



Commercial Clippings

FOR THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREEN INDUSTRY
Serving Clay, Duval, and Nassau County

August/September 2010

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Florida Friendly Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMPs) Now On-line

Can't find time to send your techs to complete the Green Industry Best Management Practices Workshop? The class is now offered on-line! Go to <http://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu> to begin the process. The online version is just like the traditional classroom version with five modules. The cost for the class is \$15.00. After completion of the workshop, the program will provide a ticket to take the BMP test at a local Extension office or it can be taken on-line.



The Online GI-BMP Training program:

- Provides 24/7 training/certification services to the Green Industries.
- Costs \$15. This allows unlimited access to the training content.
- Allows for two post-test attempts, compared to one post-test attempt at an in-person GI-BMP class.
- Provides the option to take the post-test online or to print a voucher authorizing an in-person test to be scheduled at a county Extension office.
- Provides a "purchase for others" option to facilitate employers purchasing training for their employees.
- FDACS CEUs are pending approval at this time.



All Classes Require Pre-Registration unless stated otherwise.

Call Becky Davidson at 904-387-8850 to register.

Or visit us at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click Commercial Horticulture.

Florida Green Industries BMP Training and Certification

September 14, 2010
December 14, 2010

8:30 am to 3:30 pm
\$25.00

4 CEUs Total: 2 CORE, 2 O&T, 2 LL&O, 2 L&O, 2 LCLM, 2 PVT

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop

August 17, 2010
October 26, 2010

9:00 am to 4:00 pm - Full Day
9:00 am to 2:00 pm - 1/2 Day – Recertification Only

Full Day Cost is \$50.00 –
Includes 2 textbooks, handouts, refreshments and lunch
1/2 Day Cost is \$25.00 –
Includes handouts, refreshments, and lunch

6 CEUs Total:
3 O&T, 3 L&O, 3 LCLM, 3 LL&O, 3 CORE

Florida Turfgrass Association Annual Conference & Show

September 15-17, 2010

Orlando, FL
Visit www.ftga.org to register
Great speakers and topics!
Don't miss the Trade Show.

The Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association's The Landscape Show

September 23 – 25, 2010

Orlando, FL
Visit www.fn gla.org to register
Great speakers and topics!
Don't miss the Trade Show.

All Classes Require Pre-Registration unless stated otherwise.
 Call Becky Davidson at 904-387-8850 to register.
 Or visit us at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click Commercial Horticulture.

**ID Cardholder
 Technician Training**

September 24, 2010

12:00 – 4:00 pm
 \$10.00
 2 or 4 CORE CEUs or Technician Training Hours Provided

**Aquatic Herbicide
 Applicator Training
 & Exam**

September 30, 2010

8:00 am to 3:00 pm
 \$30.00 full day with no manual
 \$45.00 full day with Aquatics manual

6 Aquatic and 1 CORE CEU available

Exam at 3:15 is optional. Picture ID required for exam.

**Worker Protection
 Standards**

October 4, 2010

4:00 to 6:30 pm
 \$5.00
 3 AER, 3 AGR, 3 FOR, 3 O&T, 3 PVT, or 3 SGF CEUs available

**General Household
 Pest Technician
 Training**

October 18, 2010

8:00 – 11:00 pm
 \$10.00
 4 GHP CEUs have been applied for

Palm School

October 21 & 22, 2010

Mark your calendars for this popular class that is normally held in South Florida. Dr. Monica Elliott and Dr. Tim Broschat will be conducting this intensive two-day workshop on palm care and maintenance. More details to come.

PEST OF THE MONTH – Take-all Root Rot

by *Raymond Zerba, Clay County Extension*

Take-all Root Rot (*Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis*) is naturally present on warm-season grass roots. It lays in wait for the right stress to take-off and become aggressively pathogenic. The first trigger is high rainfall and root stress. Any stress placed on the grass (not only to its root system but its' internal “energy budget”) will encourage or worsen the disease.



Roots will initially be thin and off-white in color with isolated black lesions.



Early symptoms are irregular, yellow, or light green patches.

The early symptoms are irregular, yellow, or light green patches ranging in diameter from a few inches to a few feet (pictured left). Because the roots are affected, they will not be able to efficiently obtain water or nutrients that are applied to the soil and as a result the grass in the afflicted areas goes downhill quickly. Roots eventually become very short, black, and rotted (pictured above). Solons and rhizomes may have black lesions and under severe disease conditions begin to rot as well. Soon entire plants may die (see picture, pg 6) resulting in irregular patches of thinning grass and if the rot is not controlled, bare patches may develop.

(Story continues on page 6)

Do you know what this is?

What caused this on your client's young tree?

Was it an insect? Wrong!

Was it a disease? Wrong!

Was it cold injury? Wrong!

Was it heat injury? Wrong!

Was it mechanical damage? Wrong!

Was it a lightning strike? Come on now – you're grasping at straws!

Was it something you might have done wrong to this young tree – now you're getting warm. In the October and November Issue of Commercial Clippings we will share with you what might be the problem with this young *Prunus* tree and how it could have been avoided if the landscape maintenance person did just a little something differently. You might learn something. **RZ**



Q & A

Have a question you need answered?

Send it to rjordi@ufl.edu

Q: What is meant by “Restricted Use Pesticide”? How can you know if a pesticide is for restricted use only?

A: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies any use of a pesticide as either unclassified or a “Restricted Use Pesticide” (RUP). There are times when all the uses of a pesticide are totally restricted or totally unclassified. However, a product may be a combination of both unclassified and “restricted use.” The classification of “restricted use” is given if the pesticide could potentially harm humans or the environment unless it is applied by certified applicators. These certified applicators must receive specific training on how to use the pesticide properly and safely. They are either private or commercial.

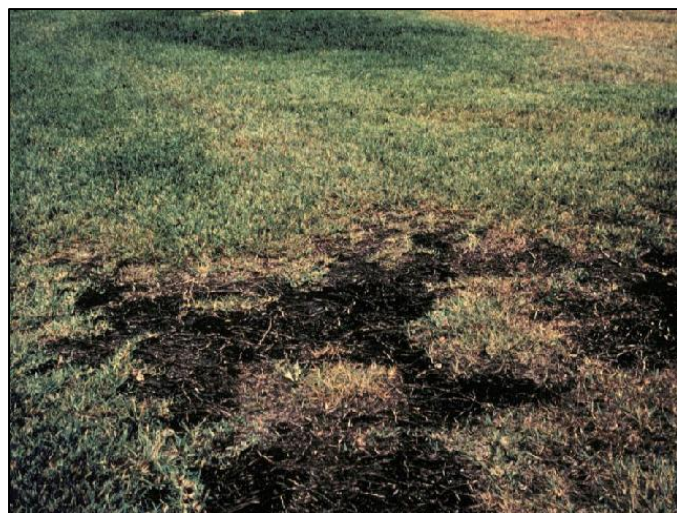
A private applicator applies the restricted use pesticides on their own agriculture property or the property of their employer. They may also supervise the application of the restricted use pesticide. Commercial applicators may apply RUP on any property where they are “for hire” and under their license category. The pesticide label will have the words “Restricted Use Pesticide” in a box at the top of the label. Usually a statement about why the pesticide is classified as restricted will follow. Attached is a publication from the University of Florida regarding specific pesticides containing an RUP indication. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/PI/PI07300.pdf>.

~ Becky Jordi

(Take-all Root Rot continued from page 4)

This disease is very difficult to control and cultural controls offer one of the best way to address it. Here are some suggestions on how to minimize the occurrence of this disease for those clients who have St. Augustinegrass lawns:

- ✓ Mow at the correct height during the heat of the summer. Rhizomes need that shading and the grass needs extra blade length to make food and recover quickly after each cut. Cutting only one third of the blade length at a cut reduces stress. Scalping or infrequent mowing encourages Take-all disease.
- ✓ Sharpen that blade regularly. A ripping cut opens the plant to more fungal infection, but even worse delays healing of the cut wound and increases sap bleeding which leads to more stress.
- ✓ Use slow release nitrogen instead of quick release in the summer and be sure to balance the nitrogen with potassium. Potassium has been shown to reduce stress from heat and drought by influencing stomata opening and closing. Extra potassium may even be warranted in late summer and early fall.
- ✓ Micronutrients applied as foliar sprays to the grass in late summer and early fall (especially those containing manganese) have been shown to reduce stress and reduce Take-all Root Rot. If the roots are suffering to the point they have become inefficient at taking up nutrients the University of Florida recommends small, but frequent applications of foliar sprays containing not only the micronutrients, but Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium.
- ✓ Do not apply lime to the turfgrass toward the end of summer or early fall.
- ✓ St. Augustine grass is especially sensitive to herbicides. Even when herbicides are applied correctly, there will be some stress placed on St. Augustinegrass. The University of Florida advises to avoid herbicides by learning how to manage the turfgrass to limit weeds.



This information was taken from Fact Sheet SSP16 “Take-all Root Rot” by Drs. M.L. Elliott and G.W. Simone. To read the entire Fact Sheet go to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/LH/LH06400.pdf> . Chemical Controls can be found in the UF Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers at <http://turf.ifas.ufl.edu>.

New State Law May Affect How You Do Business

By Erin E. Harlow

Effective July 1, 2010, a company using automatic renewal contracts has to do business a little differently. Governor Christ signed into law HB 751 that requires businesses with service contracts with automatic renewal statements to clearly state that the contract is automatically renewed unless the consumer cancels it. If the original contract is for 12 months or more and is automatically renewed for one month or more then the seller must do the following things:

- Provide the consumer with a written or electronic notification of the automatic renewal. The renewal must be no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days before the cancellation deadline. The notification needs to clearly disclose the following:
 - Unless the consumer cancels, the contract will automatically renew
 - Methods of which they get information about their automatic renewal – address, phone, website, etc.

You will be in violation unless you show:

- Your business complies with the procedures and has written procedures explaining your process
- Any failure to comply is an error
- If an error is determined, the unearned portion of the contract subject to the automatic renewal provision is refunded as of the date on which the seller is notified of the error by the consumer

Companies that are exempt include financial institutions, health studios, electric utilities, and companies that are private and competing against governmental entities or has a governmental entity providing billing on its behalf. To learn more about this new law please visit our website at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and follow the link for Commercial Horticulture.



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For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904/387-8850) within a minimum of 5 working days of the program. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, when contacting our office, please use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Your comments and input are necessary for this to be a useful tool for all of us.

This newsletter, past newsletters, links and registration forms for Commercial Horticulture activities can be found at the Duval County Extension website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

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