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Hort Newsletter

Serving Landscape Professionals in Miami-Dade County

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Hort Newsletter

bringing you the latest information on
commercial horticulture practices in
Miami-Dade County

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Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service

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Editor's note:

To better view the color photographs, you can read
this newsletter on-line at:

<http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/commurb.htm>

Change in Account for Workshops & Classes

We now have a new account to
handle registrations for our
programs: **Miami-Dade Extension
Program Account**. Payment must
still be made either by check,
money order, or by journal transfer if
from another County department.



Only registrations using journal transfer payments can be faxed. All others must be via mail or in person. Please remember we have a cancellation policy for pesticide training workshops. The best part is that we are now able to sell books from the IFAS bookstore, but these must be picked up in person. You can still order pesticide training manuals by calling (800) 226-1764, or from <http://IFASbooks.ufl.edu>.

Florida Green Industries: Best Management Practices (BMP) for Protection of Water Resources in Florida

A BMP manual has been jointly developed by the Florida Green Industries, FDEP, FDACS, DCA, water management districts, and the University of Florida for lawn and landscape maintenance professionals and other interested persons. This 60-page manual provides information and guidance on turfgrass and



It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For sign language interpreter services, call 305-670-9099 five days in advance. For materials in accessible formats, call the Consumer Services Department (CSD). For ADA complaints call CSD at 305-375-3843 or the Office of ADA Coordination at 305-375-3566. The Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, gender, age, disability or national origin.

landscape management practices for the purpose of conserving and protecting Florida's water resources. Practices cover establishment of new turf and landscapes and the care of existing turf and landscapes, including construction activities, irrigation, nutrient management, and pest management. A smaller summary booklet is also available that contains only the main points, and is printed in an 8 -1/2 x 5" format to fit in the glove box. Both are available on line at:
http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/docs/nonpoint/BMP_wrp.pdf

To introduce these new *Green Industries Best Management Practices*, there will be a Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Feb. 19, 2003, The Ag Center, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead, FL from 10 am - 4 pm. This program is DEP-endorsed and has been developed with UF-IFAS specialists, green industry representatives, Water Management District representatives, and others. The goal of this educational program is to train a minimum of 15,000 green industry workers around the state on how to minimize environmental impairment resulting from their daily activities.

The intended audience for this workshop series includes county extension faculty, Water Management District representatives, industry training personnel, and local government decision-makers.

The goal is to provide training to all parties involved in maintenance of the 4 million acres of home lawns in Florida or to those who make decisions that might pertain to this industry at the local government level. Participants will learn how to minimize any risk of impairment to Florida's ground or surface waters as a result of their daily work activities. This workshop is **free** and lunch will be provided.

A New Landscape Organization Begins!

In just about 3 months, a new landscape organization has formed. The **United Landscapers Association** (U.L.A.) already has more than 200 members in Miami-Dade County. This group is very active and motivated to help the smaller



landscape maintenance companies improve their services and become more profitable. They hold monthly meetings at the Ag Center on the first Tuesday at 7 pm. For more information on the U.L.A., call 305-551-0065 or write to: U.L.A., P.O. Box 557731, Miami, FL 33255-7731.

Upcoming Programs for Landscape Architects



On Thursday, Feb. 6, the UF - Energy Extension office will be offering the *Florida Building Code* workshop for landscape architects (**4 CECs**). It will be held at the Ag Center, 18710 SW 288 St., Homestead, from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. The cost is \$75. Please call 305-248-3311, ext. 227, for more information or a registration form.

Pest Update

Lobate LAC Scale
by F.W. Howard,
Entomologist, FLREC

Lobate lac scale has been identified on more than 120 species of plants, about 1/3 of which are native to Florida and the Caribbean. It was first found in Broward County in 1999, and is now widely spread throughout Broward and parts of Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties. It is in both urban and natural areas. Infestations are lethal to important hosts, such as southern bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*). I consider it one of the most serious plant pests in Florida history.



Root drenches with 2 ounces of Merit 75WP in 5 gallons of water have resulted in nearly 100% control of this pest on large *Ficus microcarpa*. Trees treated in April 2002 are still free of this scale. Additional tests are in progress to determine the effectiveness of this chemical when applied to other tree species and to define appropriate rates for different sizes of trees.



Twig of mango infested with lobate lac scale, *Paratachardina lobata lobata* (Chamberlin)
Photograph by: F.W. Howard, U.F.

A foliar application with horticultural oil reduced populations of lobate lac scale. Further observations are being conducted to determine the most effective application intervals.

Biological control is viewed as the only effective long-range option, but is likely to be very difficult to achieve.

The host list and other information on lobate lac scale are posted at:
http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/orn/scales/lobate_lac.htm



Adult female of Bamboo mealybug, *Trionymus lumpurensis*

◆ Bamboo mealybug, *Trionymus lumpurensis*, was discovered in Florida, the 1st record of the pest in the U.S. Previously, it was only known in Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam, said Greg Hodges, taxonomic entomologist at Fla. Dept. of Ag.

and Consumer Services. The pest was found on *Bambusa oldhamii* in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Since the original discovery, other infestations have been found in Orange County on 'Ole Hammi.'

hodgesg@doacs.state.fl.us;
<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/enpp/ento/t-lumpurensis.html>

Source: Weekly NMPRO, Nov. 5, 2002, Todd Davis, Editor

◆ Insect parasitic nematodes may be the right choice for controlling your insect problem while minimizing pesticide use on turf. This web site will answer all of your questions.

http://www2.oardc.ohio-state.edu/nematodes/turfgrasses_pest_management.htm

Miscellaneous

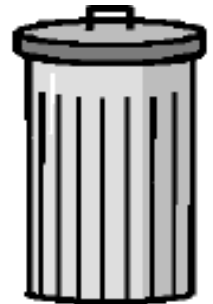
• Environmental changes in tropical countries are posing a greater threat to plant species, reported the Nov. 1 issue (Vol. 298, No. 5595) of Science magazine. Earlier research had found that about 13% of all plants worldwide are in danger of becoming extinct. A study by Nigel Pittman of Duke Univ. and Peter Jorgensen of Mo. Botanical Garden in St. Louis raises that estimate to 22%-47%. The researchers reported that about 83% of the plants in Ecuador face extinction. The reason for the estimate range is because botanists do not know how many plant species there are. The biggest threat to plants in tropical countries comes from increasing demand for farmland for crop production and grazing. Global warming may also add to species loss.

peter.jorgensen@mobot.org
<http://www.sciencemag.org>

Source: GMPRO, Nov. 12, 2002 ed. David Kuack

Operation Cleansweep Changes to a Pick-Up Service in 2002-2003

After holding Cleansweep collection events that served 62 of Florida's 67 counties between December 2000 and May 2002, Florida's Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) has retooled the program to offer free pick-up and disposal of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides. There will no



longer be collection events. FDACS, with the help of county ag agents, county solid waste personnel, product dealers and trade associations, will collect names, addresses, quantities and types from participants and verify this information. When they have a sufficient quantity of product in a defined area, they will dispatch the contractor to each participant's farm or business facility to pick up the pesticides. A flier provides details and instructions on how to sign up for this free pick-up service. You may email Keith Myhre, from FDACS, or call him toll-free at 877-851-5285 to sign up. They expect to begin pick-up collection services early in 2003.



Resources

• Welby Gardens in Denver, Colo., started a new X-Rated Xeriscape program to promote drought-tolerant plants. The plant line features tags with an X, XX and XXX rating system. X plants require less than 1 inch of water per week; XX plants grow well with less than 1/2 inch per week and XXX plants need 0 to 1/2 inch of water every other week. The program was designed to convince customers to not only buy plants during drought, but to make the correct plant choices. (800) 457-4725.

<http://www.hardyboyplant.com>

Source: Weekly NMPRO, Jan. 7, 2003, Todd Davis, Ed.

Upcoming Programs

- Feb. 6 *Florida Building Code*
Homestead
- Feb. 19 *Green Industries BMP workshop*
Homestead
- March 27 *Landscape Maintenance Workshop*
Homestead
- April 24 *Miami-Dade's Landscape Ordinance*
Homestead
- May 29 *Pruning for Hurricanes*
Homestead

Please call Patty at 305-248-3311, x. 225, for more information.

Pesticide Training Programs



- Jan. 22 *Gen. Standards*
Homestead
- Feb. 13 *Aquatics*
Homestead
- Feb. 28 *Limited Landscape Maint. Training*
Homestead
- Mar. 19 *Gen. Standards*
S. Dade Gov. Ctr.
- May 21 *Gen. Standards*
Homestead
- June 4 *Ornamental & Turf*
S. Dade Gov. Ctr.
- July 30 *Gen. Standards*
S. Dade Gov. Ctr.
- Sept. 17 *Gen. Standards*
Homestead
- Oct. 15 *Right-of-Way*
Homestead
- Nov. 12 *Gen. Standards*
S. Dade Gov. Ctr.
- Dec. 4 *Ornamental & Turf*
Homestead

Please call Lize at 305-248-3311, x. 242 to register.

The use of trade name products is no endorsement or exclusion of other equally effective products.