I hope that all of you had a chance to spend time with family and friends and, of course, catch up on those long-awaited projects that had to get done.

In this issue - there are lots of interesting tidbits in the news, changes to the Atrazine label, new pesticide products, interesting publications and web sites and of course new training classes. Let me know if you are interested in a site demonstration class in English or Spanish in order to schedule it.

Thank you for your support and see you in 2005.....

This is your newsletter; please let me know what information you would like to see in it.

Henry Mayer
Commercial Urban Horticulture
hmayer@ifas.ufl.edu
(305) 248-3311 Ext. 231

To better view the color photographs, you can read this newsletter on-line at:
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CEU OPPORTUNITIES: for January - March 2004

Chain Saw Safety Seminar
Thursday, January 27, 2005. 9 am - 12 am
Do you know that every day an accident happens due to chain saw bad use?? Come here and learn from the industry people how to operate this very dangerous equipment. **CEUs from ISA are available.** The cost of the seminar is $10.00 that will cover coffee, pastries, and publications. NO LUNCH. A flyer with a registration form is available at the Extension office.

The Green Industry: Best Management Practices Workshop
Thursday, February 3, 2005 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Do you know how much fertilizer and water you need to apply to your lawn? What happens if you apply too much? You are right, it is bad....
This program is endorsed by the Department of Environmental Protection and has been developed with the University of Florida-IFAS specialists, green industry representatives, and the South Florida Water Management District representatives. The goal is to train green industry workers in best management practices for the protection of Florida’s water resources.
The cost of the program is $20.00 which include coffee, pastries, lunch, cd and publications. **CEUs from FDACS, FNGLA, LA, and LMA are available.** A flyer with the registration form is available at the office or we can fax it to you.

Certificate Course in Horticulture
Every Tuesday from February 15, 2005 to April 5, 2005. From 8:30 am - 11:30 am.
Do you know how to select and design your landscape? Do you know the difference between turf varieties? Can you select the best plant for the best location? Do you know if your plants have nutrients deficiency or diseases? Do you know how to read the label of the pesticide?
This eight week program is intended to provide basic horticultural knowledge to landscape maintenance and installation personnel, tree trimming services, county-city, parks department employees, landscape architects, garden center employees, home gardeners, and others.
You can see the outline of the course on page number 6. The cost of the program is $125.00 for early registration before January 21 and $140.00 for late registration. A flyer with the registration form is available at the Extension office. CALL 305-248-3311 x 225

Getting started in the ornamentals business
Friday, Jan. 28, 2005, 8:30 am - 12 noon
Cost is $10.00. CEUs for FDCAS (1); FNGLA (4)

Foliage plant production
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005, 8:00am - 12 noon
Cost $10.00. CEUs for FDACS (4); FNGLA (4)

Scouting in nurseries
Friday, March 11 (Spanish) & March 18 (English)
8:30 am - 2:pm. Cost $20.00 with lunch. Space limited to 20 people, don’t wait to register.

Other Events Calendar

January 19 - Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Conference. Weston Regional Park. Call @ 1-800-882-6721 or 866-258-8786 or see the website @ www.ftga.org

January 28 - Fort Lauderdale - Volunteer Park. Tree Ordinance by design.
8:00 am - 4:30 p.m. This one day workshop will bring you the latest thinking and problem solving techniques associated with research backed data to better enable you to design, implement, and work within the parameters of tree ordinance.
Call Norm Easey @ 941-342-0153

January 20 - 22 - Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition (TPIE).
Fort Lauderdale, FNGLA CEUs, see the website @ http://www.fnga.org/tpie/general.asp or call 1-800-375-3642
University of Florida credit classes for the Spring semester will start on January 4, 2005. Instructions on-site taught by TREC faculty, video conference classes taught by UF faculty from Gainesville, other REC’s, or home study (videotape & web classes). For more information call Wendy at the Tropical REC, Homestead at 305-246-7001 x 202 or Jane at the Fort Lauderdale REC, Davie at 954-577-6371.

**Pesticide Training for January- March in English**

The following classes (in English) require pre-registration. Call Lize at 305-248-3311 x 242 for registration forms.

**General Standards Training Class & Exam**
Wednesday, January 26.
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
At the Extension Service, 18710 SW 288 Street
Homestead, FL 33030

**Aquatic Plants Control**
Wednesday, February 16
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
At the Extension Service, 18710 SW 288 Street
Homestead, FL 33030

**General Standards Training Class & Exam**
Wednesday, March 16.
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
At the Extension Service, 18710 SW 288 Street
Homestead, FL 33030

**Pesticide Training for January- March in Spanish**

**Limited Certification Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training & Exam**
Saturday, February 19, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
We need at least 15 people in order to provide this training.
Who should attend: (a) landscapers needing the 8 “Limited landscape maintenance” hours section of approved training to qualify to take the exam. (b) Limited Certification license holders who need CEUs to renew their license.

If you plan to take the exam, we need to review your packet on Friday, February 28 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement....
**Did You Know??**

**Virus that Infects Fire Ants Discovered.**

The first known virus to infect the destructive and costly red imported fire ant was recently discovered by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. Red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*), currently infests about 300 million acres in the United States. The newly found virus (SINV-1) may be an excellent biological control agent for fire ants. A survey in Florida locations found that approximately 23 percent of nests examined were infected with SINV-1. The virus infects all fire ant castes and stages of development, and scientists have been able to successfully transmit the viral infection to uninfected fire ant nests. Brood in infected colonies died within three months during laboratory studies. ARS researchers are currently examining SINV-1 to determine its effectiveness and potential for use as a sustainable, microbial agent against the red imported ant.

**ValleyCrest acquires Omni’s Assets**

In August, ValleyCrest agreed to purchase Omni landscape Group. Omni has operation in Atlanta, Washington D.C, Philadelphia, Birmingham and Destin, Fla. The acquisition will add 600 - 700 Omni employees to Valley Crest. Omni had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in June.

(Source: lawn & Landscape magazine, Nov. 2004)

**New Pesticide Products**

DuPont is introducing a new fire ant bait for control of imported fire ants on lawns, recreational areas, golf courses and other noncrop/nongrazed areas. In fact it’s a new class of insecticide chemistry - oxadiazine -. The active ingredient is indoxacarb - defined by EPA as a “reduced risk” pesticide and is claimed to be effective at low-use rates. The product is called Advion. More information can be found at http://www.dupont.com/ag/pp/en/productServices/fireant/

**Atrazine Changes**

This article is intended as a heads-up for the horticulture service professionals. Atrazine is the active ingredient in nearly all selective herbicides intended for St. Augustinegrass. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently completed a 10-year review of Atrazine that included analysis of hundreds of studies on human health and environmental safety. EPA decided to support the continue use of Atrazine products with some changes in the labeling. While some of the changes are minor, some represent major changes in the way residential customers can use and apply Atrazine. Apparently these changes have already taken effect. One big change for consumers is that any product containing more than 4% Atrazine will now be a Restricted - Use Product (RUP). These are the liquid concentrates that now have been commonly available on retail shelves. These products will no longer be available to the residential customer. They will only be available to professional applicators.

Azatrol® EC Insecticide is PBI/Gordon’s azadirachtin insecticide formulated to provide broad spectrum insect control with very low environmental impact. Azatrol provides all the benefits of azadirachtin, a proven natural anti-feedant, insect growth regulator, anti-ovipository and repellent, as well as a toxin to soft bodied insect larvae. The benefits to your insect control program are multiple.
cer (pest control companies) who hold a Certified Applicator license. Residential customer will still have access to products which contain less than 4% Atrazine, which should include most of the granular weed -n- feed products. The new label will also advise users not to apply the product “.... to sand and loamy sand where the water table is close to the surface and where these soils are very permeable”. The new label also says that all users must wear long-sleeve shirt, long pants, shoes and socks.

Granular lawn products must be watered in immediately. Do not enter or allow others (children or pest) to enter the treated areas until the watering-in is complete and the surface is dry. For turfgrass at residential sites, the maximum allowable single application is 1 pound of active ingredient (a.i.) Per acre with a maximum of 2 applications per year. If you want more information, visit the website @ http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/atrazine/ (Source: Growing Concerns January-March 2005)

New or interesting Publications and Web sites

1.-Arbolitos para los patios de Miami-Dade

2.-Small Trees for Miami-Dade landscape

3.-Local Retail Nurseries that Specialize in Flowering Trees and Shrubs.
http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/urbanhort/publications/Local%20Retail%20Nurseries%20that%20Specialize%20in%20Flowering%20Trees%20and%20Shrubs.pdf

4.-Mussaendas for South Florida Landscape.
http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/common/publications/Mussaendas%20for%20South%20Florida%20Landscapes.pdf

5.-Diagnostico de Campo de las Enfermedades de las Palmas Ornamentales

6.-A Selection of Some Tropical and Sub-tropical fruit trees for Miami-Dade County.

http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/urbanhort/publications/PDF/trop-subtrop.PDF

7.- Let Your Lawn Tell You When To Water
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP054

8.-How To Calibrate Your Fertilizer Spreader
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LH024

9.-Mowing Your Florida Lawn
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LH028

10.-University of Florida. Electronic Data Information System
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu

11.-Division of Plant Industry
http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/pubs.html

12.-Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants
http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/
Certificate Course in Horticulture Program 2005-1  
Training site: John D. Campbell Ag. Center, 18710 SW 288 St. Homestead, FL 33030  
(University of Florida/ Miami-Dade County Extension)

Who should attend: landscape maintenance and installation personnel, tree trimming services, county, city, parks departments employees, landscape architects, garden centers employees, home gardeners, and others.

Course outline  
Classes from 8:30 am - 11:30 am

<table>
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<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
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<td>PLANT SCIENCE</td>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
<td>M. Beckford</td>
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<td>PLANT NUTRITION</td>
<td>Plant – Soil Interaction</td>
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<td>Nutritional Deficiencies</td>
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<td>Fertilizer Use</td>
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<td>LANDSCAPE DESIGN</td>
<td>Principles of Landscape Design</td>
<td>J. Vedaee</td>
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<td>PLANT SELECTION</td>
<td>Plant Grades and Standards</td>
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<td>PLANT PROPAGATION</td>
<td>Proper pruning techniques</td>
<td>R. Rafie</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRUNING</td>
<td>Plant propagation techniques</td>
<td>R. Rafie</td>
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<td>IRRIGATION</td>
<td>Safety equipment</td>
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<td>Irrigation system design</td>
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<td>TURF SCIENCE</td>
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<td>Turf establishment and maintenance</td>
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<td>Common landscape pests</td>
<td>A. Hunsberger</td>
<td>March 22 2005</td>
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<td>Pest management</td>
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<td>Tank mixing</td>
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<td>Label reading</td>
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<td>PALMS</td>
<td>Palm selection &amp; establishment</td>
<td>J. Vedaee</td>
<td>March 29 2005</td>
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<td>Palm nutrition &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>J. Garofalo</td>
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<td>Pests &amp; Diseases of Palms</td>
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<td>Common problems &amp; symptoms</td>
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<td>April 5 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLANT PATHOLOGY</td>
<td>Common landscape diseases</td>
<td>M. Elliott</td>
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Study materials included in the registration:
- Your Florida Landscape: A complete guide to planting & maintenance
- Florida Lawn Handbook: An environmental approach to care and maintenance of your lawn
- Troubleshooting Lawn Pest (Flash cards)
- Troubleshooting Diseases of Flowering Plants (Flash cards)
- Helpful or Harmful? (Flash cards)
- A guide to environmentally friendly landscaping (Florida Yards and Neighborhoods)

Early Registration $125.00 before January 21, 2005  
Late registration $140.00 after January 21, 2005  
Make checks payable to: "Miami-Dade Extension Program Account"  
Deadline: February 1, 2005 CALL 305-248-3311 X 225