



Who am I?
Answer on page 7



Commercial Clippings

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREEN INDUSTRY
Including Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties

Professional DEVELOPMENT

DATE	PROGRAM
Aug. 9 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Landscape Maintenance series—Diseases of Ornamentals To make reservations for class phone 387-8850. Please give class title, name and business phone number to receptionist. Class Fee: \$ 5.00
Sep. 5 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Landscape Maintenance series—Irrigation Basics To make reservations for class phone 387-8850. Please give class title, name and business phone number to receptionist. Class Fee: \$ 5.00
Sep 7 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM	ID Cardholder Training Duval County Extension Office Topics: PPE and Pesticide Exposure, Florida Pesticide Laws, and IPM Principles To make reservations for class or phone 387-8850 and give class title and name to receptionist. Class Fee: \$ 5.00
Sep 19 TBA	BMP Training Session Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32254 Workshop designed to familiarize attendees with the BMPs for Protecting Florida Water Resources. A certificate of training will be issued upon completion. Details will be posted on the website listed below or call 387-8850 after August 7th.

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Agendas and registration forms may be downloaded from:

<http://www.coj.net/Departments/Agriculture/Agricultural+Programs/Commercial+Horticulture.htm>

TIP OF THE MONTH – A New Business Option: Root Barriers

by Raymond Zerba

Tree roots can be one of the strongest forces in nature when it comes to their interactions with hardscapes (sidewalks, patios, building foundations, pool decks, etc.) As roots grow (for a certain distance beyond their trunk) they increase in diameter each year, similar to their trunks. How far from the tree this is significant probably varies with species and growing conditions however, as a general rule of thumb, it is said that trees that will grow large (greater than 30 feet tall) should not be placed within 15 feet of hardscapes to prevent the “lifting power” such root expansion can cause. All of us have seen the results of trees planted too close to sidewalks to the detriment of those hard surfaces and the injuries that the trees must endure when they are eventually root-pruned.

If in your business, you are in the position to advise your clients about the wisdom of planting too near their hardscapes, do so. Certainly in your selection of tree species you should have some influence when it comes to this, however, another way you can help them further, while at the same time create an additional business option is to learn about root barriers and offer your services in their installation.



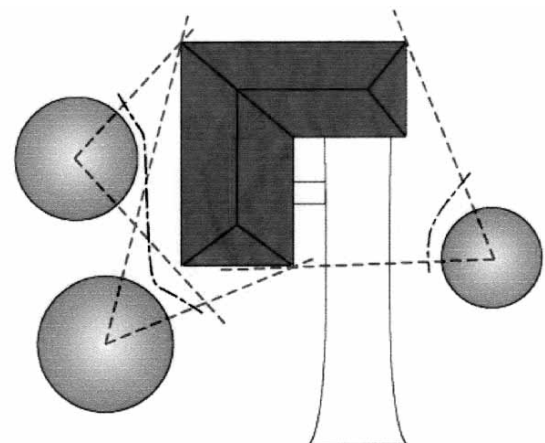
There is still much research going on about root barriers but they have been around for decades now. The earlier systems (which are still used because they do work & they have been much modified) use raised-rib molded plastic panels which are placed into the soil, at time of planting, lineal to the hardscape you want protected. When a tree root encounters them, it grows down.

Innovations to these systems now include preformed modular panels that lock together, plastic sheets with glued on ribs, and some have even become more “environmentally friendly” by using 50% recycled polystyrene with UV inhibitors.

A new type of root barrier is made of herbicide-embedded fabric, which being flexible, has the advantage of being able to be wrapped around pipes or utility supply lines to prevent root invasion, in addition to being used as a linear barrier. One type uses the herbicide trifluralin which is release as a vapor 1-2 inches around the fabric, causing root tips nearing it to stop growing in that direction. Being a woven, porous fabric, it does not impede moisture or air from one side to the other so does not impact soil moisture gradients as would impervious materials.

Dr. Ed Gilman (our Tree Specialist at the University of Florida) is doing on-going research with root barriers and continues to give programs at the various Tree conferences on their practical use.

The lineal use of root barriers, used hand in hand with tree selection, should have a useful place in you're installation service offerings. Consider learning more about them.



----- ROOT BARRIER
 ----- RADIAL GUIDE LINES

PEST OF THE MONTH — Berumdagrass Scale

by Rebecca Jordi

Bermudagrass scale, *Odonaspis ruthae*

Bermudagrass scale attacks common and hybrid forms of Bermudagrass. This scale is found around the base of the blade or in the lawn grass thatch area. Like all scale, Bermudagrass scale is a piercing-sucking insect, which removes the plant juices and gives the grass a wilted appearance. Eventually, if left unchecked, large areas of the lawn grass may die. There has been some evidence that Bermudagrass in shaded areas was especially susceptible but I have seen this scale destroy Bermudagrass located in full sun. This is probably not surprising as one of the other contributing factors of the loss of Bermudagrass to scale is drought. Use your IPM scouting methods to hunt for this parasite. Cultural controls include removal of thatch and proper irrigation. Chemical controls listed for management of scales in turfgrass in the University of Florida 2006 Professional Turfgrass Managerd Guide include Bifenthrin (Talstar), Clothiandin (Arena), Deltamethrin (DeltaGard) and Imidacloprid (Merit).

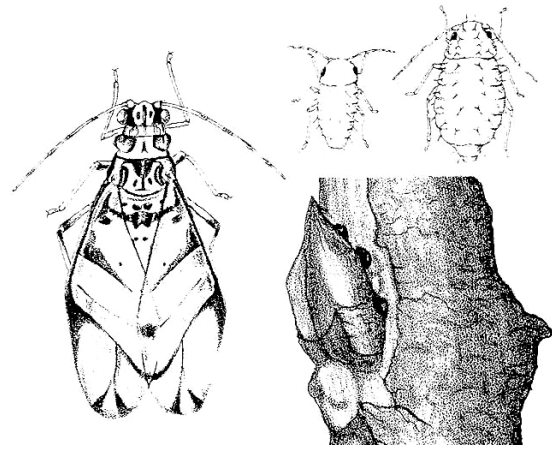


Photo from University of California – Davis

UNFRIENDLY HOMESTEADER— the Crape Myrtle Aphid

by Raymond Zerba

The Crape Myrtle Aphid (*Sarucallis kaha-waluokalani*) has a scientific name that sounds very Hawaiian – understandable since it was first



described by a Hawaiian entomologist. Originating in Asia, it has spread throughout most places where the Crape Myrtle grows because the Crape Myrtle is its only food. This species attacks no other plant.

In our area, it's only a small irritation through most of the summer because of the many predators keeping its numbers low (especial the Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle) but as August approaches, its numbers frequently shoot up as predators switch to other food sources or prepare for fall. By September and October, its numbers have resurged to the point that Crape Myrtle leaves and twigs are turning black from the sooty mold that grows on all the sugary honeydew this aphid is dropping. Even the sooty mold fungus itself is specific to this insect in an indirect way – the particular *Capnodium* species involved grows on Crape Myrtle Aphid honeydew and no other.

Besides these strange examples of uniqueness, this is an aphid, which as an adult, is usually always winged. Other aphids form wings only in response to environmental factors or approaching season to mate.

So why would I include this in a column about **Unfriendly Homesteaders** instead of just branding it an "outright pest"? Because, in a way, the Crape Myrtle Aphid should be considered "beneficial" in that it provides a sustaining food source for various natural predators (lady beetles, and lacewings) at a time of year when other sustaining food supplies are low. In addition, even their honeydew is an important food for various wasps (Paper and Sphecid), ants, and parasitoids at a time when they also need a high energy, sustaining food source.

Of course, the fact they are feeding on one of our more important and attractive, flowering

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trees (at the same time), makes it the “unfriendly homesteader” I have labeled it. Experts assure however, that any feeding they do is of little consequence to a healthy Crape Myrtle. In light of the fact this aphid fits right into the concept of “encouraging” nature food chains that support a healthy, on-site natural predator population, the University of Florida suggests trying to ignore and live with them. Of course, a client may not be so inclined, even after your explanation for a reluctance to spray for them, so that sprays with insecticidal soaps may be needed this fall.

My information comes from the Featured Creatures Article by Drs. John Herbert & Russ Mizell which can be found at the University of Florida website <http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu>

Keys to Successful Landscapes

By Pat Grace

STEPS IN DEVELOPING A LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Design Activity Areas

The Service Area

The outdoor service area is an extension of the indoor service rooms like the kitchen, utility room and/or garage. It is a part of the overall design, but is usually screened from most parts of the living and public areas. Access from the house and from other parts of the landscape will be necessary. Sometimes vehicular access is desired. The family interview previously discussed, will determine what must be included in this area. The amount of space available and number and type of activities to be included will determine the required size.

A service area could include tool storage, work space, clothesline, garden supplies storage, trash cans, firewood and a vegetable or cut-flower garden. It is possible to have service functions in two or more locations in the landscape.

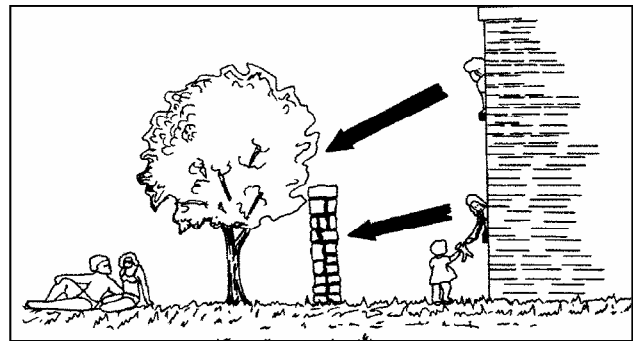
Definition and Separation of Areas

Once the activity areas have been located and ideas for development of these areas have been formulated, the need for separation of these areas is often apparent. Space can be the medium for separation when working with a larger piece of property. Most often some other type of separation is required due to the number of sepa-

rate activities planned in a small area. Sometimes it is only necessary to define space with a rail fence, etc., rather than providing a complete screen or barrier. Spaces can also be separated by changes in elevation. Planters can separate areas and can be a very attractive means of defining space.

A Visual screen from one direction without being a physical barrier fits the bill for some situations. Groupings of plants can be positioned to give a visual block in one direction while allowing air flow into the activity area.

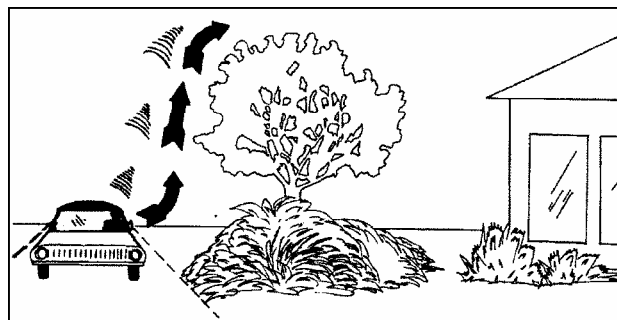
The required height of a screen depends upon the elevation of the view to be screened. A screen for privacy from the neighbor's two story window will require a taller screen than one for blocking the view of a neighbor down in the valley.



Generally, a screen should be placed as close as possible to the item to be screened.

Plant materials provide an inexpensive screen with color and interest. They generally require more space than fences and it takes time for them to grow to mature size. Fences provide an immediate screen, occupy little space and are quite expensive. The budget and available space will be the determining factors in this decision.

Screens can be combinations of raised land form, ground covers, small shrubs, large shrubs, and trees to give a complete or strong barrier. This combined planting is especially suited for noise abatement where the lot adjoins a busy public street.



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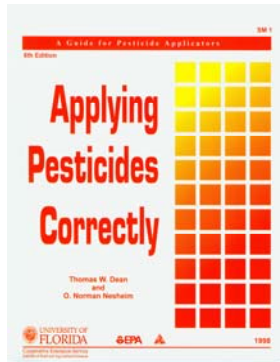
SEASONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE LANDSCAPE

With replies for the professional

by Rebecca Jordi

Q. I am a new employee and my immediate supervisor tells me not to worry about the required PPE written on the pesticide label as long as I wear gloves. Is that true? SK

R. Being between a rock and a hard place is always uncomfortable but your first concern should be keeping your work environment safe and that includes protecting yourself. Look in the [Applying Pesticides Correctly](#) by Thomas Dean and O. Neshheim on page 132 where it addresses this very same question of what to do if you get conflicting information. “Anytime you get conflicting information about PPE requirements (or any other aspect of a pesticide’s use), the best course of action is to ‘Read and follow the pesticide label’.” No one likes to get into a confrontation with their immediate boss but it may help when you can take the book and remind him of proper procedures in a calm manner. Besides, pesticide labels change constantly, maybe gloves used to be all that was required but now the label states a need for goggles and long sleeved shirts. It is important that you follow the label instructions completely. **RJ**



from this group.

In order of drawing:

1. Daniel Sherril, Emerald Crest Landscape & Design
2. Stu Jones, Digmore Lawn Services, Inc.
3. Cathy Murphy
4. Dale Pritchard, A Greener Image
5. Dave Dover

Prizes will be mailed to all the recipients. **If you have not responded to this year’s survey you will have one last chance with this newsletter.** Please return the survey either, email, fax or regular mail no later than August 29th to remain on either mailing list for the Commercial Clippings.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Pamela Mattis

Confederate or Cotton Rose
Hibiscus mutabilis

This month’s plant has a very Southern name and is an old fashion plant that has been used in Southern landscapes for years. The Confederate Rose is actually a hardy hibiscus from China that has adapted to our Florida climate quite nicely. There are both single and double bloom types available on the market.

Hardiness zones for the Confederate Rose vary depending on the source. The range is Zone 8 through Zone 10, essentially North, Central and South Florida. In Zone 8 however, the plant will die back to the ground with freezing temperatures and push new growth in the spring from the base. On the coast where my tree has grown for several years, it drops leaves in winter and puts out new



INDUSTRY NEWS





Drawing Results

Thank you to everyone who returned surveys in June and July. We had a total of 83 individuals return their surveys and we picked 5 names

(Continued on page 7)

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR THE MONTH - AUGUST

(Northeast Florida)

Topic	Turfgrass	Ornamentals
Irrigation 	<p>Water as needed or 3/4 inch twice a week if there is no rain.</p> <p>If a client's lawn is not doing well on twice a week watering, remind them they can apply to the Water Management District for an exemption.</p>	<p>Water weekly unless there is a rain event. Established drought tolerant plants in a woody shrub bed (depending on soil type) may need water only once a month if no rain in 30 days.</p> <p>Exceptions are newly planted shrubs and trees, keep the root ball moist. This often requires property owner to hand water. Irrigation systems are designed for turfgrass.</p>
Fertilization 	<p>No fertilization this month unless to correct a problem. If that is the case be sure to use slow release forms of nitrogen or use iron and manganese to keep the turf green without pushing shoot growth.</p>	<p>None unless to correct a deficiency.</p>
Weed Control	<p>In the heat of summer hand-pulling weeds is the best approach but who wants to pull weeds. Most herbicides cause injury to grass if applied this month.</p>	<p>Spot treat with post emergent herbicides being careful not to contact foliage of the ornamentals.</p>
Pest Concerns 	<p>Gray Leaf Spot, Pythium Root Rot, Take-all Root Rot and Fairy Rings continue to be a problem this month, especially if the tropical rains come.</p> <p>Insects causing damage to turfgrass this month include chinch bugs, mole crickets, grubs, and sod webworms.</p>	<p>Diseases showing up in the ornamentals this month continue to be stem cankers and root rots. Leaf beetles, caterpillars, and scale are also causing problems.</p>
Mowing/Pruning Activity	<p>Mow high during drought and high temperatures.</p>	<p>Do minimum pruning on shrubs and trees removing only diseased or injured woody material</p>
Other	<p>Avoid mowing grass when it is still wet to minimize disease spread. The needle, pinecone, and small branch "drop season" begins this month. It's better to rake the cones and small branches from the lawn then chopping them up with a mower.</p>	



WEBSITES
for the Green Industries

University of Florida IFAS calendar of events Web site.
<http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu>

University of Florida IFAS Extension website
<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/>

REFERENCES
for Articles in this Issue

TIP OF THE MONTH - A New Business Option: Root Barriers

Information from Dr. Ed Gilman's Tree website at <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody> & from an article on Root Barriers <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/mar02/art3mar.html> by Dr. William Welch of Texas A&M Extension

PEST OF THE MONTH — Berumdagrass Scale

Florida Lawn Handbook

UNFRIENDLY HOMESTEADER—Crape Myrtle Aphid

My information comes from the Featured Creatures Article by Drs. John Herbert & Russ Mizell which can be found at the University of Florida website <http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu>

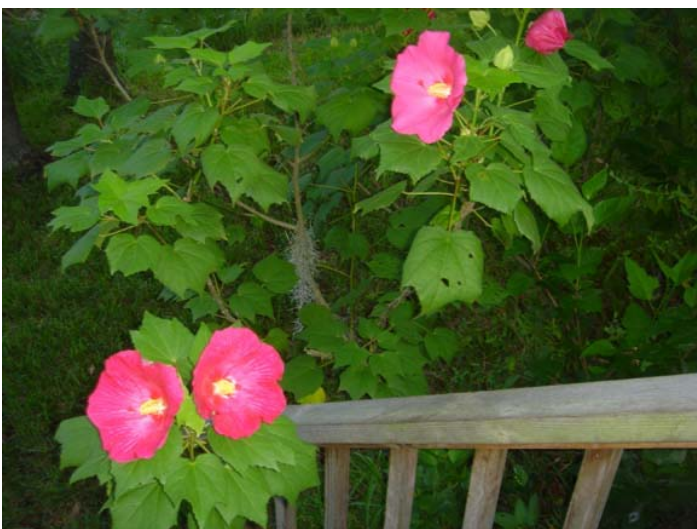
PLANT OF THE MONTH—Confedate Rose

More detailed information may be found at <http://www.floridata.com> and in the University of Florida Fact Sheet ENH999, *Hardy Hibiscus for Florida Landscapes* by Dr. G.W. Knox and Dr. R. Schoellhorn at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP24500.pdf>.

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leaves on the previous year's growth about March. By late May the single blooms start their show. Each bloom lasts for a single day but there are several at the ends of each branch. Since the blooms form on new wood, there is a new display after each flush of growth throughout the summer.

Cultural requirements are few, the plant adapts to most soils and flowers in partial to full sun. A slow release fertilizer in the Spring when getting established and pruning out dead or crossing branches is all this multi-trunk shrub needs.

Pests are few but like most Hibiscus whitefly and mealybugs are often found feeding on the underside of the leaves and on the stems. The usual treatments take care of these pests.



Answer to the cover : Eastern Baccharis (aka. Groundsel Shrub and Saltbush) the Unfriendly Homesteader in the March 2004 issue.

Next ID Cardholder Training

TOPIC	DATE
PPE and Pesticide Exposure, Florida Pesticide Laws, and IPM Principles	Sept. 7, 2006

Training for ID cardholders as prescribed under Chapter 482 will be offered quarterly. Session will be 4 hours with topics that meet both new and recurring training requirements. Sign up can be for either 2 or 4 hours. A \$5.00 materials fee per technician, registration in advance requested.

Local EXTENSION Offices

Clay County
 2463 SR 16 West
 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
 (904) 284-6355
<http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Duval County
 1010 N. McDuff Avenue
 Jacksonville FL 32254
 (904) 387-8850
 FAX 387-8902
<http://www.coj.net/Departments/Agriculture/>

Nassau County
 543350 US Highway 1
 Callahan, FL 32011-6486
 (904) 879-1019
<http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Putnam County
 111 Yelvington Rd., Ste. 1
 East Palatka, FL 32131-2114
 (386) 329-0318
<http://putnam.ifas.ufl.edu/>

St. Johns County
 3125 Agriculture Center Drive
 St. Augustine, FL 32092
 (904) 209-0430
<http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/>



Newsletter Team

Pamela Mattis, Duval County
 Raymond Zerba, Jr., Clay County
 Rebecca L. Jordi, Nassau County
 Patricia E. Grace, Putnam County

**MONTHLY
 Landscape Maintenance Series
 Schedule
 2006**

Topic	Time	Date
Diseases of Ornamentals	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	August 9, 2006
Irrigation Basics	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Sept. 5, 2006
Contracts and Bidding Basics	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Oct. 5, 2006
Equipment Maintenance	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Nov. 2, 2006

This is your newsletter, so please, let us know what you want to read about each month. Pamela Mattis can be reached at (904) 387-8850 or pmattis@coj.net. Ray Zerba can be reached at (904) 284-6355 or rhz@mail.ifas.ufl.edu. Rebecca Jordi can be reached at (904)879-1019 or rjordi@mail.ifas.ufl.edu and Pat Grace at (386)329-0318 or PEGrace@ifas.ufl.edu. 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://www.coj.net/Departments/Agriculture/Agricultural+Programs/default.htm>

Pamela R. Mattis
 Extension Agent-Commercial Horticulture

Raymond H. Zerba, Jr.
 Extension Agent IV-Horticulture

Rebecca L. Jordi
 Extension Agent-Horticulture

Patricia E. Grace
 Extension Agent III, Horticulture

The Duval County Extension Service, through the University of Florida Extension Service offers educational programs and activities to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, or national origin. This publication is jointly sponsored by the University of Florida, Florida Extension Service, Larry Arrington, Dean; City of Jacksonville, John Peyton, Mayor; and the Duval County Extension Service, Richard E. Godke, Extension Director.