



Commercial Clippings

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

February/March 2012

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DOT Restricts Cell Phone Use in Commercial Vehicles

By Erin Harlow

You may have heard about the new Department of Transportation (DOT) rule that bans cell phone use in commercial vehicles, but does it really apply to you? On January 3, 2012, the DOT and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began restricting the use of cell phones by people driving commercial motor vehicles. After checking with the FMCSA here are a few important key factors:



- At this time this only applies to commercial vehicles that weigh over 10,000 lbs (includes truck and trailer) AND that cross state lines or any vehicles that carry hazardous materials.
- If your vehicle does not leave the state, then you do not fall under this law.
- Florida has three years to create an in-state ban on the use of cell phones in commercial vehicles.
- Companies that fall under this law must tell their employees that cell use is prohibited. We recommend documenting the training.
- Wireless earpieces and speaker phones are okay as long as it does not take more than one button to activate the call.
- Texting is prohibited.
- Fines for individual drivers can be up to \$2,750 and companies can face up-to an \$11,000 penalty.
- The driver may not reach for the phone. It has to be positioned where it can easily be reached when the driver is properly seated and properly restrained by their seat belt.
- Push-to-talk devices are okay as long as the driver remains properly seated and restrained.
- Tow trucks are included in this law.
- For more information visit the FAQs at <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/other/faq/cellphone-ban-faqs.aspx>

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.

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. This is a great place to renew your certifications.

Seminars cover many different topics, so check out the schedule on page 6.

February 16, 2012
Thursday

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

8:30 am – 3:30 pm
 \$25.00

April 30, 2012
Monday

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.

February 23, 2012
Thursday

Florida Turfgrass Association Seminar

8:00 am - 2:30 pm
 \$45.00 pre-registration FTGA member or \$50 for non-FTGA members
 \$60.00 onsite registration for all attendees

FL Pesticide and GCSAA CEUs available.
 Check the website at www.ftga.org for updates. Speakers include University faculty from across the state and industry professionals. Vendors will also be on-site.

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**March 2, 2012
Friday**

Right-of-Way Herbicide Exam Prep

8:00 am - 3:15 pm, registration begins at 7:30 am
\$20.00, includes lunch
4.5 ROW and 2 CORE CEUs provided
Optional ROW and CORE exam is provided after the class

This class is designed for individuals who want to take the right-of-way pesticide exam. We recommend studying both CORE and right-of-way manuals prior to class. Manuals can be purchased by calling 800-226-1764. It does not cost anything to take the exam. You must have a picture ID.

**March 20, 2012
Tuesday**

Pesticide Selection for Turf and Ornamentals: The Real World of Resistance

(Video Conference)
8:30 am - 2:45 pm
FREE - lunch on your own

CEUs are not available for this workshop. It will be video broadcasted, but you can still interact with speakers and ask questions. This is a training for University faculty that is being opened to the public and will be more advanced in nature.

**March 22, 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, or 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, books or to register, please visit:
<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click on Commercial Horticulture or call the numbers above.

The next Duval County LCLM class is 09-20-12. Other trainings are available in the area and can be found on our website or by calling the office. 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 another class that has LCLM CEUs.

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April 4, 2012

Pest Control Operator CEU Day

\$5.00 per session, plus \$10.00 for lunch (optional)

Lawn & Ornamental - 8 am - 9:40 am (Erin Harlow, UF/IFAS)

CORE - 10 am - 11:40 am (Paul Mitola, FDACS)

General Household Pests - 12:30 pm - 2:10 pm (Bruce Ryser, FMC)

Wood Destroying Organisms - 2:30 pm - 4:10 pm (Pete Elbert, Residex)

2 L&O, 2 LCLM, 2 LL&O, 2 CORE, 2 GHP, 2 LS, 2 WDO, 2 PH have been applied for Register online or call for a brochure

**May 17, 2012
Thursday**

Pest Management University (PMU): Basics of Turfgarss Pest Management: Chinch Bug Edition

Video conference + hands-on activities

Save the Date! More information to come.

Do you know what this is?



Hazard of the job or the wrong after shave and deodorant?

Maybe – but there are other explanations – like falling asleep in one of Erin Harlow’s presentations on “Reading the Pesticide Label” and missing her advise on using PPE

when using pesticides – but **NO** – that’s not it either. How about simply carrying an armload of spent flowers or moving pots of annuals from your trunk and setting them in the landscape for planting and then the next thing you know – the skin around your neck is breaking out and is all red and even starting to puss? Yuck! What caused it and

do you need to see a doctor? Read the next issue of Commercial Clippings (April and May) and find out what caused this guy to have a bad day on the job. Stay healthy till then!! **RZ.**



FLORIDA FRIENDLY PREDATOR – Larra Wasps (*Larra bicolor*) by Raymond Zerba, Retired, Clay County Extension

It used to be that you could not go to a gas station or ball game at night during certain times of the year without being pelted by dozens of mole crickets as they engaged in mating/dispersal flights – now – it's rare to even see them. What's going on?

Actually, this is one of the success stories in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that the University of Florida can brag about. In the last decade, through the release of several predators that attack mole crickets, they have now become much less of a problem. The first predator was released about

10 years ago – a nematode that attacked only mole crickets, entered their bodies, was carried all through our neighborhoods as mole crickets flew to their mate, and then killed the host cricket. The cycle was completed when that nematode then gives birth to more of its kind, which then lay in the soil and wait for more mole crickets. This predator was so successful it is still around today and in large numbers.

About the same time, the UF released another parasitoid – a blue-blackish wasp with red abdomen in the Mud-dauber family. It also attacks mole crickets. The female Larra wasp (*Larra bicolor*) stings the cricket (even if it is in its tunnel) to paralyze it and then lays her eggs on the body. After a few minutes, the mole cricket recovers and begins moving about but this time with a “hitchhiker”! When the egg hatches, the wasp larva begins feeding on its host. Once fully developed, that larva drops off (but not before the mole cricket dies) and spins a cocoon. Inside this cocoon, the grub turns to an adult wasp and the cycle begins again.

So other than the fact that not as many mole crickets are out there cutting the roots on a client's lawn, is there some other benefit in this IPM approach to mole cricket control you might take advantage of? Yes there is, and it is tied up with public relations. First, let your client know about this beneficial predator. Go to the UF/IFAS website at http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/beneficial/Larra_wasps.htm and learn more about the Larra Wasp. In that article you'll find the suggestion that if a person wanted to encourage this wasp to work for them against their mole crickets, they only have to plant more of the flowering nectar plants this wasp needs to



keep them happy. So what are those plants? Among the flowers most commonly visited are members of the pea family. In the garden, green peas seem to attract them. There are also two common weeds that do the same thing – Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) and Brushy False Buttonweed (*Spermacoce verticillata*). At least thirty-one Florida counties are home to the wasp today, and they're spreading. Hand your client the fact sheet and ask if you can plant some of these nectar plants. It will be a win-win for your company's public image and all you have to do is just sit back and watch nature work.

Come find us at the show



Jacksonville Landscape Show

February 9th & 10th

CEUs Available:

- 5 FL Pesticide - L&O, LCLM, LL&O, Pvt, O&T
- 2 FL Pesticide - CORE
- 5 GA Pesticide - Cat 24
- 0.70 GSCAA Points
- 7 FNGLA
- 5 ISA

Seminars

Thursday, Feb 9th

- **Common Ornamental Diseases: Detection & Management**, Carrie Harmon, UF/IFAS
- **The Root of Landscape Problems: Learning from 40 Years of Plants, Products and People**, Harold Jones, Southern Horticultural Consultants
- **Working with Poor Soils**, Lynn Griffith, A&L Laboratories
- **Exceptional Plants for the Southeast**, Chuck Hubbuch, UNF

Friday, Feb 10th

- **Pesticide's Affect on Water Quality**, Rebecca Jordi, UF/IFAS
- **FDOT Vehicles in Commerce Requirements**, Paul Mitola, DACS
- **Turf Disease Identification**, Erin Harlow, UF/IFAS

\$10.00 per seminar + \$10 for show entrance; or \$45 for entrance and all seminars on Thursday; or \$35 for entrance and all seminars on Friday. Seminars begin at 9:30 am. Registration opens at 9 am.



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GROW YOUR BUSINESS.



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How to Properly Prune Crape Myrtles By Larry Figart, UF/Duval County Urban Forester

It is that time of year when your clients start thinking about pruning their crape myrtles. Unfortunately, for many folks that involves topping the tree. Topping requires less skill, and time than other pruning methods, but it also results in delayed flowering, weak growth, and unattractive sprouting. Not only is topping crape myrtles ugly, it increases maintenance requirements on an otherwise low-maintenance plant.



In the past, it was true that you pruned crape myrtles to reduce powdery mildew infestations. With today's resistant cultivars, crape myrtles require very little pruning. In fact, a crape myrtle planted in full sun with plenty of space to grow needs little to no pruning at all.

If you find yourself in the position to prune crape myrtles, here are a few simple steps to follow. First, prune sucker sprouts and basal sprouts. If left to grow, these sprouts may form woody stems that eventually compete with existing main stems.



Second, prune any rubbing or crossing branches, as well as, dead branches. This may include branches that are crossing through the canopy from one side to another. As always make the pruning cuts at the branch collar.



Third, (this one is optional) tip prune the branches to remove spent flower buds. This is also called pencil pruning because the branches removed are no thicker than a pencil. This type of pruning is the most labor intensive, but it also results in a more aesthetically attractive tree.

Recent research from the University of Florida has demonstrated that the number of crape myrtle blooms decrease in direct correlation to the size of the branch removed. In other words the larger the branch removed, the fewer the blooms. However, blooms on pruned trees were a larger than blooms on un-pruned trees. To receive the benefit of larger flowers from pruning, prune just pencil sized branches without jeopardizing overall tree health caused by topping the tree. For more information refer to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP39900.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.