



Commercial Clippings

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

December 2011/January 2012

Issue 17, Page 1



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The 2012 Jacksonville Landscape Show Includes New CEU Categories and Dynamic Speakers by Erin Harlow

This year we are adding more continuing education units (CEUs) to the Jacksonville Landscape Show. While the trade show is hosted by the Northeast Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association, the seminars are hosted by the University of Florida. The seminars have been approved for .70 GCSAA points, 7 FNGLA CEUs, 5 ISA CEUs, and GA and FL pesticide CEUs have been applied for including 2 CORE and 5 L&O, LCLM, LL&O, and O&T.

2012 promises to have energetic speakers with informative topics.

- **Common Ornamental Diseases: Detection & Management**, Carrie Harmon, University of Florida
- **The Root of Landscape Problems: Learning from 40 years of Plants, Products, and People**, Harold Jones, Southern Horticulture Consultants
- **Working with Poor Soils**, Lynn Griffith, A&L Laboratories
- **Exceptional Plants for the Southeast**, Chuck Hubbuch, University of North Florida
- **Pesticide's Affect on Water Quality**, Rebecca Jordi, University of Florida
- **FDOT Vehicles in Commerce Requirements**, Paul Mitola, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- **Turf Disease Identification**, Erin Harlow, University of Florida

Booths and sponsorships are still available. If you would like to sponsor the seminar series, please contact Erin at 904-255-7450. Over 600 people attended the Jacksonville Landscape Show last year. Attendees came from all the green professions including nurserymen, landscapers, pest management professionals, municipalities, golf courses, irrigation contractors, arborists, and others. Don't miss this local show. For more information or to register visit www.nefngla.org.



All Classes Require Pre-Registration and will be held at the Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254 unless otherwise stated. To register visit us at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click Commercial Horticulture/Training or call Becky Davidson at 904-255-7450. You can now pay online with a credit card.

**December 5, 2011
Monday**

**Pest Control Operator Exam
Review for Lawn and Ornamentals**

9:00 am—4:00 pm, \$20.00
Includes lunch
No CEUs

Participants must bring their study material with them. This is a review for the exam and students are expected to have already read through the material prior to attending. Students planning on taking the exam in 2012 are also welcome. Books can be purchased at the Extension Office. Please call before coming.

**December 9, 2011
Friday**

Turf Update Lunch and Learn

10:00 am—2:00 pm, \$10.00
Includes lunch
4 CEUs - 4 O&T, 4 Pvt, 4 LCLM, 4 LL&O, 4 L&O

Dr. Eileen Buss, Dr. Billy Crow, and Erin Harlow are speakers. Topics covered will include updates on turf insects, turf nematodes, turf diseases, and turf weeds.

**December 13, 2011
Tuesday**

Jacksonville Bed Bug Summit

1:00 pm—5:00 pm, FREE

This program will not have CEUs and is designed for service-oriented groups to learn how they can prevent and control bed bugs in their organizations.

**December 14, 2011
Wednesday**

**Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources
by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs)**

8:30 am – 3:30 pm
\$25.00
4 CEUS: 2 CORE & 2 L&O, 2 LCLM, 2 LL&O, 2 O&T or 2 Pvt

This is the pre-requisite class for the Urban Fertilizer License. Everyone who works with fertilizers is required to have this license by Jan 1, 2014, even if you are licensed in another category.

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**January 26, 2012
Thursday**

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop

8:15 am - 3:00 pm - Full Day; 8:15 am – 12:00 pm - Half Day
\$30.00 for either full or half day

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

Lunch Included; textbooks not included

Optional LCLM or LL&O Exam at 3:00 pm

You must have all required paperwork to take the exam.

For more information about the exam or books or to register, please visit

<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click on Commercial Horticulture or call the numbers above.

This class is designed for people who do not have their license yet. If you are re-certifying your LCLM or LL&O you should try the Advanced Landscape class. Check the February/March Commercial Clippings for dates.

**January 28, 2012
Saturday**

Certified Pest Control Operator Training

7:30 am - 9:10 am - L&O

9:20 am - 11:00 am - CORE

11:10 am - 12: 50 pm - GHP

1:30 pm - 3:10 pm - Termite

3:20 pm - 5:00 pm - Fumigation

CEUs - 2 L&O, 2 CORE, 2 GHP, 2 WDO, and 2 Fumigation

Free for active CPCO members, \$20.00 per tech per category or \$30.00 per category for non-members

This is a CPCO sponsored event and registration is completed through them. Please call 407-217-5655 or 954-724-8806.

**January 30, 2012 &
January 31, 2012
Monday & Tuesday**

Professional Landscape Training

8:30 am - 4:30 pm both days,

This training is designed for students who want to gain a deeper understanding of turf and ornamentals. The Florida Certified Horticulture Professional curriculum from the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association is the basis for the class. Each student will receive a copy of the curriculum. Students may choose to sit for the industry exam following the class for an additional fee. This class is helpful to anyone in the field both beginners and advanced and covers everything including botany, soils, fertilizers, plant ID, turf and ornamental diseases, and irrigation. The class is designed to be hands-on with a small group. It is the most informative and holistic class about turf and ornamentals we provide. FNGLA CEUs provided.

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**February 2, 2012
Thursday
(Okefenokee
Technical College,
Waycross, GA)**

Southeast Area Landscape Training

8:00 am - 4:00 pm, \$50 pre-registered by January 1, 2012; \$65 after January 1, 2012

GA and FL CEUs available. A new and exciting collaborative effort between UF and UGA to provide training to the area. Speakers include industry and university faculty. To register call 912-287-5854 or email Jason Rubenbauer at jrubenbauer@okefenokeetech.edu.

**February 9-10, 2012
Thursday & Friday
(Jacksonville Fair
Grounds)**

Jacksonville Landscape Show

Trade Show—9:00 am—4:00 pm, \$10 for both days
Seminars begin at 9:30 am; \$10.00 per seminar

CEUs - GCSAA, FL Pesticide, GA Pesticide, FNGLA, and ISA
Visit the website for more details at www.nefngla.org or <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click on Commercial Horticulture.

Seminars cover many different topics, so check out the schedule on page 8.

**February 23, 2012
Thursday**

Florida Turfgrass Association Seminar

More information coming. Check the website at www.ftga.org for updates.

Local Florida Irrigation Society donates \$10,500 to Wolfson's Children Hospital

Congratulations to the Northeast Chapter of the Florida Irrigation Society for their outstanding fishing tournament.

We had close to 70 boats participate and were able to donate \$10,500 to Wolfson's Children Hospital and \$3,000 to the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation. Thank you to all of the sponsors and participants that made it possible. This is a great event that donates to a local charity, so please consider participating or sponsoring the tournament next year. Photos from the event are posted on their website at www.creekwars.com.



PALMS BEING WEIRD – WHAT IS IT?

by Raymond Zerba

I frequently see this happening on palms around North Florida and I am sure you must have seen it in some of your accounts. Unlike woody trees, palms are monocots (put up one shoot from the seed rather than a two leaf shoot as dicots do). As monocots, they do several things that



are different from woody trees. For one thing, their trunk does not get bigger around each year (as in a woody tree), but instead stays the same diameter as it was when the palm fronds were attached to it at that point.

This is why the University of Florida tells us not remove a green frond from a palm without a good reason – and in North Florida preparing a palm for storms by removing all green fronds except those from 10:00 to 2:00 is not a good reason. We do not have the type of palms that should be pruned in this way. Instead the recommendation is to leave all green fronds on a palm – year around in Northeast Florida – until they brown. This insures the palm will be at its maximum girth at that point on the trunk and thus at its strongest to face storms.

Getting back to our picture where the “bark” is splitting away from the trunk, because palms don’t grow bigger around each year, the outer layer on a palm trunk is not really bark. It is called pseudobark and is there mainly to keep the palm trunk from drying out. When it is injured, it never heals. Wounds to palm trunks do not cover over as they do in woody plants and the wound is therefore forever exposed as a hole. This is why we don’t climb palms with climbing spurs. They make wounds that never heal.

Another strange thing about palms is that toward the bottom part of their trunk they have an area called a “root-initiation zone.” This is not a specific area on a palm and some palms (like the Phoenix palm) have these zones rather high on the trunk – up to several feet. When conditions are right – old age, perhaps drought stress, flooding, or simply because the palm wants to do it – the palm initiates roots in this area.

If these roots are in the soil then they grow out into the soil and support the tree – which is the way of most palms. If however they form higher up in the air then they grow out, split the pseudobark and then just stop growing – creating a semi-woody, prickly ball of stubby root initials. This is what is pictured.

Is this a problem for the tree?

I asked Dr. Monica Elliot, Plant Pathologist at our Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center and she said no – it was not. It is just something palms sometimes do and not to worry about it. So there you have it – it’s just a case of a palm “being weird.” If you would like more information on normal abnormalities of palms please visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep344>.



Do you know what this is?

Now why in the world would UF/IFAS be suggesting that to ingratiate yourself with customers you should be asking them if you could plant these two “weeds” in their landscape?

Both these “weeds” grow to about two feet tall in our area of the state and have somewhat attractive flowers – one is a white button-like flower (top picture) and the other is yellow (bottom photo). Both usually die back in most winters, but normally reseed themselves or come back from their roots if the winter is not too cold. Both can be found at most native plant nurseries but you will have to ask for them by their scientific names since they have many common names. So why would you want to do that? To learn their scientific names and why this could be a great “marketing tool” for your company if you want to portray yourselves as being “Florida-Friendly” and supporting of (whenever practical), the IPM approach to pest management – be sure to check out the February/March issue of Commercial Clippings. **RZ.**



We Need Your Help!

Please Let Us Know How We are Doing

Please help us get an idea of how we may be impacting our local businesses. This information will not be shared with anyone outside of the University of Florida and will be compiled to show county economic impact by the Extension agent. They will not be shared with anyone besides the extension agent..

Company (optional, but helpful) _____
 Contact Name (optional, incase of follow-up questions) _____

Without the help of the Extension Office, specifically the Duval County Commercial Horticulture/Urban IPM agent, Erin Harlow, I estimate that I would have lost \$ _____ amount in accounts, products, services, etc. over the past 3 years.

As a result of the correct identification/diagnosis of a problem, I estimate I saved \$ _____ in chemical treatments.

I refer to the Extension office for information in the area (s) of:
 Urban Pests _____ ; Lawn and Landscape _____ ; Nursery & Greenhouse _____ ;
 Pesticide Testing & Licensing _____ ; Other _____

I estimate the value of services & information provided by the Extension Office to me to be: _____
 (i.e. \$100 per visit or \$3,000 over the last three years, etc.)

If you have a specific situation or story (good or bad) that you would like to share with me about services provided by the Extension Office please include that as well.

Please mail back to Erin Harlow at 1010 N McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254 by December 31, 2011.

Why is this tree oozing? By Larry Figart, Urban Forester

Slime Flux

Bacterial wetwood (slime flux) is a common disease that creates wood that is at higher moisture content in the interior wood of many shade and forest trees. It is probably caused by several species of wood colonizing bacteria. Which ones are directly responsible is unknown. The thought is the bacteria are common in the soil and enter the tree through root wounds. The bacterial activity produces gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. As these gases are produced they generate higher internal pressures in the tree. This pressure seeks outlets for release and usually finds it in pruning cuts, included bark, and insect holes. From these outlets a foamy brown froth is produced that runs down the bark of the tree. Once exposed to the outside air, this “flux” is colonized by yeast organisms. To make matters worse, various insects such as bees and flies are attracted to the slime flux.

Alcoholic Flux

Alcoholic or white flux is very similar to wetwood. It occurs where microorganisms ferment sap in cracks and other wounds in the outer growth rings and cambium. Alcoholic flux appears as a white froth. It often emits a fermentative odor and persists during the warm growing season. Alcoholic flux is common on sweet gum, oak, and elm. Alcoholic flux is stress related. In Florida, heat stress most likely sets the stage for this problem. To help avoid this problem, use good cultural practices. Watering properly during dry conditions may be one way to prevent alcoholic flux.

There are no effective control methods for eliminating slime flux or alcoholic flux once they occur. In the past, it was recommended to drill a hole into the infected area of the tree and insert a rigid piece of plastic pipe to relieve the pressure and move the ooze away from the trunk. This actually damages the tree more than the slime flux and the practice is no longer recommended.

Any practice that promotes a vigorous tree should help a tree with slime flux. Fertilize trees appropriately to stimulate growth. Remove dead or weak branches by pruning at the branch collar. Proper pruning encourages rapid callusing of wounds.

For more information about slime flux, visit the Florida ISA's newsletter at this link:

<http://www.floridaisa.org/pdf/winter-06-web.pdf>



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For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904/255-7450) 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.

Extension Programs are open to all regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, religion, national origin, political opinions or affiliations.