility of a hazardous waste management company in Gainesville, FL. A total of 4,145 pounds of CSUP (16 55-gallon drums) was brought in by participants. A few participants from surrounding counties were allowed to participate in the collection. In addition to general pesticides, some DDT, Chlordane and lead arsenate were collected. This second pilot Cleansweep collection was held in Alachua County because (1) there was funding left after the Dade, Okaloosa and first Alachua County pilots, (2) some matching funding was provided by Alachua County and (3) the need for another collection was identified by project leadership.

Data Sources for This Report:

1. "Operation Cleansweep Pilot Project" by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Agricultural Environmental Services, Tallahassee, FL.
2. Information supplied by Jill Parker, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, July 2, 1996.
3. "Operation Cleansweep in Alachua County" fax from Burt McKee, United Agri Products, April 28, 1997.