

Green-Up News



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Grower Forum

Florida Fern Caterpillar, Weed Control & Cold Protection

EARN 2 CEUs

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

9:00 AM to Noon

Pierson Lions Club 143 West First Avenue, Pierson

9:00-9:50 a.m. Finding and Controlling Caterpillars

Dr. Gary Leibee, Professor, MREC

1.0 Category CEU

9:50-10:30a.m. FAWN, ENSO (El Nino) Winter Weather Forecast and Cold Protection for Crops

Dr. Clyde Wm. Fraisse

Ryan Atwood, Multi County Citrus Agent

10:30-11:00 a.m. Controlling Weeds with New Herbicides

Dr. Bob Stamps, Professor MREC

0.5 Core CEU

11:00-11:30 a.m. Using PPE in Pest Control

Dana Venrick, Extension Agent

0.5 Category

11:30-Noon Tri-County Foliage Advisory Committee Meeting

You are welcome to participate-

Help us increase customers and prices.

The Volusia County Economic Development Council will be on hand to discuss their assistance to bring European cut foliage buyers to the Tri-County area.

Noon Catered Lunch

Compliments of the Central East Coast chapter of FNGLA.

Thank you Rosemary Warner and Curt Davis.

Attention: Commercial/Public/Private Pesticide Applicators

**ORNAMENTAL TURF AND PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING
GET UP TO 6 CEUs**

Where: Volusia County Extension Service – Auditorium
3100 E. New York Ave.
DeLand, FL 32724

When: Thursday, October 23, 2008
8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Private Applicator 3.0 CEUs
Noon - 2:30 p.m. Ornamental & Turf 3.0 CEUs

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Private Applicator Agricultural – This certification is issued to applicators or supervisors of up to 15 applicators who apply RUPs for agricultural production such as (nursery, greenhouse, sod farm, cattle farm, fruit and vegetable). **Both** the Core and Private Agricultural Applicator exam are required to become certified. Four Core and four Private CEUs are required for recertification every four years.

Noon to 2:30 p.m.

Ornamental & Turf – This certification is good for persons applying pesticides on a golf course, playground, cemetery, park, or athletic field. You will need to take **both** the General Standards (Core) exam and the Ornamental & Turf exam to become certified. The pesticide classes of Commercial and Public allows supervision of up to 15 employees using restricted use pesticides (RUPs). Four Core and 12 O&T CEUs are required for recertification.

Cost: A fee of \$10 is required for each training session.

Licensed applicators can get CEUs for recertification, 3.0 in Private and/or 3.0 in O&T & 3.0 in ROW.

Please order the study materials to thoroughly review before scheduling to take the exams.

Call Linda Evans at 386-822-5778 to schedule to take the exam.

Order your study manuals UF/IFAS bookstore – Publications Dept. by calling 1-800-226-1764.

If you need CORE CEUs, sign up for the class
on November 6, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to
11:00 a.m. at the Ag Center

Attention: Commercial/Public/Private Pesticide Applicators

ORNAMENTAL TURF AND PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING
Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Training

Thursday, October 23, 2008

CORE TRAINING

November 6, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

e-mail address _____

_____ I will attend the **Private Applicator** morning session for \$10 and 3 CEUs

_____ I will attend the **O & T** afternoon session for \$10 and 3 CEUs

_____ I will attend both the **Private and O & T** sessions for \$20 and 6 CEUs

Special CORE training class

November 6, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

_____ I will attend the **CORE** class for \$10 and 3 CEUs

Please send in this form and a check made out to "Volusia County Extension Fund" to:
Volusia County Extension Service 3100 E. New York Ave. DeLand, FL 32724
Before October 21, 2008 to assure your seat in class.

Ferns & Flora

Disease Control Options

“Anthracnose” disease of leatherleaf is not the only disease called anthracnose. Anthracnose diseases are caused by a variety of fungi, including the causal disease in leatherleaf fern, *Colletotrichum acutatum*.

Anthracnose is promoted by overhead irrigation which is almost always used in the fern industry. Poor air circulation, wounding, and poor cultural practices (watering and fertilizing improperly) aggravate the problem.

Keys to irrigating properly include watering only when necessary, e.g., when a tensiometer indicates the soil water has dropped close to a critical level, watering only long enough (including fertigation and chemigation) to wet the root zone and watering early in the morning.

In regard to fungicides, it is important to use multiple chemistries (modes of action) and consider additional products in a rotation plan. Traditional fungicides to use, in a rotation plan, include Folicur/Orius (warm weather only), chlorothalonil, mancozeb products and thiophanate-methyl (Cleary 3336 or T-Methyl).

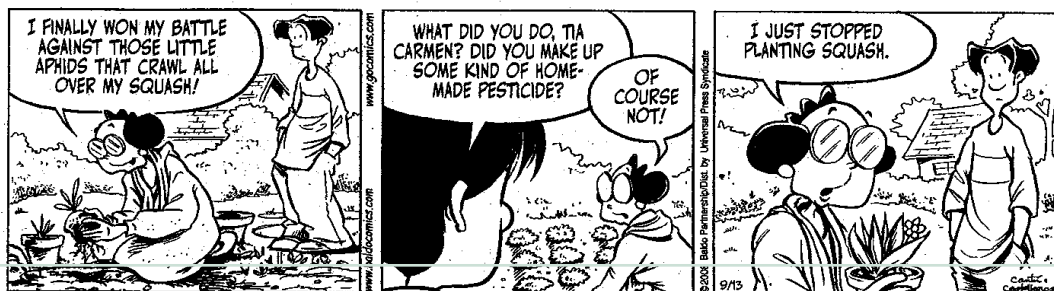
It is important to remember that nutrition, fertilization and minerals are closely tied to diseases and their control. Phosphorus acid (phosphite) in such products as K-Phite, Ele-Max, and Agri-fos have the phosphorus anion PO_3 . Mancozeb has manganese and zinc. Cocide and Camelot have copper. Potassium bicarbonate (Armicarb, Kaligreen) has potassium.

Research by the University of Florida, and others, is demonstrating effective disease control with applications of potassium silicate (in products such as Stimp-Up or Sil Matrix®). Many scientists say that potassium is the most important mineral to help plants resist disease. There is growing evidence that silicon plays a key role in disease suppression. One University of Florida study demonstrated that potassium silicate controls diseases of turf grass equally as well as chlorothalonil. The same study demonstrated that disease control is even better when both silicon and chlorothalonil are used. Recently, a potassium silicate product was registered, not only as a fumigicide, but also as an insecticide and miticide.

Of course, both potassium and silicon are important in nutrition. Potassium is the most needed essential element and silicon is a quasi-essential element important to structural integrity of plants, cold hardiness, and stress resistance. Silicon is accumulated in high amounts by many plants, including ferns.

Apparently, silicon is deposited as a siliceous layer on leaf surfaces and/or intercellular spaces and helps plants resist infection by the hyphae of fungi. This siliceous layer also helps retard feeding by insects.

Potassium silicate is another important tool to use in a varied rotational program. Apply separately to avoid possible tie-ups with other products. Use in a test area first and use at the recommended label rate of ten ounces per acre.



FLORIDAN AGRICULTURE MOBILE IRRIGATION LAB NOW IN SERVICE!

Now, as an agriculture producer in Volusia, Putnam, Flagler and St. Johns County, you can receive a free, voluntary irrigation evaluation.

The evaluation only takes 3-6 hours, which covers all the bases. Best of all, an evaluation report is prepared for you, so you can take corrective action as deemed necessary.

The Floridan Team Leader is Cheryl McCrory. The lab is located at 111 Yelvington Road, Suite #1, East Palatka, FL 32132. Telephone: 386-329-0318. Fax: 386-329-1262; e-mail: floridanagmil@hotmail.com

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The 2008 Farm Bill has reauthorized the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for 2009. This cost share program is available to farmers and ranchers to install conservation practices on their lands. Call George Johnson, District Conservationist (352) 622-3971 ext. 3 or 352-538-3909 for information and the deadline.

CARBON TRADING CREDITS

Did you know that you may be eligible for payments from a carbon trading credit program? Producers with various crops to include timber and pasture may be eligible. For complete details, go to the Florida Farm Bureau website: <http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/carbontrading> or call 352-384-2661.

Also plan to attend a Carbon Credit workshop at the Volusia County Agricultural Center on November 13 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Sharon Gamble or Dana Venrick at 386-822-5778.

Foreign Trade Grant

The Department of Economic Development has been awarded a \$60,000 Industrial Business Grant to develop an expanded trade program for Volusia County companies and buyers in the European Union. In partnership with Enterprise Florida and the U.S. Commercial Services, the first phase of the program will identify buyers of agricultural and horticultural products for an in-bound trade mission.

For more information call Paul Mitchell at (386)248-8048 pmitchell@co.volusia.fl.us or Dana Venrick at (386)822-5778

Read the Volusia County Extension Horticulture Newsletter, Green-Up News On-Line

Green - Up News is a bi-monthly newsletter for pesticide applicators, nursery growers/nurseries, fern growers, citrus growers, sod growers, golf courses, and landscapers provided by the University of Florida/Volusia County Extension, Commercial Horticulture. Information on future educational programs, including Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available for FDACS pesticide applicator or FNGLA re-certification, also will be provided.

Subscribe to the Nursery News newsletter by clicking on <http://www.volusia.org/extension/horticulture.htm>, then click on the box to subscribe. Your e-mail should open and if you send this e-mail message, you will automatically be signed up for the list service.

Landscapers... GET LEGAL !

Did you know that the state of Florida is enforcing pesticide laws? If you use any chemicals as pesticides on any property, other than your own, **you must be CERTIFIED!** So here's your opportunity.

WHEN: Tuesday November 18, 2008 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

WHERE: Volusia County Extension Service Auditorium, 3100 E. New York Avenue (S.R. 44), DeLand

HOW: * Send in your registration form NOW to attend the class!
* Bring the completed paper work to take the exam with you to the class.

WHY: 6 CEUs are required to take the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LLM) Exam

WHAT: 6 CEUs (3 Core and 3 Category) awarded for re-certification needs:
3 Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LLM), 3 Limited Lawn & Ornamental (L&O), 3 Commercial Pest Control Operator (PCO), L&O Category or 3 Private Applicator, 3 (O&T)
* **NOTE: Limited re-certification requires 2 Core and 2 L&O/O&T/LLM CEUs; O&T requires 4 Core and 12 O&T CEUs**
Lunch is INCLUDED in registration fee!

Registration is required due to limited seating, so send it now to reserve your spot!
For more information, please contact Dana Venrick or Linda Evans at 386-822-5778.

go to <http://www.volusia.org/extension/horticulture.htm> under PROGRAMS for more information

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____ e-mail _____

_____ I will attend the all day class for \$30 and take the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance exam.

_____ I will attend the all day class for \$30 for 6 CEUs only

_____ I will attend morning training for \$20 to receive 3 Core CEUs

_____ I will attend afternoon training for \$20 to receive 3 other CEUs only
CEUs include: 3 Core, 3 LLM, 3 L&O, 3 O&T, or 3 Private

Make your check payable to: **Volusia County Extension Fund** and mail it, along with this form, to:
Volusia County Extension Service 3100 E. New York Ave. DeLand, FL 32724
Before November 12, 2008 to assure your seat in class.

Farm Service Agency Sets December 1, 2008 Deadline for Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) Sign-Up for Crops & Hay

Please be aware that crop insurance or NAP coverage (for those crops not covered by regular crop insurance) is necessary to be eligible for the new SURE disaster assistance program. The deadline to apply for NAP 2009 has been extended to December 1, 2008 for those crops whose application (sign up) deadline fell before December 1, 2008. Those 2009 NAP crops whose deadline has already passed have also been extended to December 1, 2008. However, crop insurance deadlines have not been extended.

Please be aware that crop coverage does not become effective until 30 days after NAP sign-up.

For 2009 Disaster Assistance (SURE):

The deadline for Non-Insured Assistance (NAP) sign-up for crops whose application closing date is before December 1, 2008 has been extended to December 1, 2008. Those crops that have passed the application deadline have also been extended to December 1, 2008.

To be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs in 2009 producers must sign up for crop and livestock related insurance (at least CAT coverage) or NAP. The short of it is according to the USDA, "If producers do not sign up and pay for NAP (or have crop insurance) on crops that they will certify in 2009, they will not qualify for the new disaster program (SURE) (regardless of any other crops insured)." (Source:

www.fsa.usda.gov) Producers must make application before December 1, 2008 for 2009 SURE eligibility. The cost structure for 2009 NAP and crop insurance are not related and differ by time and crop. For 2009 NAP costs, producers should check with their local Farm Service Agency Service Center. The contact for growers in Volusia and Putnam counties is Kathleen DeFord at 386-328-5051, Ext. 2. Growers in Lake County should contact Ken Windsor at 352-343-2581.



Down Citrus Lane



ALL CITRUS ACREAGE REDUCED TO 576,577

The 2008 total citrus acreage at 576,577 is the lowest since record keeping began with the 1966 tree inventory. Although the gross loss is less than that reported in the three prior censuses, it represents an 11 percent drop. In addition to urban development, pushing due to canker and greening, and abandonment of nonproductive groves, the reduction includes two large areas being converted to reservoirs by a water management district. With nurseries lost to canker and the regulations now in effect, few new citrus trees were available. Only 22,128 acres of new plantings were counted.

Acreage decreases were recorded in 25 of the 30 counties included in the survey. Martin County suffered the greatest loss in acreage at 34 percent and is reduced by 11,869 acres. Hendry lost 9,799. Even with a loss of 5,023 acres, Polk continues to lead with 81,375. Hendry, Highlands, and DeSoto follow with over 60,000 acres each. Osceola and Hillsborough had substantial losses of almost 25 percent since the last census. For total trees, Hendry remains the leader with 10.6 million, followed by Polk with 9.7 million, and DeSoto with 8.2 million trees.

ALL ORANGE ACREAGE DROPS TO 496,518

which is the lowest since the 1986 census, when a record low of 466,252 remained following several major freezes. After a recovery period, acreage surpassed 600,000 in 1992 and remained above that level until the recent hurricanes beginning in 2004. The Southern area leads with 30 percent of acres, followed by the Central and Western which combine for 55 percent. Total trees are down seven percent and non-bearing account for just six percent of the total. Valencia trees comprise 56 percent of the total orange trees; early-midseason-Navel oranges, which include Temples for the first time, account for almost 44 percent; and the unidentified, primarily non-bearing, trees make up the remainder.

From USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service

Nurseries Succeeding In Niche Markets

Increased costs due to rising fuel prices and the slowed housing market have had a negative impact on many nurseries throughout Florida. While some operations may be struggling, others are thriving.

Those nurseries finding success are involved in niche markets, or specialization. A specialized nursery provides products or services not provided by other nurseries. There are many successful specialized nurseries in Florida. In Orange County, Larry and Sherry Shatzer own Our Kids Tropicals nursery, which specializes in bamboo, gingers, and tropical fruit plants. The Shatzers attribute much of their success to their demonstration gardens. They occasionally travel to plant festivals and sell at farmers' markets, but the majority of their sales come from customers who visit the nursery and tour the gardens. Customers see how the plants grow in the landscape, how much fruit the plants produce, and how delicious the fruit tastes.

Terry and Linda Whitecar's nursery in Volusia County is another example. Their passion for the Florida native fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) led to growing them in containers to share with others. Their hobby grew into a profitable side business that has one of the best selections of native *Chionanthus* anywhere. They also specialize in propagating variegated holly trees.

In 1987, Curtis Davis and Rosemary Warner of Osteen started Native Southeastern Trees. They specialize in native container-grown trees for landscapers and homebuilders. While high costs due to oil prices have led to changes such as a hiring freeze and elimination of free delivery, their passion for native plants and the green industry has kept their nursery profitable. Rosemary is president of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), and Curtis is president of his local FNGLA chapter.

Kari Ruder started Naturewise in 2004 when she recognized a demand for native plants in Brevard County. In 2007, Ruder partnered with local growers to form the Green Marketplace at Adamson Road. Through the partnership, growers pool resources to provide locally grown produce, grow and sell heirloom vegetable plants, and educate consumers about sustainable agriculture. Sales have been sluggish this summer due to the slow economy, but Ruder is optimistic about the future.

All of these nurseries have found success by identifying a need that was filling. By specializing, they are better prepared to weather a difficult economy. According to Ruder, focusing on just a few products allows her to "provide a lot more expertise" to her customers than they would find in a big-box store or retail garden center, and creates loyal customers.

For more information about starting or managing a specialized nursery, visit <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>.

On Aug. 1-2, 2009, the first Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference will be held at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. The event will feature exhibitors, educational sessions, and more. All Florida farmers are invited to attend. Visit the conference Web site at <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>. For information on conference sponsorship or being an exhibitor, contact Bob Hochmuth at 386-362-1725 or bobhoch@ufl.edu.

Article by Horticultural Extension Agents:

Linda Seals, Brevard County; Juanita Popenoe, Lake County; and Dana Venrick, Volusia County

"GREEN TURF"

New "Captiva" St. Augustinegrass shows Nematode Resistance

The Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC) and the University of Florida / Florida Foundation Seed Producers recently announced the release of "**Captiva**" St. Augustine, which was developed by Dr. Russell Nagata at the UF/IFAS Everglades Research & Education Center in Belle Glade.



In 2005, FSGC partnered with UF to evaluate the turfgrass on farms throughout Florida to assess its performance under standard production practices. After review, the University approved Captiva for release in the 2007. Captiva is being produced in Volusia County at Kirkland Sod on S.R. 44 in New Smyrna Beach.



Captiva was announced at the FSGC Annual Meeting in January and was featured at the Turfgrass Producers International Mid Winter Conference trade show in Orlando last February. Captiva has exhibited significant resistance to the southern chinch bug and good shade tolerance. Its most appealing characteristics may be its ability to maintain a deeper green color with fewer inputs and its dwarf-like growth habits, which mean less frequent mowing and a lush, compact appearance. The turf is expected to be available for purchase Spring of 2009.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Russell Nagata, UF / IFAS.
University of Florida press



Managing Soil pH and Fertilizer

The importance of soil pH to the health of plant crops is well known. But of more importance than the actual pH is having appropriate levels of the cations calcium, magnesium, and potassium in the soil colloidal complex. For example, three different fields with the same pH growing the same crop may have very different levels of calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and potassium (K). One field might have optimum levels of Ca and Mg. The second field might have an excess of Ca and a deficiency of Mg. The third field might have an excess of Mg and a deficiency of Ca. Any number of combinations of Ca, Mg, K, sodium (Na), and aluminum (Al) compounds may contribute to any given soil acidity or alkalinity (pH) level. The amount needed to change the pH value varies by compound. For example, magnesium carbonate, pound for pound, raises pH 1.7 times as much as calcium carbonate.

Plants are tolerant of a fairly wide range of Ca, Mg, and K in the soil, if sufficient levels of each are present. However, if soil Mg tests excessive and pH needs to be raised, use high calcium (calcitic) limestone. Conversely, use dolomitic limestone (calcium magnesium carbonate) for raising pH if soil Mg tests low or deficient. Do not use liming material on high pH or nearly neutral pH soil as over liming can tie up micronutrients and possibly inhibit the activity of soil microorganisms that help make soil minerals available (mineralization). Be careful to avoid over liming. Too much limestone can make manganese (Mn) and other trace elements unavailable to crops.

Liming Guidelines

- Lime only when pH drops to 5.5 or less. Apply only 500 to 1,000 lb./acre (12 to 23 lb./1,000 sq. ft. or 1 to 2 lb./100 sq. ft.). Test every year and only apply when pH is 5.5 or less.
- Use high calcium (calcitic) limestone if Mg in the soil tests above optimum.
- Use dolomitic limestone (calcium magnesium carbonate) if Mg in the soil tests below optimum.
- If the soil Mg tests close to optimum, use a mixture of dolomitic and calcitic limestone, or alternate between the two in successive applications.
- Lime in conjunction with carbon based organic inputs for maximum benefits. Organic matter holds minerals and makes them more available to plants. Organic matter is the only part of the soil colloidal complex that holds fertilizer anions as well as cations. Organic matter is the best soil component to prevent leaching, but at the same time, minerals are readily released to plant roots as needed by the plants.
- Blueberries take up nitrogen in the form of ammonium and need an acid soil with a pH about 5.0. A pH of 5.5 or higher will readily induce iron deficiency.
- Re-test the soil every crop season to determine whether more limestone is needed and, if so, what type.

Watch for Excessive Potassium

Potassium (K) is held at lower levels in the soil base saturation compared to Ca and Mg, even though plants generally require more K than any other mineral. A certain level of soil K is necessary, but excessive soil K blocks plant uptake of Ca and Mg. Higher levels of Ca in plant tissues help protect plant crops against fungal and bacterial diseases, but excessive tissue levels of K cancel this effect. Balance is the key because K also protects against fungal and bacterial diseases when present at optimal levels.

If the soil pH is too high (testing at 7.0 or higher), use sulfur at low rates of 50 to 75 pounds per acre (1 to 2 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft. or 2 to 3 oz./100 sq. ft.) and immediately water in. Sulfur will temporarily lower pH and tie up the cation most responsible for the high pH.

Low inputs of limestone and sulfur on a regular basis as needed are better than large quantities every two or three years to try to instantly adjust soil acidity or alkalinity. You want slow steady soil adjustments, not extreme pH swings like a roller coaster.

Slow, steady corrections will provide the activity needed in the soil matrix and protect the microbial life in the soil.

In summary, perform a complete soil test for pH and minerals at least once per season. Use low, regular inputs of dolomitic and/or calcitic limestone to raise pH and sulfur to counteract high pH. For the most beneficial soil response, use carbon based/organic inputs in conjunction with liming and fertilization.

Mark your Calendar

- October 23** **Private Applicator** **8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**
Ornamental & Turf **Noon-2:30 p.m.** **See page 2-3**
- November 6** **Core Training** **8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**
- November 13** **Carbon Trading Credits, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.,**
Volusia County Agricultural Center, DeLand **See page 5**
- November 18** **Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance and Lawn and**
Ornamental Training and LLM testing
3.0 core and 3.0 category CEUs available **See page 6**
- November 21** **Farm Tour**
Check our web site <http://volusia.org> and the local papers for details
- November 27-28** **Thanksgiving Holiday**
Office is closed
- December 16** **Grower Forum**
Florida Fern Caterpillar, Weed control, Cold Protection **See page 1**
- December 25** **Christmas Day**
Office closed

The use of trade names in this publication does not constitute a guarantee or warrant of products named and does not signify approval to the exclusion of similar products.

"Pursuit to Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (As Amended) this University of Florida Affirmative Action Plan ensures equal employment opportunity and advancement opportunity to all individuals. The University does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions), national origin, ancestry, age, disability, family care status, protected veterans status, marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law."



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Green-Up News

For The Commercial Grower

By Dana Venrick, Commercial Horticulture Agent II