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NURSERY • CITRUS • GOLF COURSE

# GREEN-UP NEWS

**By Dana Venrick, Commercial Horticulture Agent II**

**Bi-Monthly Newsletter** **Vol. 5, Issue 5 - September/October 2005**

## FOLIAGE FORUM

### 4 CEUs

### Tuesday, OCTOBER 18, 2005
### 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
### Pierson Lions Club
143 W. First Ave, Pierson

**9:00-9:50 Growing Alternative Cut Foliage Crops** Dr. Robert Stamps of Mid Florida Research and education Center (MREC) will present the latest information on growing alternative crops. Discussion to include pest control. (1.0 CEU Private/O&T)

**9:50-10:30 FAWN & Winter Weather Forecast** John Jackson, IFAS Citrus Specialist, Lake County, will present information on FAWN and the latest University cold protection tool-kit and tell us the winter weather forecast.

**10:30-11:20 Personal Protective Equipment** Dana Venrick, Volusia County Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent, will present CORE training to include the newest NIOSH respirator safety codes and coding for oil resistance and air-cleaning efficiency. 1.0 CORE CEU

**11:30-Noon –Tri-County Foliage Advisory Committee** All members and interested growers are urged to attend.

**1:00 PM-3:00 PM Train the Trainer** Become certified to train your employees. New requirements of the 2004 Florida Agricultural Worker Safety Act and WPS training for farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses will be presented. 2 CEUs Private/O&T/Forestry/ Row Crops/Ag Research

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**



## FNGLA MEETS OCTOBER 5, 2005

The next meeting of the Central East Coast Chapter of FNGLA will be at The River Grille in Ormond Beach
950 N. U.S. Hwy 1
(3 miles north of Granada)

**Meet & Greet at 6:00 PM**
**Dinner at 7:00 PM**
**R.S.V.P. Curtis Davis**
**(407) 322-5133**

# 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 chance.

**WHEN:** Friday, October 14, 2005 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Volusia County Extension Service Auditorium, 3100 E. New York Avenue, DeLand

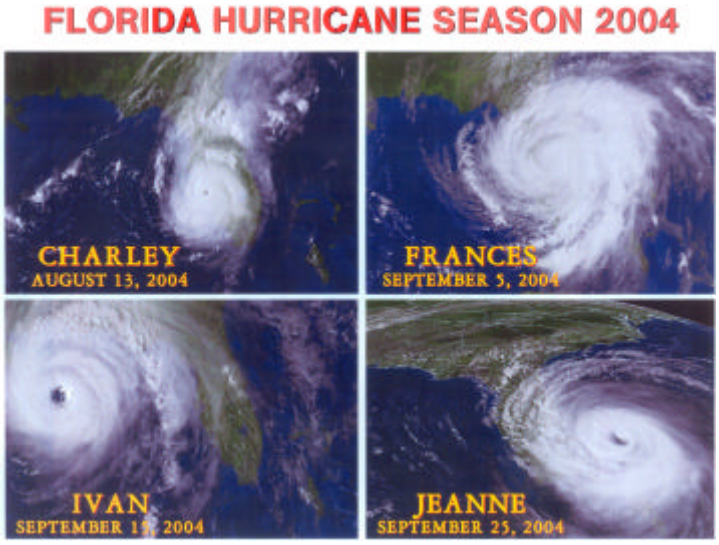
**WHY:** It's the Law! Get your CEUs; 4 CORE, 4 O&T, 4 ROW, 4 Private Applicator
8 Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance, 4 Limited L&O, 4 PCO

Lunch is INCLUDED in registration fee!

**Registration is required due to limited seating, so reserve your spot!**
**For more information, please contact Dana Venrick or Jeanne Blanchard at the numbers above.**

## ARE YOU READY FOR STORMY WEATHER??

**By Dana Venrick – Extension Agent II - Commercial Horticulture**




The last thing we want is another hurricane anytime soon, but if there is, are you ready? As soon as possible before the storm, prepare your written "disaster and after" hurricane plan. Everyone should know what to do well in advance. Talk about and mentally "practice" your plan of action. Physically practice where practical.

Conduct safety and first aid training. Develop a written plan that describes everyone's responsibilities before and after a hurricane (or other disaster) arrives. How do you plan to water your plants? If you depend on electricity, do you have diesel back up? Are generators in place ready to back up electrical service, if it should fail? This is just a start of steps to be taken in advance of a possible storm.

**BEFORE THE STORM……**

**Security Check** Make sure all building are up to code and that all needed repairs are made. Make sure everything is secured and tied down. Leave nothing loose lying around that could become a missile. Pay particular attention to making chemical and fertilizer sheds as strong as possible. Don't store excess inventory. Buy only enough fertilizer and pesticide for short-term use. The last thing you need is environmental contamination by pesticide. Remove any trees that may fall and damage/destroy structures.

**Maintenance** Make sure all equipment is properly maintained and that fuel and other supplies you may need are on hand. Make sure all windows, doors and roofs are secured. Check and add extra tie downs for trailers. Make sure generators and diesel pumps are in peak operating condition. Make sure the chain saws are operating and the chains are sharpened. Make sure ditches are cleared for maximum drainage.

**Evaluate Greenhouse Covers** Consider removing coverings of shadehouses and greenhouses before the storm hits...The storm may remove the covers for you and leave them in shreds. Perhaps you want to allow for less wind resistance. No matter what decision you make or what time allows, make sure you have enough materials on hand to do basic repairs, if necessary.

**Stock Basics for Continued Operation** Make a check-list of all your basic needs. Have enough potting soil, containers, liners, ground covers, pesticides, etc. so that your operation doesn't grind to a stop.

**Put Paper-Work in Order** Store valuable papers in a dry, most storm proof place. Develop an emergency

phone list or update your list. Make sure you have crop insurance. Federal assistance may not be available unless you do so. Have an up to date inventory of all plants and equipment. This expedites claims and helps with any recovery efforts. Record serial numbers of equipment. Make a written plan of responsibilities for all company personnel to handle before and after a storm disaster. Make sure all procedures and contingencies are detailed. List priorities. Make sure to include how to secure and water-proof computers.

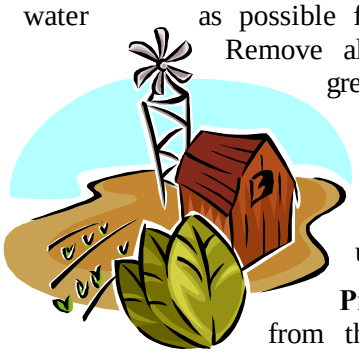
**Communication** Have a way to communicate after the storm has passed. Make sure all employees have time to prepare their own homes before the storm hits. Employees need to know when they are expected to return to work. Make sure all personnel can help each other if needed, by conducting first aid and safety training. Discuss disaster plans with all personnel to evaluate and make improvements.

**Prepare Generators** Make sure you have electrical generators with enough capacity and the right phase to do the job. When the main power is lost can you make a rapid connection? Do you have enough fuel on hand?

**Other Preparation** Prune permanent trees to reduce wind resistance. Provide for portable water. Make sure first aid supplies are on hand. Have radios, batteries, portable lights, extra portable water and other emergency supplies on hand.

**WHEN THE STORM IS CLOSE…(2 DAYS)**

**Irrigate** Run the irrigation system and remove as much water as possible from ponds and reservoirs. Remove all plants from benches in greenhouses. Fuel up tanks and fill spray equipment with water. Top off portable water containers. Charge batteries and back-up computer information.



**Prepare Office** Get cash from the bank or ATM. Who knows when you can get to town or make electronic transfers. Print out vital company information such as inventories and payroll.

**WHEN THE STORM BLOWS CLOSE……**
**(WITHIN 24 HOURS OF STRIKING)**

**Secure Threatened Items** Place tractors in open fields. Secure small trailers and soil mixing equipment. Take down irrigation risers. Remove shade cloth and greenhouse plastic. Lay down large plants, particularly valuable plants. The container is laid toward the wind. If possible, put the most valuable plants in box trailers. Place them side by side to resist turning over. Tightly secure doors, windows and greenhouse openings. Turn off water, natural gas and propane. Be prepared to turn off electricity. Store computers.

**Set-up Portable Electric Generators** Have generators in place and be ready to turn them on. Remember to properly ground all generators.

**WHEN THE STORM LEAVES…(FOR GOOD)**

Make sure the storm has passed. You may be in the eye of the hurricane and more deadly winds may soon follow. Stay tuned to your radio for storm updates.

**Secure Structures** Make necessary repairs to ensure that they are safe from intruders and weather.

**Notify Authorities of Storm Damage** Notify the Sheriff or police of road obstructions and hazards. Notify the electric company of power outages. Report any other serious problem as soon as possible.

**Care for Plants** Stand plants as soon as possible to prevent drying and sun-burn. Re-stake trees. Irrigate as soon as possible to flush salt residues from the storm. Re-pot and prune as necessary.

**Apply Fungicides** In this stressful situation, prevention is better than cure. Consider a copper or Mancozeb application (not more than twice) and a phosphorous acid (phosphite) application for prevention of root diseases such as phythothera and pythium. Carefully follow label rates and check for toxicity (certain plants may be burned) prior to application.

**Notify Customers** Let your customers know that you are alive and well and tell them when you will be able to fill their next order.

**Notify Your Insurance Agent** Call as soon as possible so that your claim will be settled as soon as possible. If necessary, notify the appropriate disaster relief agency.

Here are some tips for dealing with a hurricane but this list is by no means complete. Make your own plan for the appropriate actions to take based on your situation. Most of all, do not take a hurricane lightly. We have all seen the devastation it can bring.

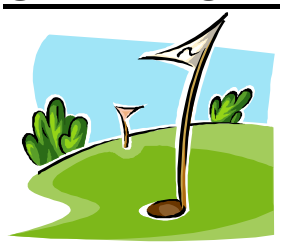
## The Central East Coast Chapter of FNGLA

Is coordinating an effort to collect and send needed supplies to Nurseries in south Florida hard-hit by Hurricane Katrina. Of the millions of dollars lost, 75% of the losses were by nurseries. The nursery loss has been estimated at $400 million. Supplies needed for donation include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bottled Water | Generators |
| Shade Cloth | Vis-Queen |
| Painter tape | Tarps |
| Come-A-Longs | Wire Cutters |

Collection points are at 135 E. 3rd Ave. in Pierson and 213 8th Ave (1 mile north Doyle Rd) in Osteen. For more details call Rhett Hagstrom at 386-749-2575 or Rosemary Warner at 407-322-5133.

# GREEN TURF



## Post emergent Grass Weed Control

The DEP has determined that MSMA and DSMA (organic arsenicals) can cause arsenic soil contamination on golf courses with as little as one application..

Problems of arsenic contamination occur in a wide range of soil conditions based on samples from 65 golf courses in Florida.

Recently, new herbicides have become available that provide good alternatives to MSMA, DSMA and CMA for post emergent grass control. The benefits include reduced damage to turfgrass and the environment, as well as a reduced number of applications.

In order to increase control of goosegrass in bermudagrass, various herbicides have been combined with DSMA and MSMA.

High rates of metribuzin (e.g. Metri 75df Turf herbicide (Ag value-metri, llc) and Sencor df 75% dry flowable (Bayer Crop Science) gives excellent control of goosegrass, but bermudagrass has marginal tolerance. Lower rates of metribuzin combined with MSMA/DSMA provides good to excellent control. Caution: this combo is safe only on actively growing, established Bermuda mowed at more than ½ inch height.

Metribuzin has a caution label and its use is restricted to bermudagrass in parks, athletic fields, golf fairways, ornamental turf, and cemeteries.

Didofop-methyl provides excellent goosegrass control compared to DSMA/MSMA and metribuzin combinations. There is little damage to Bermuda and repeat applications are not necessary in most cases. Didofop is more active on goosegrass that is young and mowed at a lower cutting height.

Treated areas of the golf course should not be overseeded with rye for a least six weeks. This herbicide should not be mixed with any other postemergent herbicide.

Increased phytotoxicity and reduced control may result from using Didofop combinations. A product available to the golf course superintendent is Illoxan 3 e.c. Herbicide (Bayer Environmental Science) Illoxan is a RUP (restricted use pesticide) and has a DANGER label. It is labeled for crowfootgrass, goosegrass and silver crabgrass. The locations for use are restricted to golf tees, golf fairway, golf greens, and golf courses and ornamental turf.

For further information refer to: Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses, Second Edition – University of Florida/IFAS by Unruh and Elliott.

# NURSERY PRACTICES IN EARLY FALL

Besides watching the weather for hurricanes what are some of the key cultural practices that nursery professionals are performing in the fall? Depending on the crop and conditions these are some of the key practices:

**Container growing –**

* **Check ECs-** Optimum ECs for container grown woody ornamentals based on the container media test at UF should range between 1.0 to 1.5. An acceptable range is 0.7 to 1.0. A high range is 1.5 to 3.0. A very high reading is greater than 3.0. Multiply the EC by 700 to get the approximate parts per million soluble salts. When media test in the "low" range, plant may respond to added fertilizer. If nutrients in the media are maintained in the "optimum" range, plants may be ready for market one to two weeks earlier. No additional benefits result from adding fertilizer when the readings are "high" or "very high", in fact serious problems are likely. For more details go to **http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS117**

* **Check pH-** High or low pH may indicate a need for pH adjustment
* **Re-**treat plants with pre-emergent herbicides such as Broadstar or Snapshot.
* **Collect-** leaf tissue of plants showing nutritional deficiencies and correct problems based upon lab results.
* As the weather cools, irrigation frequency may be reduced.
* There may be some final shearing and spacing of plants to improve plant quality
* Lightly fertilize as necessary

**PESTS**

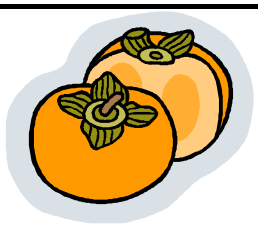
* Scout crops at least twice per month for mites, insects, diseases and weeds. Scout weekly if pest pressures warrant. Record pests present and the pesticide used to treat them (include details).
* Some hand weeding may be necessary. Apply pre-and post-emergent herbicides as scheduled.
* Apply a preventative root-rot fungicide such a K-Phite or Phos-fix (phosphorus acid or phosphite) to susceptible crops
* Spray for powdery mildew if conditions become favorable.

Cornell University has gotten excellent results controlling powdery mildew with a potassium bicarbonate based fungicide sold as Kaligreen, Armicarb or Remedy. Systhane also give good control. Other products for control include phosphorus acid, sulfur, fenarimol, dinocap and triadimifon. Mild to moderate powdery mildew infections can be eradicated with a horticultural oil such as Sunspray Ultra-fine spray oil, Neem Oil (e.g. Powdery mildew killer) or joboba oil (e.g., E-rase). CAUTION: Never apply an oil spray within two weeks of a sulfur spray or plants may be injured. Also never apply oils when the temperature is above 90° F or when plants are drought stressed. Likewise, do not apply sulfur when the temperatures are near 90° F or above.

* Check for other diseases such as Rhizoctonia. Control can be achieved with such materials as Cleary's ® 3336 (drench stem and root rots), Chipco ® 26019 Drench (stem rot and leaf spot), Chlorothalonil or Domain spray (aerial blight), Domain drench (stem rot), Fungo ® spray or drench (leaf spot), Terraclor ® drench (damping off, petiole stem rot), or Terraneb ® spray (aerial blight).



# DOWN CITRUS LANE



## Greening Disease Detected In Florida

The U.S. Department confirmed Friday the first U.S. detection of a plant illness known as citrus greening from samples collected from two separate trees in South Florida.

The bacterial disease is not a threat to humans but does pose a potential danger to the Florida's 9 billion citrus industry, which already has been battling citrus canker, officials said.

The disease was found on pummelo tree leaf and fruit samples in the city of Homestead, a farming center in Miami-Dade County, but it was not immediately known if the illness had spread beyond that area, officials said.

*-Associated Press*

## Soil Bacteria Undercounted

How many different species of bacteria would you find in a thimbleful of soil? Until recently, scientists would have said about 10,000. While that is a remarkable number, scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory have now revised it upward by at least two orders of magnitude. In a study published in the journal *Science*, they report that one gram of unpolluted soil contains one million bacterial species or more. The researchers-John Dunbar, Jason Gans and Murray Wolinsky of the laboratory of bioscience division found that of the million or more species, 99.9 percent were present in small quantities. A relative handful of species dominate. The researchers also analyzed data from polluted soil, showing that heavy-metal contamination sharply reduces microbial diversity.

*Orlando Sentinel*

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sep. 29-Oct. 1** **FNATS Exposition** Orange County Convention Center, call Sabrina with FNGLA 1-800-375-3642 for exhibitor information or contact http://www.fngla.org/fnats/general.asp

**Oct. 14** **Limited Pesticide Training** Volusia County Extension, auditorium, 8:00 a.m. -call Dana Venrick or Jeanne Blanchard for more information at 386-822-5778.

**Oct. 18** **Foliage Forum** See details on front

**Oct. 18-20** **Sunbelt Agricultural Expo** Moultrie, GA www.sunbeltexpo.com

**Nov. 3-5** **Green Industry Expo** Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, contact: www.gieonline.com

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.

Sincerely,

Dana Venrick
Extension Agent II – Commercial Horticulture