



Commercial Clippings

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

December 2009 / January 2010

Issue 6, Page 1

In this Issue:

Landscape Certification	pg 1
Upcoming Classes	pg 2, 3
Featured Creature	pg 4
Do You Know	pg 5
Q & A	pg 5
FNGLA Trade Show	pg 6
Chemical Updates	pg 7
Contact Us	pg 8

Landscape Certification Class to be offered – Become a Florida Certified Horticulture Professional

By Erin E. Harlow

The Duval County Extension Office would like to introduce a new certification class that is being offered in the spring. The Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association (FNGLA) has five certifications that are recognized by the industry. The program will assist industry professionals in earning their Florida Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP) certificate. This certificate is the basis for the other four certifications and is a recognized industry certification.

To earn the FCHP, four exams must be completed in the areas of safety, plant identification, horticulture practice, and general horticulture (open book). Exams are administered on-line and class participants will have the option to take the exams to earn their certification. The class runs every Tuesday from 2:30-4:30 pm beginning January 5th and running through March 9th. The cost of the class, including the notebook is \$100.00 for FNGLA members and \$130 for non-members. The exams are an additional cost of \$85 for members and \$150 for non-members.

For more information about the FCHP certification or FNGLA membership, please visit www.fngla.org. To hold the class, a minimum of five individuals is needed and participants need to make an effort to attend all classes. Additional work outside of the classroom will be expected. If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Erin Harlow at 904-387-8850 or visit <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click on Commercial Horticulture.



All Classes Require Pre-Registration unless stated otherwise.
 Call Erin Harlow or 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**

February 17, 2010
May 18, 2010
July 20, 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**

February 24, 2010
April 20, 2010
June 15, 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 Pesticide CEUs Total:
 3 O&T, 3 L&O, 3 LCLM, 3 LL&O, 3 CORE

**Public Health
 Workshop**

January 13, 2010

9:00 am to 3:45 pm
 \$20.00

Public Health CEUs applied for

**2010 Florida
 Turfgrass
 Association Turf
 Seminar**

January 20, 2010

\$50.00 for non-FTGA members

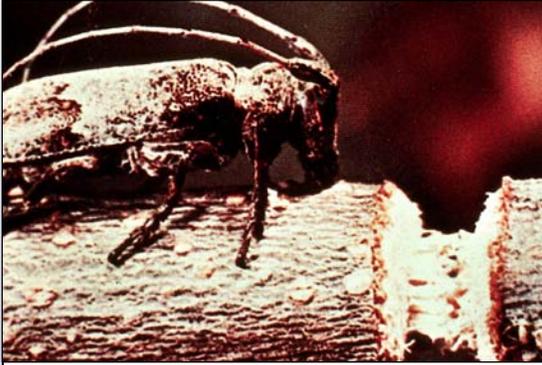
To register visit: www.ftga.org or the go to the registration form at
<https://www.ftga.org/index.php?p=5&sp=13&ssp=11>

All Classes Require Pre-Registration unless stated otherwise.
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<p>Landscape Maintenance Series</p>	<p>January 7, 2010 - Pruning February 18, 2010 – Proper Planting</p> <p>8:30 am to 10:30 am \$5.00 per class</p> <p>Class is designed for basic level lawn and landscape professionals. No CEUs provided.</p>
<p>FNGLA Florida Certified Horticulture Professional Certification</p>	<p>Every Tuesday, January 5, 2010 through March 9, 2010 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm (Jan 12th and March 9th, 2:00-4:00 pm)</p> <p>Class - \$100 for FNGLA members, \$130 for non-members Exams - \$85 for FNGLA members, \$150 for non-members</p>
<p>Worker Protection Standards</p>	<p>March 18, 2010</p> <p>4:00 – 6:30 pm \$5.00</p>
<p>Pest Control Operator Training</p>	<p>March 31, 2010</p> <p>9:00 am – 3:00 pm \$15.00</p> <p>2 CORE, 2 L&O, 2 GHP, 2 WDO</p>
<p>Pest Control Operator Training – Certified Pest Control Operators of Florida</p>	<p>March 13, 2010</p> <p>7:00 am to 5:00 pm Free to members; non-members \$30.00 per CEU category Lunch on your own</p> <p>2 L&O, 2 CORE, 2 GHP, 2 Termite, 2 Fumigation</p> <p>Call CPCO Office at 954-724-8806 to Register.</p>

PEST OF THE MONTH – Twig Girdler

by Raymond Zerba, Clay County Extension



Many of your clients collect needles and leaves that others are throwing away. As you maintain their plant beds where these are being placed as mulch, do them a favor and pick up any twigs that look as if they have been put in a dull pencil sharpener. These have been chewed on by an insect. The culprit is a long-horned beetle – the Twig Girdler (*Oncideres cingulata*). This grayish-brown beetle is up to 1 inch long, with body length antennae. It has one generation per year. In the fall, the female deposited her eggs in slits she made on the twigs of Hickory and Pecan trees and on occasion Elms, Persimmons, and Dogwoods.

To keep the sap from pushing those eggs out or to keep it from influencing the larval development in some way, she methodically girdles the branch almost in two so it hangs until the wind dislodges it.

After the twig/branch falls to the ground, the eggs hatch and the larvae begin feeding inside of the dead wood through the winter and into early summer. They change to adult form within the branch, exit to mate, and start the cycle over again. As adults, both sexes feed on the outer bark of the type of tree they grew-up in. This feeding is minimal and not a problem for the tree. Even the girdling injury the female causes does little real damage to a tree according to the University of Florida and only if we were to have a year when their numbers “exploded,” would a tree be stressed. Young trees could be stunted however, so it is important to watch newly planted Hickories or Pecans to make sure this beetle has not decided to work one of those. At the first sign of hanging branches, check the tree over carefully. Usually the female will attack several branches/twigs before leaving that tree. Because she takes several days to girdle a single branch, you should be able to spot her. She is easily dispatched (if she can be reached) by just hand-pinching her.

In your case and for anyone who finds “whittled” branches beneath their trees, cut these branches/twigs into short pieces, place them in a resealable storage bag, and throw them out, or burn them (if ordinances permit). They make great kindling for a barbeque. If you leave them be, you increase the amount of girdlers that populate that neighborhood.

For more information, go on line and do a search for “Twig Girdlers.” There are many great articles - several with good pictures. An article I found online from Kansas State Extension was the basis for the information provided here. It can be accessed at

<http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=1736>.

Do you know what this is?



This time of year you may be examining trees that just didn't do well this last year – lots of early leaf drop. In the spring, these are candidates for evaluating as to whether they are safe to keep in the landscape. If they leaf out all the way to the tips of their branches they are probably safe to leave in place another year as you try to strengthen them with fertilizer and good, basic tree care. If you see the condition pictured however, you probably should advise your client that this is a tree that needs to come out because it has an untreatable, terminal disease. Know what it is? If not, I'll talk about it in the February-March Issue of Commercial Clippings. **RZ**

Q & A

Have a question you need answered?

Send it to rjordi@ufl.edu

Q: I do not understand the importance of using math when trying to calculate how much mulch to use. Can we just open the bag and pour it out? WP

A: For the homeowner, just opening a bag is probably appropriate. But when we are talking about a commercial business, your business, then calculating how much to use will relate right back to your bottom line. Let's start with the possibility of not having enough mulch. The job would have to stop and workers would be waiting around until someone goes to purchase more material. Maybe you could go to the next job, but it will require an additional trip back to the site which will be a waste of time. Wasting time always cost money. Let's look at the other possibility of purchasing too much material. Storage is an issue for most businesses. Plus, mulch is notorious for breaking down quickly. It might not look as fresh which would not please the customer. Again, this scenario could be a waste which calculates into loss of money. The mathematical process is not complicated and should provide you with a very close estimate. Remember, we suggest you only mulch 2-3 inches deep which would provide you with the height measure. Use the formula: length times (x) width times (x) height (l x w x h). Take the length of the bed, multiply it times the width of the bed, then multiply that number by 2 or 3 which would represent the height of the mulch. Consider recording this data on your customer's records so the measurement would only need to be done one time.

The Jacksonville Landscape Show

February 11-12, 2010

"Come Grow With Us"



**See the Trends.
Build Relationships.
Grow Your Business.**



Northeast Chapter FNGLA - Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
Phone: (904) 292-1117 Fax: (904) 880-1478

www.nefngla.org

EPA's Review of Atrazine

The EPA is launching a comprehensive new evaluation of the herbicide atrazine to determine its effects on humans. At the end of this process, the agency will decide whether to revise its current risk assessment of the pesticide and whether new restrictions are necessary to better protect public health. One of the most widely used agricultural pesticides in the U.S., atrazine can be applied before and after planting to control broadleaf and grassy weeds. The Agency will evaluate the pesticide's potential cancer and non-cancer effects on humans. To be certain that the best science possible is used in its atrazine human health risk assessment and ensure transparency, EPA will seek advice from the independent Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) established under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. At the conclusion of this process, EPA will ask the SAP to review atrazine's potential effects on amphibians and aquatic ecosystems. (EPA News Release, 10/7/09).

EPA's Public Review Process

The EPA is establishing a new transparent process that will allow the public to review and comment on risk assessments and proposed registration decisions for pesticides. This expanded process will apply to all new pesticide active ingredients and first food uses, first outdoor uses, and first residential uses. Starting October 1, 2009, for certain registration actions, EPA's risk assessment and proposed decision will be added to the public docket and made available for a 30-day public comment period. Following the comment period, EPA will publish its decision and a response-to-comment document. By focusing public access on new pesticide ingredients and first food, outdoor, and residential uses, the public will have the opportunity to comment on all major new exposure patterns for pesticide registration. Stakeholders now will get information sooner on reduced-risk pesticides being registered that can replace some of the older and often more toxic pesticides. The user community and the public will benefit from a broader understanding of the risk assessment and risk management processes associated with pesticide registration. (EPA News Release, 10/1/09).

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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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