



Commercial Clippings

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

June/July 2012

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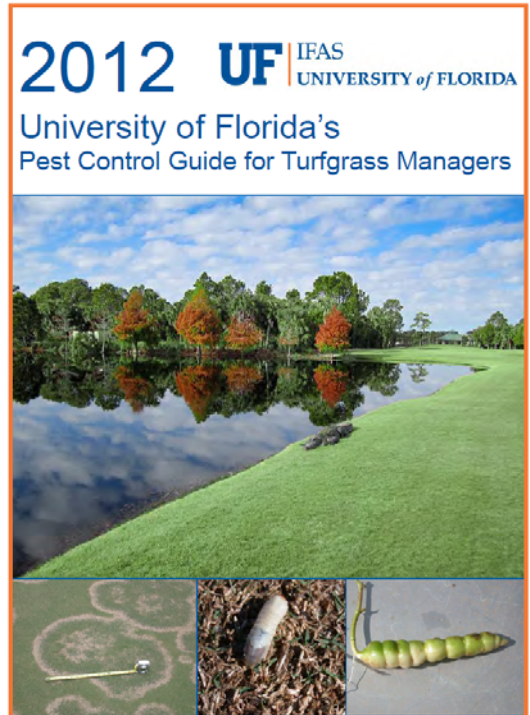
2012 University of Florida's Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers is Now Available

By Erin Harlow

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If you haven't used the University of Florida's Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers before and you are a landscape professional then you need to download a copy of this book. This is my go-to manual for the latest research-based recommendations for fungicides, insecticides, pre and post emergent herbicides, and more. The turf research specialists have pooled their data and combined it into this one free publication. It includes information for different sites including sod farms, golf courses, landscapes and lawns, and commercial sites. You do have to check the active ingredients and labels for specific requirements. This was last updated in 2009 and does include research on new products. It is an outstanding resource to have in your collection and I urge you to download it and use it. You can download a copy of this 84 page document from UF's turf website at <http://turf.ufl.edu/>. If you don't have a computer, but would like a copy please contact your local extension office and they should be able to provide you a copy.



<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

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.

June 7, 2012
Thursday
(Lake City)

**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

August 23, 2012
Thursday
(Gainesville)

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.

September 20, 2012
Thursday
(Duval)

For more information about the exam, books or to register, please visit:
<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml>.

To register for Lake City call (386) 752-5384.
To register for Gainesville call (352) 955-2402.
To register for Duval call (904) 255-7450.

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.

June 12, 2012
Tuesday
(Gainesville)

Worker Protection Standard: Train-the-Trainer

8:30 am - 12:00 pm
\$5.00 per person
3 Pvt and Ag Row Crop CEUs
Call Barton Wilder at 352-955-2402

**June 14, 21, 28 and
July 5, 2012**
Thursdays
**(Must attend all 4
sessions)**
(Duval)

Arborist Certification Education (ACE)

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$50 per person, dinner on your own, light snacks and drinks provided

Deadline for registration is June 8, 2012. Contact Larry Figart at (904) 255-7450 to register or visit our website.

This course is a review course for the arborist exam and does not take the place of studying for the exam.

June 18, 2012
Monday
(Gainesville)

Private Applicator Pesticide School

8:30 am - 6:00 pm
Full day registration is \$40.00 (books & lunch); \$10.00 (lunch & no books); half day \$5.00 (no books or lunch)
3 CORE and 3 Pvt CEUs
Call Barton Wilder at 352-955-2402

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.

**June 26, 2012
Tuesday (Lake City)**

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

**July 26, 2012
Thursday
(Gainesville)**

To register for Lake City call (386) 752-5384.

To register for Gainesville call (352) 955-2402.

To register for Hastings call (386) 329-0318.

To register for Duval call (904) 255-7450.

**August 10, 2012
Friday (Hastings)**

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.

**October 30, 2012
Tuesday (Duval)**

**July 13, 2012
Friday (Duval @
Everbank Field and
Suns Stadium)**

North Florida Sports Turf Managers Association Meeting and Seminars

12:30 pm - 7:00 pm + FREE optional Suns Baseball game till 10:00 pm

\$10.00 for members; \$15.00 for non-members (Dinner and Baseball game included)

Meeting Sponsored by Golf Ventures

Seminar - Natural vs. Synthetic Fields - Dr. Grady Miller

Seminar - Aeration a Tool for All Seasons - Chick Hicks

Tours of the stadium and field

Field Demos - aerification, mowing equipment, rakes/groomers, topdressing equipment

Call John Mascaro at 850-580-4026 or email john@turf-tec.com before July 6th reserve your place.

**June 6, 2012
July 11, 2012
August 1, 2012
September 5, 2012
October 3, 2012**

Pesticide Testing in Duval County

Includes Limited, Public Health, and Restricted-Use Exams

8:30 am - optional CORE review video

9:15 am - testing begins

**Wednesdays
(Duval)**

You may register for exams online or by calling Becky at 904-255-7450 two days prior to the exam date.

You must have your paperwork to take a limited exams. These can be downloaded from our website.

Pest Management University Termite and General Household Pest Classes and Exam Opportunities

By the PMU Team

For those who are planning to take advantage of the PMU Training-DACS Exam special, you must: 1) come through the Foundations AND Masters classes and 2) qualify according to 482, but please note the following timeline. Everything will be held at Apopka MREC.

- Termite Foundations (last one for the year): Sept. 5-7, 2012 (Wednesday - Friday)
- Termite Masters (only one for the year): Sept 26-28, 2012 (Wednesday - Friday)
- Certified operator exam review with Joe Parker (DACS), Sept 28, 1-5 pm (Friday)
- Certified operator exam: Sept. 29, 2012 (Saturday)

Application deadline date of August 10, 2012 for the September 29, 2012 Termite exam at PMU – Apopka

- GHP Foundations (last one for the year): July 25-27, 2012 (Wednesday - Friday)
- GHP Masters (only one for the year): Oct 24-26, 2012 (Wednesday - Friday)
- Certified operator exam review with Joe Parker (DACS), Oct 26, 1-5 pm (Friday)
- Certified operator exam: Oct 27, (Saturday)

Application deadline date of September 7, 2012 for the October 27, 2012 GHP exam at PMU – Apopka

The applications NEED TO INDICATE that the exam will be taken at PMU Apopka (either by sticky note, letter, or mark it right on the application....SOMEHOW)

A person will still need to qualify for the exam with 3 years experience and 45 jobs, etc.

For more information or to register please visit the Pest Management University website at <http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/> or call 352-273-3971.

Do you know what this is?

Have you been lucky enough to see one of these and if so, did you know what it was?

We think of fungi as sort of “static things” incapable of moving on their own, so when we see one that is actually able to orient itself to have a better chance of making offspring – by standing on its “tippy-toes” – that’s a curiosity worth learning more about. To do so, be sure to read the August and September issue of Commercial Clippings to learn about this amazing North Florida Fungus. ~ **Ray Zerba**



FLORIDA FRIENDLY PREDATOR – *Usnea* lichen

by Raymond Zerba, Retired

Answer to the April/May 2012 “Do You Know What This Is?”

In this article I decided to discuss an entity (actually two entities) that are commonly submitted to us – *Usnea* lichens or more commonly called Old Man’s Beard or Goat’s Beard Lichen. *Usnea* looks very similar to Spanish moss to the point that the species name for Spanish moss *T. usneoides* is derived from the genus name for this lichen.

Unlike Spanish moss, however, *Usnea* is not a plant, but rather a fruticose lichen and represents the combination of two kinds of organisms – a fungus and an alga growing in a symbiotic relationship to the benefit of both. The fungus gives the organism its “body” while the alga consists of single-celled organisms imbedded throughout that takes in light through photosynthesis and produces food for the lichen. Lichens, thus are self sufficient and may derive nothing from the plant they are on except a place to attach themselves.

Many people bring us specimens of lichens thinking they are killing a particular plant, because that plant is under decline, but this is not the case. The lichen is simply taking advantage of a “bared” surface to grow and a place that sunlight penetrates (because the plant’s canopy is thinning). They are not a part of the problem and in fact, they are just the opposite – their presence says that air pollution in the area is low. *Usnea* is very sensitive to air pollution, especially sulfur dioxide. Under bad conditions they may grow no larger than an inch or less, if they survive at all. Where the air is unpolluted, they can grow to 4-6 inches or longer.

Their presence on a plant, however, is making a comment on the health of the plant they are on (if they could talk) – it’s having problems or is old and in declining years.

There are many types of lichens, but the *Usnea* types are unique in that they hang down in a draping mass while attached to limbs instead of wrapping themselves around the limb. Their stringy, spongy body type is ideal for capturing moisture and dew

whenever it is available. Everything else they need they get from the air, although leaf and bark drip, may provide some nutrients if they capture it – this could explain why certain types are more common on certain types of trees, for example those trees produce the right type supplemental nutrient, although I am not aware of any research to support this.

This plant reproduces by breaking off parts of itself in high wind, but will also release some spores. If your clients ask about it, tell them that the lichen itself is not the problem, but the plant it is on is under some sort of stress, then try to help them find out why. Too much water? Too little water? Root problems?

To learn more about this lichen – go on line and do a search under the Genus *Usnea*.



UPDATE on Live Oak Dieback by Larry Figart Urban Forestry Extension Agent

For the past 3-4 years we have been getting calls about live oaks showing various stages of dieback. This dieback has been reported to be anywhere from 10 percent of the crown to 100 percent of the crown plus tree mortality. The dieback usually becomes apparent in the late spring or early summer. When portions of the bark are removed on the dead or dying branch it reveals patches of dead phloem. There are several other characteristics of this condition that seem to be common. They are:

- The live oaks are planted among well maintained St. Augustine turf.
- The dieback is restricted to property boundaries, but within multiple sites on the property indicating a landscape management connection.
- The dieback occurs in a short period of time.

After thorough investigations of several sites throughout the state, Dr. Jason Smith, a UF Forest Pathologist, may have discovered a clue to the cause of the problem. The herbicide used in broadleaf weed control in St. Augustine grass, Metsulfuron methyl, may play a role in the disorder. It appears that it was applied near the root zones of live oaks in most, if not all of the sites where the dieback has occurred.

In order to determine what, if any, role Metsulfuron methyl had in the dieback, Dr. Smith, along with Dr. Ed Gilman designed an experiment where various "label" rates of the herbicide along with a control were applied to a block of containerized 'Cathedral' live oaks. In all the trees where Metsulfuron methyl was applied, some form of dieback occurred. A chemical analysis of tree tissue indicated that the herbicide was absorbed by the tree. In the photograph below, the trees that are scorched had the herbicide application. The control trees are all still green.

The manufacturer has claimed that the product to be safe for use around trees when used according to the label. Also, a new stem canker of oak has been identified in Florida that has similar symptoms. What does all this mean? Well, at this point it is obvious that more research needs to be done. A large field study using five-year

established live oak trees is on-going at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra. Depth of roots, irrigation, and the extent of exposure will be compared. Until this issue is cleared-up by further research, it is recommended that products containing Metsulfuron methyl not be applied near the root zone of live oak trees. For more information I recommend downloading a recent presentation by Dr. Smith on **New Developments in Oak Decline and Mortality**. It can be found at: http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/TLSC_2011/2011_TreeLSC_Smith/index.htm



Photo by: Dr. Jason Smith



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMOSAN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES DISCOVERED IN TWO ADDITIONAL JACKSONVILLE-AREA LOCATIONS

Formosan Subterranean Termites were recently discovered by pest management professionals in the Greater Jacksonville area. Already known to infest the western and northern metropolitan area, infestations were recently revealed in the downtown Jacksonville-Riverside area by Bug Out Services and in the Mandarin area by Orange Environmental Services. The discoveries lead professionals and University of Florida researchers to conclude that any area of Jacksonville can potentially harbor this invasive, highly destructive pest species.

Dr. Phil Koehler of the University of Florida, Department of Entomology isn't surprised by the new finds. "Humans have done a very good job distributing Formosan termites in Florida and across the southern United States. They can now be found in almost half of Florida counties." Originally brought into New Orleans, LA and Charleston, SC with munitions decommissioned from the Pacific Theater after World War II, Formosans have hitched rides aboard cross ties, landscape timbers and potted plant stock. Known for their large colony sizes—often numbering in the millions—and their aggressive behavior, Formosan termites rapidly spread into new areas of introduction through their annual swarming, often in mid-May, when hundreds of thousands of winged reproductives take flight to mate and start new colonies.

Like all termites, Formosans are cryptic and often avoid detection until a colony matures enough to send off swarmers, often in the month of May, depending on weather conditions. These flying termites are what were identified by pest management professionals two weeks ago. Jason Zicarelli of Orange Environmental Services found several by chance near his home in Mandarin. "The Formosan swarmers are honey colored and come out briefly at dusk," Zicarelli stated, "If I hadn't been home and one actually land on me, I may not have seen them."

Robert Holyfield and Terry Hardwick of Bug Out Services also noted swarming Formosan termites in a Riverside-area warehouse while performing termite inspections. "We saw swarmers, and upon further inspection, we saw lots of soldiers ready to defend the colony." Another striking feature of Formosan termite colonies is the large percentage of soldiers, who aggressively defend the workers, winged reproductives and queen with hardened, tear dropped shaped heads that produce a sticky mass to entangle invading insects such as ants.

Florida Pest Management Association members recommend that buildings be protected from Formosan termites and the native subterranean species and are inspected at least annually by a qualified pest management professional. To find an FPMA in your area, go the "Find a Pro" feature on the FPMA website: www.flpma.org.

The Florida Pest Management Association has represented the interests the pest management profession since 1945. FPMA members display the highest ethical standards, most advanced training and concern for health and the environment.



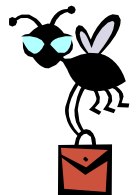
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