Be aware!!

I welcome all of you to the third PROSCAPES newsletter of 2004. As you know we still have problems with the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Lobate Lac Scale and other insects and diseases. The best way to manage these and other problems is to be informed. We can provide you with the last information on how to control these problems. As your Commercial Urban Horticulture Extension Agent, my job is to improve the technical expertise of landscape professionals, promote and encourage communication within and between industries, and 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, arborists, landscape architects, parks and recreation personnel, horticultural consultants, etc. Take advantage...

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

Editor’s note:

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CEU OPPORTUNITIES: for July - September 2004

How to Obtain Government Contracts

**Friday, August 27, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 noon.** This workshop is for managers and supervisors at nurseries and landscape installation firms; plant brokers; landscape designers; and public employees. At the CES Auditorium, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead. Cost for this seminar is $12.50, which includes pastelitos, coffee, and lunch. Please call Patty at (305) 248-3311 Ext.225 for a registration form and agenda.

Tropical Palms Short Course

**Friday, September 10, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
Topics will include pests, diseases, and nutritional problems of palms. Speakers will include Drs. Monica Elliott & Tim Broschat of the UF Fort Lauderdale REC and Dr. Joe Garofalo and Henry Mayer of the UF Miami-Dade CES. At the CES Auditorium, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead. Cost for this seminar is $12.50, which includes pastelitos, coffee, and lunch. Please call Patty at (305) 248-3311 Ext.225 for a registration form.

Florida Tree Nursery Grades & Standards

**September 8, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** The Florida Chapter of the ISA and the UF Miami-Dade County Extension Service present this hands-on indoor and outdoor workshop for the Florida’s Green Industry. “Are you ready for your future?” Learn how to select trees at the nursery, how to prune trees to meet the Grades & Standards, why Grades & Standards are needed, and how to grade trees. Who should attend: landscape inspectors, municipal employees, landscape architects, arborists, growers, contractors, planners, arboricultural consultants. For information call Norm Easey at 941-342-0153 fax: 941-342-0463.

Other Events


**Sep. 30 - Oct. 2** - FNATS - Florida Nursery & Allied Trade Show - Orlando. See the website at [http://www.fnats.org/tpie/general.asp](http://www.fnats.org/tpie/general.asp)

**October 29** - Florida ISA Chapter’s Gold Coast Tree Seminar - Fort Lauderdale. Call Norm Easey at 941-342-0153.

Fall Semester Classes at the University of Florida

University of Florida credit classes for the fall semester will start on August 23, 2004. Instruction is on-site taught by TREC faculty, video conference classes taught by UF faculty from Gainesville, other REC’s, or home study (videotapes & 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.
New & Interesting Publication

Pastos y Paisajes Lawns & Landscape - Rutgers Cooperative Extension has a very good quarterly bilingual (Spanish/English) newsletter serving the green industry. The newsletter covers topics related to general soils and plants, landscape maintenance, lawn care, integrated pest management (IPM), and pesticide use and safety. The newsletter is a balance of articles with seasonal interest and those with year around appeal. Articles will prove useful to both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking members of the green industry.

An English-Spanish glossary of terms and phrases is included for those interested in improving their language skills in a second language. Also, the newsletter is formatted with English and Spanish version of the same article appearing side by side. This gives the reader the opportunity of picking up words and phrases in a second language.

The newsletter is currently available by mail or email subscription. Costs are $10.00 for an annual mail subscription and $5.00 for an email subscription. Back issues can be downloaded for free from this website: http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pastosypaisajes/

Several new fact sheets are available:

These fact-sheets have been completed or nearly completed since the last newsletter. They are also available in electronic form at our web site: http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu

- Beware the twilight zones. In writing fact-sheet #103 by Dr. Joe Garofalo
- What's in a name?. In writing fact-sheet #105. This is a discussion of scientific, Latin or botanical names by Dr. Joe Garofalo.

Pesticide Training for July - Sept. in English:

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

General Standards / Core Review & Exam

Wednesday, September 29, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at the CES Auditorium, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead. Cost is $15.00 ($20.00 after July 25); includes coffee, donuts, & lunch. Please call Lize 305-248-3311 Ext. 242 for a registration form. Good for 4.0 CEUs in General Standards/Core.

Limited Certification Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training & Exam

Wednesday, August 25, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.. At the CES Auditorium, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead. Cost is $15.00 ($20.00 after Aug. 18); includes coffee, donuts, & lunch. Please call Lize 305-248-3311 Ext. 242 for a registration form.

Who should attend: (a) Landscapers needing the 4 “Limited landscape maintenance” hours section of the 8 hours of approved training to qualify to take the Limited Certification Commercial Landscape Maintenance exam. The 4 “Core” hours are available through “Core/General Standards” classes offered on a bi-monthly basis. (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 no later than 4:00 pm, Monday August 23 to make sure it is complete. Please call Mary at 305-248-3311 Ext. 234 to schedule an appointment. If your packet is incomplete, we cannot let you take the exam.

Farm Worker Safety in English and Spanish

Friday, September 24. Cost $15.00 at the CES, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead. Sponsored by the Extension Safety Committee.
Pesticide Training for July - Sept. in Spanish:

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

General Standards / Core Review & Exam (Principios Generales Repaso y Examen)

Friday, October 8, 2004, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the CES Auditorium, 18710 SW 288th St., Homestead. For those who apply restricted-use pesticides or who need CEUs. Cost is $12.50 includes coffee, donuts, & lunch. Please call Lize (305) 248-3311 Ext. 242 for a registration form. **CEUs:** 4.0 General Standards/Core.

Limited Certification Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training en Español

If you are interested in the 8 hours training program and the exam call Henry at 305-248-3311 x 231 in order to take a list of people interested, we need at least 15 people in order to have the program.

Timely Topics . . .

Interesting Data

Based on an online survey conducted by the Evergreen Foundation, 54 percent of respondents don't want more regulation on their yard-care practices. The 611 respondents were owners of single family homes, condominiums, or town homes. More than ninety percent agreed that having a well maintained lawn improves property values, and that green spaces such as parks should be well maintained.

When given a list of lawn problems, homeowners by a wide margin expressed concern about weeds (75%), with between 20 and 32 % concerned about insects, diseases, or vertebrate pests. The Evergreen Foundation's mission is to raise awareness about the environmental, economic, and lifestyle benefits of landscapes, with funding from contributors such as end-user associations and suppliers. (Fla. Turf Digest, Nov./Dec. 2003)

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$

Biological Control of Mole Cricket

A biological control agent for turf-damaging mole crickets is available from Becker Underwood. The nematode product- known as Nematac S was patented by University of Florida. The parasitic nematode, *Steinernema scapterisci*, attacks only foreign mole crickets. The nematodes live in the soil and enter the mole cricket through openings in the body. Once inside, they release bacteria that feed on the mole cricket, usually killing it within 48 hours. The nematodes feed on the bacteria and reproduce inside the mole cricket. See the website for more details. [http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/nematode/mole_cricket_nematode.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/nematode/mole_cricket_nematode.htm)

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.

Another solution is the use of native palms, you can choose among the fourteen native species that are all resistant to LY.

### Branch-to-Stem Diameter Ratio Affects Strength of Attachment

Strength of branch attachment in *Acer rubrum* L. was related to the ratio of diameter of the branch relative to the diameter of the stem to which the branch was attached (aspect ratio). Linear correlation coefficients ranged from -0.25 to -0.90 between aspect ratio and load (force) required to separate branches from stems at the branch union. Slopes of the lines describing this relationship increased with increasing branch diameter. This indicated that larger branches required greater force to pull them from the trunk provided they were small compared to the trunk. However, diameter had less of an influence on force required to pull codominant stems apart. Force per unit of branch cross-sectional area was related to aspect ratio, indicating that a branch of a given size was better secured to the tree if it was attached to a much larger stem than to a stem of equal size.

Angle of attachment was not related to strength of branch attachment. Codominant stems were far easier to split apart than branches that were small relative to stem size. Codominant stems broke by separating at the union; branches failed by breaking at or near the collar. This information has implications for arborists climbing trees and will help guide development of pruning strategies.

*By Dr. Ed. Gilman (Journal of Arboriculture 29(5): September 2003)*

### Structural soil design

Structural soil is designed to support the weight of walks, roads, pedestrians and vehicles as well as provide a well-aerated soil substrate for tree growth. Weight is transferred from aggregate to aggregate then to the soil under the aggregate. No weight is borne by the soil between aggregates. This allows roots to grow well in the soil between the aggregates. In normal design, the soil and sub-base under a walk or pavement is compacted to 95% proctor density. This reduces air exchange below the critical level needed for growth. As a result, roots are unable to grow into this compacted soil.

*By Dr. Ed Gilman, Envir. Hort. Dept., University of Florida.*

See more details at the website:
http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting/urbanintro.htm

### Disney Facts, or Did You Know...........

- Disney’s Pest Management Technicians release 10 ½ million beneficial insects each year. They release lady bugs, lacewings, predatory wasps and predatory beetles.
- Disney maintains 2,000 acres of turf at 3 mowing per week that equals 450,000 mower miles per year.
Total acreage at Walt Disney World is 30,500. That equals 47 square miles or about the size of the city of San Francisco.

Disney uses over 3 million bedding plants and annuals per year, has nearly 13,000 roses in the landscape and maintains over 4 million shrub. (Source: Disney brochure from the International Flower and Garden Festival)

Did You Know?

Some of the palms used in our landscape are originate in dry arid regions. For example, the Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) as the name implies, is from the Canary Islands, off the northeast coast of Africa. These islands are warm, mild and quite dry, averaging 5-15 inches of rain per year. Compare that to Florida, where we average 45-50 inches of rain per year. And that doesn’t count irrigation!! Wet years here can have up to 65-70 inches of rainfall. Is it any wonder these palms are prone to diseases such as *Ganoderma* and *Fusarium* among others?

True date palms, (*Phoenix dactylifera*) also originate from a dry climate.

Miscellaneous Web Sites

The A&L Lab Network  

University of Florida: Electronic Data Information System  
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html

University of Florida: Featured Creatures  
http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/

Dr. Ed Gilman’s planting web site  
http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting/

Dr. Ed Gilman’s pruning web site  
http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning/index.htm

University of Florida: Tropical Research and Education Center  
http://trecdisted.ifas.ufl.edu/

International Society of Arboriculture. Florida Chapter  
http://www.floridaisa.org/

Compendium of Pesticide Common Names  
http://www.alanwood.net/pesticides/class_insecticides.html

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
http://www.safepesticideuse.com/default.asp

University of Florida Turfgrass Science  
http://turf.ufl.edu/residential/residential.htm