

3/30/09

Hello out there!

Wow lots happening!

Fertilizer Ordinance for Hillsborough County

A series of "fact finding" meetings among county staff have been held over the past few weeks to determine the need for a fertilizer ordinance and what components of an ordinance are needed for Hillsborough County.

So far the county departments are in agreement with many of the components of the proposed ordinance from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, including the requirement for BMP certification to use fertilizer and a reduced form of training for those providing other maintenance services; and other items like setbacks from water.

The blackout period is a sticking point in the discussion, but I must say the group has been open to considering the UF recommendation that one application of 1 pound of slow release nitrogen be allowed during the raining season, if a blackout period is in fact where the County wants to go. We will have one more meeting to discuss the different departments' approach to this question.

Another question being posed has to do with the setup of a fertilizer regulation. Hillsborough County is rather unique in having an Environmental Protection Commission (EPC). In Hillsborough County, regulation of fertilizer could potentially be headed up by the EPC rather than through an ordinance. The difference here is that an EPC rule is effective throughout the county and an ordinance would have to be adopted by the cities within the County for it to be in effect there. This opens the door for the multiple standards seen in so many other counties. An EPC rule has some complication though- like a \$5,000 fine and a court visit for each infraction. Hmmm.....

A public meeting will be held on April 23 at the Hillsborough County Extension office to relay the results of the fact finding discussions and receive comments. The time is not set in stone, but I expect it to be at 2:00 or later.

Upcoming Training

O&T and D&R Exam Prep April 15 GCREC

If you need to get the Ornamental and Turf license and are looking for some help to prepare, consider attending this session.

I will be administering all exams following the presentations.

I am also expecting the program to be approved for CEUs.

See the agenda attached and let me know if you are interested.

IFAS CEU Day

9:50- 3:00 April 21

Gulf Coast Research and Education Center

See the attached agenda for details.

CEUS in multiple and harder to find categories

See directions here

<http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/balmmmapanddirections07.htm>

Palm Management in the Florida Landscape

Wednesday and Thursday April 29-30

Have you always wanted to attend the two day Palm School at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center but not been able to travel?

This excellent hands on and lecture training is coming to Pinellas complete with issue ridden palms to diagnose at the Extension office.

See

[http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Palm%20Management%20Training%20-%20April%202009\[1\].pdf](http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Palm%20Management%20Training%20-%20April%202009[1].pdf)

I attended the Ft. Lauderdale version a couple of years ago and found there is no substitute for a specialist pointing out problems to gain some confidence in distinguishing one issue from another in palms! Very useful in my experience!

2009 Limited Commercial and Limited Lawn and Ornamental Training

Dates

Hillsborough

Friday April 24

Wednesday July 8

Thursday October 8

Polk

Tuesday May 19

Tuesday August 25

Tuesday November 17

Look for registration soon!

Items of Interest

City of Tampa Emergency Watering Restrictions

Basically watering for turf is being limited to hand watering.

Even if a professional has made a chemical application

Takes effect April 3, 2009.

See the summary of the ordinance here

http://www.tampagov.net/dept_Water/files/WUR_and_Rate_Ordinances/Ordinance_2009-48_Summary.pdf

See the 10 page actual ordinance here. Please note the link previously sent was not the most current, Emergency ordinance.

http://www.tampagov.net/dept_Water/files/WUR_and_Rate_Ordinances/Emergency_Ordinance_2009-48.pdf

See watering restrictions in other areas here

<http://www.tampabaywater.org/conservation/waterrestrictions.aspx>
YOUCH!

Other Water Meetings Coming Up

Shawn Steed is the new Agent for Ornamental Production in Hillsborough County. He has been doing a great job of getting contacts off the ground with his new blog and website here.

<http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/Ag/AgOrnProd/OrnamentalProduction.html>

See his last posting below

Water resources being rationed!

As nursery producers we are inextricably linked to the availability of water. We are now in a three year drought and in the middle of our driest time of the year. There are many governing boards meeting or have already met to determine where a scarce resource will be portioned out. As we have seen the City of Tampa reduce lawn watering to a handheld hose once a week. The Hillsborough Board will be meeting to discuss what actions they need to take at their April 1st meeting. It starts at 9 a.m. and is in the BOCC board room on the second floor. There will also be the SWFWMD meeting which will discuss tightening their restrictions at the Board meeting Tuesday in Brooksville. That also starts at 9 a.m. It might be useful to be present at these meetings and offer your input than try later to overturn a ruling that adversely affects your operation.

Scholarship available!

Future Career Horticulture Students!

The Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) Tampa Chapter annually awards the Carl F. Cowgill Scholarship which is

awarded to a student(s) who are pursuing a degree in ornamental horticulture or related field. If you are a graduating senior or are already in a degree seeking program, we encourage you to apply.

Below I have the web address to attain the application for our Carl F. Cowgill Scholarship.

<http://www.fngla.org/chapters/tampabay/TB08scholarshipApp.pdf>

THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 5TH!

Please send the applications to:

Steve Bruce

FNGLA Tampa Chapter

817 Carleton Street

Lakeland, Fl. 33803

Interested in Tropical Entomology in Venezuela?

See attached, a class I am hoping to do this summer. Are you working on a degree? Have you had basic entomology? Are you interested in tropical entomology?.... In Venezuela? See the attached.

Dr. Frank is willing to polycom the first half of the class to me here at the Extension office- you might be able to work out something similar for your case... The second half is 10 days studying Entomology in Venezuela. 5 credits over the summer... Warning it might get canceled if too few people enroll...

I was actually sent to Puerto Rico on a cultural exchange with their Extension Agents earlier this month...

Como se dice "Fascinating"?

More on that later....

A lot at once I know...

On another note

I will be diligently working on an extensive report Extension Agents must prepare after three years of service...

As faculty of the University we are judged by high standards pertaining to the impact of our programs...

If you think of it please stand on your head or count the ceiling tiles for me as I prepare this important document in the coming weeks!

Hoping to have final BMP dates by the end of the week...

Mary Beth Henry
Extension Agent I Professional Horticulture Services, Pesticide
Licensing
UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County

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html](http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletters/growing_concerns_subscribe.shtml)

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