Welcome!!

I welcome all of you to my first PROSCAPE newsletter. As the new Commercial Urban Horticulture agent, my job is to improve the technical expertise of landscape professionals, to promote and encourage communication within and between industries, and to encourage efficient landscape practices. Articles and information in this quarterly newsletter will be targeted to professionals such as landscape maintenance workers, landscape and irrigation contractors, arborist, landscape architects, parks and recreation personnel, horticultural consultants, etc. I will be working closely with Joe Garofalo, Commercial Ornamentals, on landscape and nursery programs, and Mary Lamberts, Vegetable Crops & Pesticide Safety, on Pesticide Training.

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

Henry Mayer
Commercial Urban Horticulture
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Newsletter Renewal/ Getting This Newsletter via e-mail

If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter, we need you to respond to the enclosed RENEWAL NOTICE. We are trying to get as many people as possible to sign up for e-newsletters. It saves time for our staff and it just might be easier to find when you need to look up an important date or other reference. Please use the enclosed form to update your information, including your email address. If you do not provide us with an email address, you can still receive a paper copy of this newsletter- as long as you send back the renewal notice.

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Henry Mayer
Ext Agent, Comm Urban Hort

PROSCAPES
A Newsletter for the PROfessional LandSCAPE Industries

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

Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service
University of Florida, U.S. Department of Agriculture, & Consumer Services Department, Miami-Dade County

18710 SW 288th Street; Homestead, Florida 33030-2309
Voice 305-248-3311 x 231; fax 305-246-2932

The second annual workshop on Chain Saw Safety.

Friday, February 27, 2004, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. At the CES Auditorium, Homestead. Cost for this seminar is $12.50, which includes pastelitos, and coffee, NO lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the Extension office. Agenda available at the Extension Office.

South Miami-Dade Nursery Tour

Friday, March 19, 2004, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.. We will meet at the Extension Service, Homestead. Take a look of four unique nurseries with interesting plant material.

Cost for this seminar is $40.00, which includes pastelitos, coffee, and lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the Extension office.

Best Management Practices training in Turf

March 31, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Extension Service Auditorium in Homestead. Cost for this seminar is $12.50, which includes pastelitos, coffee, and lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the Extension office.

Pesticide training for Jan- March in Spanish:

Call 305-248-3311 x 242 for info. on pesticide training.

Limited- Certification in Commercial Landscape Maintenance in Spanish (exam is in English)

Saturday, March 13, 2004, 8:30a.m to 4:30 p.m 8-hr training.

NOTE: THIS IS THE “LIMITED LICENSE” EVERY BODY TALKS ABOUT–THE ONE YOU NEED TO SPRAY ROUNDUP. THIS CLASS HAS BEEN POSTPONED TWICE THIS YEAR. WE MUST HAVE 20 PERSONS REGISTERED NO LATER THAN FIVE (5) DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS ... IF WE HAVE LESS THAN 20, WE MUST CANCEL THE CLASS.

IF YOU NEED THIS CERTIFICATION, CALL TODAY FOR A REGISTRATION PACKET. COMPLETE THE FORMS AND RETURN THEM.
TO OUR OFFICE. This training will be scheduled again on October or November, if 20 persons pre-register.

At the CES Auditorium, Homestead. Cost for the class only is $12.50, & includes coffee, pastelitos, & lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the CES office. The cost for the EXAM is $150.00, check made out to FDACS. You must bring your check, + the completed set of forms, or you cannot take the exam. If you wish, you may attend the class ($12.50) but not take the exam. The forms will be needed only if you plan to take the exam.

Good for 6 CEUs in Aquatic/Private Applicator. Call 248-3311 x 242 for information. Good for 6 CEUs in Aquatic/Private Applicator.

General Standards / Core review & exam.

Wednesday, March 17, 2003, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.. At the CES Auditorium, Homestead. Cost is $15.00 ($20.00 after Mar. 8); includes coffee, donuts, & lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the office. Good for 4.0 CEUs in General Standards/Core.

Several new fact-sheets are available:

These fact-sheets have been completed or nearly completed since the last newsletter. We call them “In Writing” because so many of you have requested information “in writing” on the various topics. This quarter we are offering Spanish translations of several fact-sheets. They are also available in electronic form at our website:


Lobate lac scale on ornamentals in South Florida In Writing fact-sheet # 101 (ready in February).
Boron deficiency of palms. In Writing fact-sheet # 100 (ready in February).
Commercial Urban Horticulture Curriculum, 2004 In Writing fact sheet #1.
Diagnostico de campo de las enfermedades de las palmas ornamentales. In Writing fact-sheet #97 (field diagnosis of diseases in landscape palms).
Marchitez por Fusarium en palmas del genero Phoenix del sur de la Florida. In-Writing fact-sheet #96.(Fusarium wilt of Phoenix palms in South Florida).
La pudricion de la yema en palms por Thielaviopsis. In Writing fact-sheet #95 (Thielaviopsis bud-rot in palms).

General Standards (Core) in Spanish.

Fri, March 12. 8 am - 5 pm. The class will be taught by Dr. Carlos Balerdi, Henry Mayer & Ruben Regalado from our office, & Cesar Asuaje from the Palm Beach CES office. The instruction will be in Spanish, but remember that the exam is in English.

The instructors have prepared a vocabulary in Eng & Span to help participants, plus thorough reviews & sample questions for each topic. A flier is available at the office.

Pesticide Training for Jan. - March in English:

The following classes (in English) require pre-registration. Call (305) 248-3311 x 242 for info. on pesticide training.

General Standards / Core review & exam.

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.. At the CES Auditorium, Homestead. Cost is $15.00 ($20.00 after Jan. 13); includes coffee, donuts, & lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the office.

Good for 4.0 CEUs in General Standards/Core.

Aquatics Training Class & Exam

Wednesday, February 11, 2004, 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.. At the CES Auditorium, Homestead. Cost is $15.00 ($20.00 after Feb. 3); includes coffee, donuts, & lunch. A flier with a registration form is available at the office.
Palmas del genero Phoenix para el Sur de Florida. In Writing fact-sheet #94 (Phoenix palms for South Florida).
Fertilizing palms in container nurseries. In Writing fact-sheet #93 (ready in February).

TIMELY TOPICS ...
News from the University of Florida and other land-grant institutions around the U.S.

Palms - Lethal Yellowing (LY)

I am receiving a lot of calls every week from people asking me to visit and confirm if their coconut palms (Cocos nucifera) and other palms are suffering from LY.
This disease is caused by a phytoplasma that lives in the phloem tissue, clogging these vessels and leading to tree death. The disease is carried from tree to tree by a plant hopper insect (Myndus crundus).

In the 1970's, the 'Jamaican Tall' coconuts in South Florida were devastated by this disease, and were replaced by the 'Malayan dwarf' palms. Initially, all the 'Malayan dwarf' palms planted here came from certified seed nuts from Jamaica. Since these have been used for many years, many have been producing coconuts, and are now being used as seed stock. There is a high probability of out-crossing, or cross fertilization between the Florida grown 'Malayan dwarfs' and the offspring from these trees that would not be highly resistant to LY.

The new hybrid 'Maypan', a cross between the 'Malayan dwarf' and the 'Panama tall' is replacing the 'Malayan dwarf' that was previously less susceptible to LY. Look for these more resistant varieties: 'Fiji dwarf', 'Ceylon dwarf', and 'Ceylon king' coconut trees.

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Cold Weather Advisories

Freezing temperatures in December/January could do extensive damage to crops. To help growers decide when to operate their freeze-protecting irrigation systems, the University of Florida offers free weather updates from 18 automated weather stations throughout Florida (including Homestead). Data on air & soil temperatures, dewpoint, rainfall, barometric pressure, wind speed & direction is posted and updated every 15 minutes. Visit their website at http:fawn.ifas.ufl.edu. If you don't have access to the internet, call (866) 754-5732

Continued Concern about the Lobate Lac Scale

The lobate lac scale continues to threaten many of our introduced and native ornamental trees and shrubs. It has continued to spread and is now in at least 7 southern Florida counties. It is a problem in both the landscape and in production.

Lobate lac scale feeds on the woody tissue of more than 120 species of plants, which include 39 native plants. The scale is found on small branches and twigs. Infestations of this scale can cause branch dieback and when severe, plant death. Dense populations can completely cover branches. Plants infested with the scale often turn black with sooty mold that grows on the honeydew produced by the scale insects.

Many of the plants commonly planted in the south Florida landscapes are highly susceptible to attack by this insect. Cocoplum is an example of this. Many of the cocoplum hedges in the Miami-Dade area are infested with this insect. New plantings will also likely be attacked. Until a long-term solution for control of this pest can be established, plants will have to be treated with oils and/or insecticides. Additional plant species that appear to be highly susceptible include wax-myrtle,
buttonwood, strangler-fig, myrsine, red bay, wild coffee, black olive, Indian laurel, Benjamin fig, lychee, mango, and star fruit.

In areas of low scale populations, foliar applied horticultural oil can effectively control populations. High populations may require the use of an insecticide. Products that have been evaluated and shown to be effective include imidacloprid (Merit in the landscape, Marathon in the nursery) and thiamethoxam (Flagship in the nursery). Other products labeled for scale control may also be effective but have not been confirmed. It is suggested to monitor the highly susceptible host plants regularly for the presence of this scale so treatment can be made before scale populations are extensive. Lobate lac scale population growth occurs slowly, so regular inspection and the use of foliar applied horticultural oils may be a successful strategy. Using horticulture oil to protect host plants that are in close proximity to plants infested with the scale may also reduce the spread of the scale.

Mature scales are approximately 1/16" inch and shaped like an “x” with four lobes. The outside of the scale is hard and brittle, and a dark reddish brown. The crawlers are elongate-oval, bright red and very small. In bright light, the crawlers can be seen with the naked eye because of the bright color, however, they are more easily seen with a hand lens.

For more information, contact Dr. Catharine Mannion, University of Florida, IFAS, Tropical Research and Education Center, 305-246-7000, cmannion@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Miscellaneous Web Sites

— Interested in palms and cycads?? Check out the Palm & cycad Societies of Florida web site. www.plantapalm.com/vpecd.htm

— The University of Florida has the Digital Information Source, or EDIS, to provide valuable research-based articles on various agricultural topics that can be downloaded and/or printed from your computers. The site is: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu

— The Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture is another good web site. You can check for arborist certification dates, or classes for ISA CEUs. The site is: www.floridaisa.org

— Check out University of Florida Dr. Ed. Gilman’s tree planting and pruning web pages at::
  http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting/
  http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning/
Go to the bottom and click on: Tree Planting or Tree Pruning.
Check out the web site devoted to turfgrass in Florida From the Fort Lauderdale Research & Education Center:

http://turfscience.com

Links to the Department of Plant Industry (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/

For various discussion and forums on commercial lawn care, visit:

www.lawnsite.com

And finally check out our website. We will be posting upcoming workshops and programs for our entire Extension Staff

http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu

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