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Upcoming Workshops

• **Urban Tree Short Course**, Friday, July 20th, 9 am - 2 pm, Homestead.

• IPM for Nurseries and Landscapes, Friday, Aug. 10th, 8-12:30 pm. Homestead.

• Tropical Palm Production & Maintenance Workshop, Fri. Sept. 21st, 9 am - 2:30 pm. Homestead.

• ISA Pruning Workshop, Thurs. Oct. 4th, 8 am - 5 pm, MDCC - Kendall, Room K-413. (See below)

• ISA Certified Arborist Training, 6 Wednesdays, beginning Oct 10th, 6-9 pm, MDCC-Kendall.

  Please call Patty at (305) 248-3311, ext. 225, for more information.

Fall Classes
UF - Tropical Research & Education Center

The opportunity to take University of Florida classes is now available in Homestead at the T.R.E.C., 18905 SW 280th St. Credit classes will be offered in plant pathology, soil science, nursery management, human resource management, plant identification, and others starting August 22nd.

Classes may be taken as non-degree or may be applied to a bachelor of science degree in horticulture. Classes are offered by a variety of methods including traditional lectures and labs, compressed real-time video via the internet and video tape. Classes are held in the evenings and weekends. Applications for registration as a non-degree student must be received no later than July 16th. Registration for enrolled University of Florida students ends August 21st. For a schedule of classes or more information, call Wendy Meyer, 305-246-7001, x. 202, or stop by their office. You can also visit their web page at: http://trecdisted.ifas.ufl.edu.
Urban Tree Short Course

On Friday, July 20th, the Urban Tree Short Course will be held at the Cooperative Extension office in Homestead. Topics presented will be pruning of young trees, fertilizers, containers and media for production, tree abuse in the landscape, urban forest inventories, and others. Call 305-248-3311 to register. The program runs from 8:15 to 2 pm, @ $12.50.

ISA Pruning Workshop


It is intended for arborists, urban foresters and landscape and tree personnel employed by cities, schools, golf courses, cemeteries, parks and consultants. It will consist of an indoor morning session, a provided lunch, then an afternoon outdoor session full of pruning exercises. Don’t miss this great workshop by Prof. Ed Gilman from UF - Gainesville. This seminar has been approved for 6 ISA CEUs.

New Books/Brochures

There is a new 2-page brochure, Proper Tree Pruning: Selecting an Arborist in Miami-Dade County listing 25 ISA certified arborists operating in the county. It details how to select a qualified arborist to prune your trees, and how to avoid the inexperienced “hat-rackers”. For a copy, call 305-248-3311, ext. 227.


Water

Modified Phase 2 water restrictions are still in effect in the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). A summary of the modified PHASE II restrictions can be found at the SFWMD’s web site at http://www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/index2.html

Irrigation Variance for New Plant Installations

You may be aware that the nursery and landscape industries met with the SFWMD staff in early spring to develop an irrigation restrictions variance for new landscape installations. The variance extends the days that you can water new installations during the establishment period on certain properties. This variance is valid until the end of Phase II Water Restrictions. For a copy, please contact our office. Key components of the variance are:

0-30 Days After Installation: This one stays the same as Phase II restrictions - daily watering.


For non-occupied areas > 5 acres: 2 - 8 am Wed. Thurs. Sat. Sun.

Hand watering from 7 am - 5 pm, 6 days / week. No hand watering on Fridays.

61-90 Days After Installation: Hand watering of new tree installations from 7 am - 5 pm, daily, except Friday.

Drought-Tolerant, Low-Maintenance Plant List

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) and Urban Horticulture personnel here at the UF/Miami-Dade County Extension office have developed a list of over 350 native and non-native, common and uncommon, drought-tolerant, low maintenance plants suitable for south ‘Florida Yards’ or ‘Florida Landscapes’: i.e., private yards and public landscapes that adhere to the 9 ‘Florida-friendly’ landscaping principles of the FYN program.

The plants listed are divided into 12 categories (the numbers in parentheses indicate the number of plant species in a particular category): perennials (38); annuals & bedding plants (23); shrubs & hedges (116); flowering & shade trees (59); fruit trees (14); palms, cycads & palm-like plants (65); ornamental grasses (15); turfgrasses (2); ground covers (63); vines (28); epiphytes (12); and herbs & vegetables (7).

All plants on the list meet the following criteria:

- ‘Drought-tolerant’ means that the plants will survive extended periods without rain or supplemental irrigation, while remaining healthy
and retaining an acceptable appearance.

- ‘Low-maintenance’ refers to a plant that does not require frequent maintenance—such as pruning or spraying—to look acceptable. A low-maintenance plant has low or no fertilizer requirements and few pest and disease problems.
- Plants must either be widely adaptable to varying soil types or be compatible with the poor sandy or limestone-based soils of south Florida.
- The final criterion was that the plants not be considered ‘invasive’ by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, or restricted by federal, state, or local law.

Copies are available from Jody Haynes, FYN Program Extension Agent, UF/Miami-Dade County Extension, 18710 SW 288 St., Homestead; tel: 305-248-3311 x. 246; fax: 305-246-2932; or e-mail: jlh@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu. The list can be downloaded in PDF format from the FYN Publications page of the Extension website at: http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/fyn/fynpublications.htm.

An on-line version of this list is also now available on the FYN Publications page, which contains links to photos and more in-depth descriptions of nearly every plant on the list.

(Jody Haynes, FYN Program Coordinator)

Invasives vs. Exotics vs. Natives

People sometimes use the words “exotic” and “invasive” interchangeably when describing certain plants. While almost all invasives are exotic, not all exotics are invasive. Native plants, as classified by Florida botanists, are those growing here before the middle of the 16th century, when Spanish colonists arrived. These early plant species adapted to conditions here and grew in harmony with each other.

Exotic plants have been introduced, either intentionally or accidentally. Only a few non-native plants become invasive, and many in fact are beneficial, like Citrus. Other exotics are beautiful and valuable landscape plants in South Florida landscape, like bougainvillea, royal poinciana, mango, Tabebuia, to name a few.

Invasive plants are fast-growing species that are not native to a region or country and spread and take over disturbed land, crowding out natives and creating a genuine menace to native woodlands. They grow faster than the slower growing natives and shade or crowd them out. Some of the worse invasives are Brazilian pepper or Florida holly (Schinus terebinthifolius), melaleuca (Melaleuca quinquenervia), Australian pine, (Casuarina equisetifolia), and hydrla (Hydrilla verticillata) in Florida’s water bodies.

Invasives persist and spread due to their ability to produce an abundance of seed, and, in some cases, by their ability to reproduce vegetatively. The general absence of natural pests and disease organisms in their new homes also contributes to their successful growth. They spread through the dispersal of fruits and seeds by wind, water, birds and other animals and commonly through human actions, both deliberate and inadvertent.

Invasive Plant Species

The Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association (FNGA) identified 34 invasive plants and is asking the nursery and landscape industries to voluntarily phase out production, sale and use of these species. These plants are in addition to 11 others deemed invasive by FNGA in 1999. Species include tung oil tree, paper mulberry, Chinese waterberry, molasses grass, woodrose, natal grass and tropical almond. A complete list is available here at the Cooperative Extension Service office, or at FNGA’s Web site: www.fnga.org.

The Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) published a revised Prohibitive Plant Species manual in 1999 containing 21 plant species that are illegal to sell, propagate or plant within Miami-Dade County. These plants have been determined to be a significant threat to our remaining natural and urban areas. This information is also contained in a 11” x 17” two-color poster with a description of the damage each of the 31 species can do. For copies, contact DERM through their web site at: http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/derm/badplants.htm.

Insect Info

Chinch Bugs

The chinch bug is the most damaging insect on St. Augustinegrass lawns and sooner or later most home gardeners have to spray to control this pest. Many people have changed lawn grasses as a solution to the chinch bug problem since the insect only seriously attacks St. Augustinegrasses.

There is, however, a way to reduce turf injury, and this is by proper summer fertilization.

Research has shown that the rate and source of nitrogen fertilizer susceptibility of St. Augustinegrass
has a tremendous effect on the
injury. As nitrogen
treatment increases, chinch bug
damage increases. There is also a
difference in damage between
nitrogen sources. Lawns receiving
fertilizers containing slow-release
nitrogen have fewer chinch bugs
and less damage than lawns
fertilized with highly soluble
(fast-release) nitrogen fertilizers.

The right side was treated with high
levels of nitrogen to maintain green
color throughout the summer, which
increased chinch bug damage.

Don’t be misled by the term
“organic” on a bag of fertilizer.
Although nitrogen in slow release
fertilizers can be in an organic form
such as sewage sludge, there are
organic forms of nitrogen such as
urea which are very soluble and
release nitrogen rapidly.

Remember that the natural color
of St. Augustinegrass is light green,
not blue green. Maintaining this
unnatural blue-green color with high
levels of nitrogen throughout the
summer will increase the
susceptibility to chinch bug injury.

There is another way to maintain
the green color of the grass without
promoting excessive top growth and
increasing susceptibility to chinch bugs. Applications of iron sulfate at
the rate of 2 oz. / 3-5 gals. of water
per 1,000 ft$^2$ will provide this
greening effect. The effect from
supplemental iron application is only
temporary (~2 to 4 weeks), therefore, repeat applications are
necessary for summer-long color.
Also, because iron will stain, care
must be taken not to get iron sulfate
solution on concrete walks and
driveways.

These recommendations will not
eliminate chinch bug damage, but
they offer a management tool
which can help reduce the
severity of attack caused by the #
1 pest on St. Augustinegrass.

(Dr. Bob Black, Consumer
Horticultural Specialist - UF)

- Forests and landscape trees
can fall prey to a number of
damaging insects and diseases.
An informative web site,
http://fhpr6.srs.fs.fed.us/forstpst.htm
provides descriptions and
photos to help identify pests,
along with recommendations for
prevention and control.

- The Division of Plant Industry
(DPI), Florida Department of
Agriculture & Consumer Services
announced on March
1st, that a new exotic
spider mite was
identified in Florida
from specimens
collected from a palm
(Ptychosperma sp.) in Ft.
Lauderdale. This mite has since
been found on at least two
Ptychosperma palms and two
crotons (Codiaeum variegatum)
in the same vicinity. It is an exotic
species and should be treated as
a potentially serious plant pest.

Links to the DPI Web sites
describing the pests, along with
recommendations, are available
on the Florida Pest Alert Web site at:
http://extlab7.entnem.ufl.edu/
PestAlert/

- Growers who use
Bt can increase its
effectiveness by
paying attention to
the time of day the
product is applied and noting the
pest’s life stage, said Julie
Henderson, Georgia IPM
specialist. Bt remains active
longer if applied late in the day,
during the evening or on cloudy
days. The younger the insect, the
more effective Bt is likely to be.
Not only are the younger pests
more likely to ingest the product,
but they are smaller and therefore
do less feeding damage to plants
before the Bt toxin kills them.
Weekly NMPRO, July 3, 2001

Miscellaneous Web Sites:

- For the many valuable
research-based articles on various
agricultural topics that can be
downloaded and/or printed from
your computer, the University of
Florida’s EDIS web site is:
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu

- And finally, please check out
our web site. We post upcoming
workshops and programs for our
entire Extension staff on our
calendar page.
http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu

Upcoming Programs

July 20 Urban Tree Short Course
August 10 I.P.M.
Sept. 21 Tropical Palms
Oct. 4 ISA Pruning Trees
for Safety...
MDCC - Kendall
Oct. 10 ISA Certified Arborist
Training MDCC - Kendall
Dec. 4 Grades & Standards

Pesticide Training Programs

Sept. 19 CORE Training/Exam
Homestead

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

Enclosures

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