



NURSERY • CITRUS • GOLF COURSE



GREEN-UP NEWS

By Dana Venrick, Commercial Horticulture Agent II

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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New Landscape Maintenance Certification Requirements

GOOD NEWS!! Now it is much easier to become certified to apply pesticides to ornamentals for a commercial landscape business. The criteria for the **Limited Certification – Commercial Landscape Maintenance** now requires no prior experience and the certification process has been relaxed. Here are the new requirements effective July 1, 2006:

- ?? Elimination of the 3-year experience requirement.
- ?? Training for examination has been reduced from 8-hours to 6-hours
- ?? Fungicides as well as insecticides and herbicides with a “**caution**” label can now be applied to ornamentals.
- ?? Demonstrating proof of insurance coverage has been delayed until prior to issuance of the certificate (as opposed to the previous requirement of proving coverage prior to being examined).

If the prior stringent requirements were holding you back, you now have the opportunity to become commercially certified to apply caution label pesticides. Plan now to attend the next training and testing class at the agricultural center on October 24, 2006.

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FNGLA Meets August 2

The Central East Coast Chapter of FNGLA will meet:

Tuesday, August 2, 2006

Place: the Grant Bly House
842 E. New York Ave. (S.R. 44)
DeLand

Meet and Greet at 6:30 P.M.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. Curtis Davis
(407) 322-5133

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR BIOTECH FLOWERS?

Progress has been made in developing genetically engineered flowers. In 2005, the first biotech blue rose was developed. Dr. David Dark with the University of Florida has made the following advancements with petunias:



- ?? **Ethylene-insensitive flowers** – Longer-lasting flowers are the result of insensitivity to ethylene, a ripening hormone.
- ?? **Delayed leaf senescence** – Leaves stay green longer and have greater tolerance to pathogens.
- ?? **Larger flowers** – Flowers are 50-percent larger than standard petunias.
- ?? **Dwarf plants** – The usage of PGRs is reduced.
- ?? **Better-smelling flowers** – Cut roses are being engineered to make more rose oil for improved scent.

There is much promise for biotech flowers, so why is progress in developing new genetically engineered flowers so slow?

- ?? Very few new plants that produce a “wow” factor have been produced. Without such a dramatic new development the extra costs involved in producing a new flower or plant can not be justified.
- ?? The lifespan on floriculture crops is getting increasingly shorter. It takes a long time to complete research, development and testing of the market. Biotech crops must be approved by the EPA before being released into the market. By the time the new variety hits the marketplace, the variety may no longer be of interest.

So what the best chances for successful use of biotech?

- ?? New tools are now available to plant and flower breeders as a result of biotech advances.
- ?? The sequences of DNA of many commercially important plants have been decoded. This will make plant breeding more precise in the future.

*Thanks to the BIG Grower Magazine

DOWN CITRUS LANE



Does Fish Emulsion Help to Prevent Canker?

Based on information from *Fighting Canker With Fish*, Florida Grower, June 2006

Kurt McDowell, who manages Evans Properties, Scott Division, groves in St. Lucie County has groves surrounded on all four sides by groves devastated with canker. The interesting things that his groves are canker free.

McDowell thinks that his application of fish-emulsion foliar fertilizer (Omega Grow/Omega Protein) with copper may be the reason why. He says that infected trees are within 200 feet of his grove. He says that those groves are also using copper but without the fish emulsion mix.

Other growers using this fish emulsion product, including Roper Groves, Lindsey Groves, and Uncle Matt's Organic say they believe fish oil has helped keep canker of their groves as well.

Dr. Pete Timmer, Plant Pathologist, UF, Lake Alfred, says that, “it's possible that there are some attributes in

fish oil that may help prevent or manage canker, but, there is no information to prove it.

We can't say if fish oil helps prevent canker, but certainly research is needed to see if organics such as fish oil can help prevent canker.

I have been reporting that trees in optimum health with all the nutrients at optimum levels are more disease resistant than trees with less than optimum nutrition. Foliar sprays and soil applied materials such as fulvic acid, fish oil, seaweed, amino acids, etc. have been demonstrated to be beneficial when used in conjunction with complete fertilizer. However, the most important thing is to do soil testing and leaf tissue analysis, and based on those tests customize amendments to fit the nutritional needs of the trees. Based on antidotal evidence from around the state, it certainly can't hurt to include fish oil in balanced foliar applications.

GREEN TURF



How to Grow Healthy Turf on Golf Courses

Based on 'Healthy Turf'

Turf South Magazine, June 2006

Do you want to make the quality of turf on your golf course even better? Here are tips from two top superintendents, Pete Metcalf with Wyndemere County Club in Naples and Bob Buege with Tara Golf and County club in Sarasota.

- ?? Metcalf and Buege both rely heavily on cultural programs, supported by preventive fungicides that help increase overall turf quality.
- ?? Both superintendents make at least three to four core aerifications during the summer and six solid pencil tine operations, over the winter to keep the soil breathing. Metcalf puts a light top-dress at least every two weeks throughout the year and verticuts in front of the top-dress during the growing season, using groomers on walk mowers. Buege top-dresses every three weeks during the colder, heavier play months and every other week in the summer.
- ?? Metcalf increases the .125 - .130 inches greens mowing heights by 1/100th of an inch where problems, including shading, occur.
- ?? Based on University of Florida research, both use preventive fungicide programs in the summer to produce a better quality turf through the cooler months.
- ?? Both Buege and Metcalf use a preventive program based around Chipco Signature fungicide with either Chipco Signature fungicide with either Chipco 26GT, Compass, Daconil, or Fore on a two-week schedule from the first week of June through September.

- ?? Fertility and irrigation are emphasized. Buege uses liquid fertilizer applying micros and nitrogen by fertigating during the winter, and adding a wetting agent in the spring. In summer, a wetting agent and minors are used and the nitrogen is not used. Potassium is added to help the grass through the hot, humid months (my note: use caution with potassium in the form of potassium chloride or nutriate of potash). All rates are applied in accordance with soil test recommendations.
- ?? Metcalf makes weekly foliar applications formulated on a 1:2 nitrogen to potassium ratio. By keeping his nitrogen levels low throughout the year, he is able to minimize thatch buildup and reduce disease pressure. Granular fertilizer is applied as needed.
- ?? Finally, trees are removed and pruned to reduce excessive shading and greens are enlarged when possible to reduce pressure on small greens with high traffic pressure.

These tips can go a long way toward improving the quality of turf any golf course. And of course, many of these ideas can be used to improve the quality of any turf or ornamental. Note that both of these growers of the highest quality turf keep nitrogen levels low and potassium levels high, especially in summer. Keep this in mind when fertilizing any crop during the hot, muggy days of summer.



These are some of products available to the horticultural industry and does not imply any endorsement by the University of Florida, IFAS or the Volusia County Extension Service.

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Dates To Remember



August

- 10-12** **SNA...The World's Showcase of Horticulture** Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA For more information call 770-953-3311 or visit www.sna.org
- 18-20** **Platinum Coast Orchid Society 43rd Annual Orchid Show** Cocoa Expo Sports Center Cocoa, FL For more information call 321-632-2847
- 30** **Review for the Ornamental/Turf & Private Applicators Agricultural Exams** – 8:30 a.m. Tavares, Contact Juanita Popenoe

September

- 28-30** **Florida Nursery & Allied Trade Show (FNATS)** Orlando, FL 407-295-7994
www.fn gla.org/info@fn gla.org

October

- 17-19** **Agricultural Exposition** Moultrie, GA 229-985-1698 www.sunbeltexpo.com.info@sunbeltexpo.com
- 24** **Limited Pesticide Certification Training and Testing (Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LLM) or Limited Lawn & Ornamental (L&O))** Volusia County Extension Service Auditorium. Call Dana Venrick or Jeanne Blanchard for a registration form 386-822-5778.

Sincerely,



Dana Venrick

Extension Agent II – Commercial Horticulture

If you would like more information on upcoming programs or want to receive publications please call, fax, or e-mail me. All Extension Service programs and information are free and open to the public regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin.