

## Contents

Annual FNGA Plant Auction  
Just My Opinion  
New Subterranean Termite  
Proposed Water Restriction  
Changes  
What is Organic?  
Limited Commercial License  
Changes Proposed  
Landscape Maintenance  
& Installation – Are the  
Rules Changing?  
Improving Employee Motivation  
& Productivity  
Calendar of Events  
Websites of Interest

The Institute of food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Cooperative extension works in agriculture, home economics, state of Florida, IFAS, University of Florida, US Dept of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners cooperating. Funding for the duplication of this publication is provided by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

## FNGA Plant Auction Fri Oct 20 !!

This annual event is an excellent opportunity to purchase ornamental plants and allied products at below wholesale prices while donating to a good cause. This event has been hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter of FNGA for so long that no one can remember the year of the first auction! (About 40 years)

**Cost?** Free admittance  
Free parking

**When?** Friday Oct 20, 2000 Auction starts at 6:15pm (come early!)

**Where?** The Florida State Fairgrounds - use the Orient Road Entrance

**Why** an Auction? To raise money for scholarships, youth horticulture activities, and to co-sponsor Extension activities and other Tampa Bay Chapter activities.

**Activities:** Plant and allied article auction, silent auction, door prizes, and a drawing for a \$100 bill!

For many years this has been a great way to help raise funds, meet old friends, make new friends, and don't forget to take home some plants and other items. I'll see you there. GC



## Just My Opinion...

I did not plan to devote much of this issue of Growing Concerns to the many different legal issues facing the various horticulture industries. Once most of the articles were written, however, a pattern began to emerge. The horticulture industry is facing a number of challenges, many of them are legal or regulatory and many of them are serious. In this issue are water restriction concerns, pesticide certification issues, and potential problems caused by citrus canker. While there are several trade associations in the state, I feel that, overall, the horticulture industries, especially the service sectors are still under-represented. This is the time for our trade associations to step up, join together and help represent each other and the entire industry. This is also the time for professionals throughout the horticulture industries to join associations and ensure a grassroots effort to see that everyone has a voice. Just my opinion... Dave

## New Subterranean Termite Found

At least 4 structures in the Florida Keys have been found to contain a new, more aggressive species of subterranean termite. The new termite, known as *Coptotermes havilandi*, or Haviland's subterranean termite, is a close relative of the Formosan termite. Dr Rudy Scheffrahan, a UF entomologist says the termites are weak flyers, so it will be years before they can spread to mainland Florida. He also says that a nest of Haviland's termites can have as many as a million termites. (Source: CPCO Advantage - June 2000)

## Did You Know... ?

The National Council on Economic Education tested 1010 adults and 1085 high school students on their knowledge of basic economic concepts. 49% of the adults failed with an average grade of 57%. 66% of the students failed with an average grade of 48%.

Almost 2/3 of all tested did not know that in times of inflation, money does not hold its value.

Only 58% of students knew that when demand for a product or service goes up and the supply does not, the price usually goes up

Half of the adults and 2/3 of the students did not know that the stock market brings together those who want to buy stocks and those who want to sell.

Only 1 in 3 Americans understand that society must make choices about how to use resources. (Source: Florida Council of Economic Education, quoted in *The Business Journal*, Vol 20 #14, Mar31-April 6, 2000)



**Quotable Quote:** "To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first, and call whatever you hit the target." Ashleigh Brilliant

# More Sensible Changes Proposed for Water Restrictions!

Finally – an ordinance has been passed to ease the tougher water restrictions passed by the City of Tampa earlier this year. The earlier restrictions (Ordinance 2000-69) were a knee-jerk reaction to a combination of limited water availability and a severe drought. The earlier restrictions were hastily passed without significant industry input and severely hurt other conservation & education efforts. A case in point, those who in the interest of conservation had converted their traditional irrigation system to micro and/or drip irrigation systems. Elimination of existing exemptions for micro/drip systems have forced conversion back to full irrigation systems in an attempt to ensure survival of the landscape. The reason that particular micro/drip exemption existed was to encourage conservation efforts. Failure to move carefully has caused the City to lose credibility with many of those acting in good faith. Those of you in the horticulture industries should read the following ordinance carefully. If there are portions of the following that cause undue hardship to your business, you should immediately voice your concerns to the Tampa City Council and the Mayors Office. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the City of Tampa website <http://www.ci.tampa.fl.us/> . The following are at least some of the portions of the ordinance affecting horticulture and are taken from the City's website at



[http://www.ci.tampa.fl.us/dept Water/emerdelta.htm](http://www.ci.tampa.fl.us/dept_Water/emerdelta.htm)

## Section 1 (B)

**(b)** Irrigation of new landscaping and turf, other than low volume irrigation, shall be restricted to the watering days and times listed in (a) above.

**(c)** Low volume hand watering and low volume irrigation of landscaping shall not be restricted.

**(e)** Operation of irrigation systems for cleaning and maintenance shall be during restricted hours set forth in (a) above only. Operation of an irrigation system for such purposes shall be limited to the minimum necessary to maintain efficient operation of the system.

**(g)** Irrigation for purposes of watering-in of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides is restricted to one cycle immediately following application.



**(h)** Properties which cannot meet the conditions of this section due to any of the following conditions:

1. Properties which have irrigation systems with one or more irrigation zones which water both odd and even addresses at the same time;

2. Two (2) or more properties which share a common source of water which, due to source limitations (e.g. a single well), cannot meet the irrigation requirements of all properties served by this source within the day/hours specified by this section; and

3. Properties of five (5) or more irrigable acres which, because of the amount of irrigated area, cannot efficiently

irrigate all zones within the days/hours specified in this section: shall develop alternative irrigation schedules which allow no additional amount of water as that provided by the restrictions herein. Such schedules shall be comprised of, at a minimum, a site map depicting all irrigation zones and a written description of the days upon which each zone may be operated. Each zone may be operated no more frequently than once per week. All irrigation is prohibited between 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Persons responsible for the control of such irrigation systems

shall maintain said plan and shall submit such plan to the director or designee. Such plan must be dated and signed by the person responsible for the control of the irrigation system.

(i) All individual users and groups of users of water located within the city, whether from surface withdrawal or from wells, shall fully comply with all restrictions or other conservation measures imposed by the city.

(m) Commercial establishments which sell plants may irrigate only in a non-wasteful manner as necessary to maintain plant health.

(s) Irrigation with reclaimed water is not restricted.

**Section D Appeals.** Any person aggrieved by the provisions and summary enforcement of this ordinance, and any person who would suffer a hardship to their health, safety or welfare or to their business shall first petition the director of the water department for a variance or waiver of specific provisions contained in this ordinance and, if relief is granted by said director, shall comply with the conditions, if any, specified by the terms of the director's decision. In the event the director denies the variance or waiver requested, the person shall have the right to

appeal, in writing, the director's decision within five (5) working days thereafter to the City Council of the City of Tampa.



### **Section 1(E) Definitions:**

*Low volume hand watering* means a hose which shall be fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle.  
*Low volume irrigation* means devices which apply a maximum of thirty (30) gallons per hour per emitter.

*Water* means water taken from any groundwater system (wells and springs), surface water system (lakes, reservoirs or other impoundments), or public water supply.

**Section 2 (A)(a)** ...any person who violates the provisions of this ordinance shall not receive a warning and shall immediately receive a citation in writing. ... Each and every violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense. GC

## **What is Organic?**

Before the year 1828, the term 'Organic' was fairly well defined, though perhaps not completely understood. Farmers described the manures they used as 'organic' and scientists described some of the compounds found in these farm products as 'organic.'

The consensus was that organic compounds could only come about as a result of a 'life' process - either plant or animal. Indeed, during the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, scientists believed in 'vitalism' in much the same way that explorers believed that the earth was flat. According to this idea, the intervention of a life force was necessary for the formation of certain compounds, which

## **Did You Know?**

TruGreen is selling its TruGreen Interior Plantcare service to Rentokil Inc's Tropical Plant Services for \$44 million in cash. TruGreen will retain the corporate and regional management employees of the Interior Plantcare operations to support its lawn care and landscape operations. All other TruGreen employees will be offered employment by Rentokil. (Source: *Lawn & Landscape Magazine News*, August 29, 2000)



were classified as 'organic'; they could not be synthesized in the test tubes and retorts in the chemistry lab.

Then, in 1828, German chemist, Friedrich Wohler, did just that! Amid the myriad pieces of glassware and other equipment in his laboratory, he synthesized urea by heating up ammonium cyanate, an 'inorganic' compound or one which was derived from a non-living source. Up to that time, urea was known to occur only as a constituent of the urine of mammals.

Wohler's breakthrough marked the end of the theory of 'vitalism'; it was the turning point for the development of 'organic' chemistry (the study of

carbon compounds as a separate branch of chemistry and, more important for ordinary folks like you and me, he unwittingly caused some ambiguity in the labeling of fertilizer in the State of Florida.

The State allows synthetic urea to be described as an 'organic' source of nitrogen on the fertilizer label. The label is saying 'organic' as in 'organic chemistry' while the average user is reading 'organic' as derived from once living plant or animal material like farmyard manures, compost, etc. These true organics provide small amounts of plant nutrients, but they improve immensely the physical condition of the soil, causing better plant growth. The incorporation of organic material like mulches, compost, etc. over a long time will improve the water holding capacity and aeration of the soil and provide a friendly environment for beneficial micro-organisms.

Synthetic urea will provide nitrogen for your growing plants, but will do nothing towards the long-term improvement of the soil.

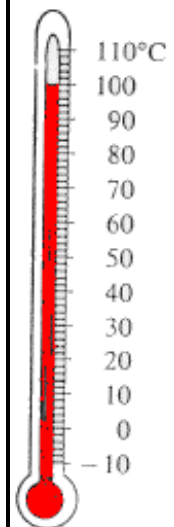
So, if we are only interested in nutrition, then the synthetic fertilizers will provide for our needs; but if we are interested in improving our sandy soils, then we would incorporate 'composted' organic material of plant or animal origin whenever and wherever we can. (Source: Ron Persuad - Landscape Manager, Westshore Plaza, Tampa)

**Quotable Quote:** Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine."

Anonymous

## Did You Know?

According to the National Climatic Data Center, spring 2000 was the hottest on record for the US, warmer than the previous record set in 1910. The US also experienced the hottest Jan-May in 106 years. NCDC reported that every state in the continental US was warmer than normal during spring. See the website at: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>  
(Source: GMPRO greEn-



# Proposed Changes to the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Pesticide Certification

For the first time in nearly a decade, DACS is proposing changes to Chapter 482 of the Florida Statutes. Some of the proposed changes will include the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance certification, the laws that allow landscape maintenance companies to legally spray beds and shrubs. If you are in the maintenance industry, these changes will probably affect you.

First, a little background. In the early 1990's, Chapter 482FS along with the



accompanying rules, 5e-14, were revised. One part of the revision was to establish several categories of pesticide certifications other than traditional pest control. One of the categories established was meant for landscape maintenance contractors. That certification is called the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Certification. At the time of revision one of the requirements to obtain the certification was that an applicant for certification in this category had to provide "sufficient proof...that the applicant has been in the landscape business for at least 3 years." (482.156(2))

What this 3-year requirement means is that when someone who has no previous experience or cannot document 3 years of experience in the landscape maintenance business decides to start a maintenance business, they simply cannot obtain a pesticide license for 3 years. The new business owner is forced to make a decision. He must either hand-weed beds or violate the law by spraying for weeds without a license. Hand weeding is labor-intensive and ultimately most businesses are forced to spray to stay competitive. Low levels of funding for DACS led to low levels of enforcement. Once these individuals have sprayed illegally for a number of years without negative consequences, a bad habit of being illegal has formed. This 3-year requirement, together with a long and tedious application process and lack of funding for enforcement ensured that by 1998, seven years after the laws were passed, less than 300 were licensed in an industry that is estimated to be in the neighborhood of 100,000. (Please note that the situation has changed and DACS is increasing enforcement of this law across the state.)

For the first time in a decade, DACS has proposed changes in the law. DACS is proposing to eliminate the 3-year requirement to allow more of the maintenance industry to become legal. The pest control industry, however, is opposing this change and proposing a 1-year requirement instead. They are also lobbying DACS to take away the part of the Limited Commercial license that allows landscapers to treat ornamentals with 'caution' labels. The pest control industry is much better organized than the maintenance industry.

## How Do You Go About Contacting Those That Can Influence This Problem?

Write, e-mail or call:

**YOUR Local Legislators &**

**T. Wayne Gale** - Bureau Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control

[galet@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:galet@doacs.state.fl.us)

1203 Governors Sq Blvd #300

Tallahassee, FL., 32301

(850) 921-4177

Tips on **how to** write to your legislators (excellent)

<http://www.house.state.fl.us/citizen/documents/howwrite.html>

Find contact numbers **for your local legislators** -

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/citizen/findleg/countyy.html>

Without major input from the maintenance industry, DACS may end up favoring the 1-year requirement or the elimination of ornamentals from the license.

While there are exceptions, as a whole, the landscape maintenance industry is not interested in applying pesticides to lawns and expects violators to be fully prosecuted. This industry feels it is reliant on herbicide application in beds and generally sees the 3-year requirement and lengthy application process as roadblocks to becoming legal.

This is the time when the industry has the opportunity to voice its concerns and opinions on this issue. If the landscape industry does not make its voice heard, it may be another decade before the opportunity presents itself again.

How do you voice your opinion? Write a letter, preferably on your business letterhead, and fax it to your state senators, representatives and to the officials at DACS. GC

### **Quotable Quote:**

I'm desperately trying to figure out why kamikaze pilots wore helmets. Dave Edison

## **Landscape Installation & Maintenance – Are the Rules Changing?**

In West Central Florida, if not throughout the state, due to the long-term nature and severity of the drought, the rules of landscape installation and maintenance seem to be changing. Several factors including the ever-tightening water restrictions, a prolonged drought and a tight labor market seem to be forcing property managers and landscape installation and maintenance contractors to re-evaluate current landscape practices.

The 'traditional' landscape design usually consists of lots of turf, trees, and ornamental shrub and flowerbeds, all under irrigation. This scenario works provided that labor is cheap and water is both plentiful and cheap. As labor becomes more expensive and water becomes either limited, or more expensive or both, the cost of maintaining a traditional landscape increases dramatically. The costs of landscape installation are up-front costs, payable all at once. Maintenance costs, while considerably lower, are never-ending. The result is that over time, maintenance costs can be 10, 20 or even 50 times the cost of installation. For this reason any reduction in monthly maintenance costs, multiplied over time, can be truly significant.

What are the costs of maintaining a landscape? Labor, equipment, supplies such as fertilizers and chemicals, water and damage repairs. Following a severe drought, as we experienced this past spring, repair costs escalate. When the cost of repairs rises high enough, and the possibility of further damage in the near future exists, it may be time to completely re-evaluate

the landscape design. If the damaged areas are replaced with identical species, will the newly installed plants die in the next drought? If that possibility is real, the money might be better spent on a landscape re-design that lowers water requirements and labor costs as much as possible. These changes would also reduce the damage and subsequent repairs. Horticultural experts have been suggesting similar changes for a number of years. Now,

economic realities may force the issue.



What re-design options exist? The use of different plants more tolerant of drought conditions is the primary option. Replacing water-hungry St Augustine with drought-tolerant Bahia in low-profile areas is a viable option. When the Bahia is established, the irrigation can be reduced or eliminated. High-profile or high-use areas where St Augustine is deemed necessary, and worth the expense, can be maintained. St Augustine can also be replaced by other lower-maintenance groundcovers in some areas, often with an accompanying reduction in irrigation and maintenance costs.

Damaged ornamental beds can also be replaced with more drought-tolerant shrubs. Flowerbeds don't necessarily need to be eliminated. The Xeriscape concept of grouping plants by similar water needs is a horticulturally sound method of design. Usually high-profile areas include turf, shrubs and flowerbeds. If the irrigation system is updated to reflect the Xeriscape philosophy, the result is 'pockets' of higher maintenance plant material within the landscape. The bulk of the landscape, however, should be designed as a combination of drought-tolerant material, meaning it would only be irrigated in times of drought, and other plantings that, once established, simply do not need any irrigation. Another option for dealing with the changing conditions is converting traditional irrigation systems to micro-irrigation or drip systems.

Not every landscape firm is capable of designing or maintaining landscapes designed in the Xeriscape fashion. If your company is not presently capable of designing or maintaining properties such as those suggested, I suggest that your company and your employees require some training. The rules are changing.

**Quotable Quote:** Thus the metric system did not really catch on in the States, unless you count the increasing popularity of the nine-millimeter bullet. - Dave Barry

## Improving Employee Motivation & Productivity”



UF Professor Dr Karl Kepner will present a seminar on November 14 concerning employee motivation & productivity. Dr Kepner has been at UF since 1976. His expertise is Agribusiness Management and Marketing. Dr Kepner is a dynamic speaker and has visited our area many times in the past to discuss various business management issues. Dr Kepner is the author of several books including “Building a Winning Team”, “Maintaining Superior Customer Service”, “Improving Sales Professionalism” and “Total Quality Performance.” Among his many accomplishments, Dr Kepner spent 13 months in New Zeland working with industry and government working on a variety of management issues. Don't miss this presentation. To attend Dr Kepner's presentation, complete the registration form in this newsletter. GC

# Websites of Interest

## Annuals

<http://www.discoveringannuals.com/>

An interesting site dedicated to annuals (and promoting the book). Good info, but use with caution. This is a generic site intended to cover most of the US. The seasons given and some of the annuals discussed are not appropriate for Florida.

## Turfgrass Pest Test

[http://extlab7.entnem.ufl.edu/Pest\\_test/](http://extlab7.entnem.ufl.edu/Pest_test/)

Think you're an expert on southeastern United States turfgrass pest management? Take the series of Lawn Pests Tests now being made available on the WWW at the University of Florida

## Snakes

Online Guide to Snakes of Fla -

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herpetology/FL-GUIDE/onlineguide.htm>

## Palms

The Virtual Palm Encyclopedia – brought to you by the Palm & Cycad Societies of Florida WOW! A thorough and complete palm site, nearly everything about palms. Check it out.

[http://www.plantapalm.com/vpe/vpe\\_index.htm](http://www.plantapalm.com/vpe/vpe_index.htm)

## Image Search Engine

One of the first search engines that I've come across that will find photos, images and graphics rather than websites. <http://www.ditto.com/>

## Trade Magazines

GrowerTalks - <http://www.growertalks.com/>

Grounds Maintenance - <http://www.grounds-mag.com/>

Lawn & Landscape Magazine - <http://www.lawnandlandscape.com/>

InteriorScape magazine - <http://www.interiorscape.com/>

# Calendar of Events

Oct 5 - **Turf Field Day** – hosted by Elsberry Farms - **4 FCNP CEU's** see the brochure enclosed or call Dave at 813-744-5519x103

Oct 6 – **FNGA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flats Fishing Tournament** – Tampa Bay Chapter of FNGA – see the brochure – Contact Matt Powers – 813-737-4600 or 407-257-9705

Oct 21 – **Limited Commercial Maintenance Exam Prep Class & Exam** – At the Extension office in Seffner. See the brochure or Contact Bob Kessler – 954-346-6487

Nov 2 - **Quarterly Pesticide Training**, Manatee Extension Service, 2 Core CEU's, Palmetto 3-5pm Contact Mark Shelby 941-316-1000 or Peggy Dessaint 941-722-4524

Nov 4-7 – **ALCA's Green Industry Conference & Expo** - Indianapolis Indiana  
Contact

Nov 8 - **Suncoast Golf Course Superintendents Seminar** - Selby Gardens, Sarasota Contact Mike Holsinger 941-316-1000, or [mjhr@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:mjhr@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu) Features include: Tricks of Renovation, Rebirth of the Beneficial Nematode, Seashore Paspalum and more.

Nov 8 - **Nursery and Greenhouse Update** - Cairo, Ga 912-386-3416 Features: Production Basics, Pest Management Topics and New Issues such as Invasive Plants

Nov 9 - **Pesticide Update Workshop** - Pinellas Extension Contact (727) 582-2110

Nov 9 - **Landscape Update** - Tallahassee, FL - Contact 912-386-3416 Features include: Tree Topics by Ed Gilman and Kim Coder, New Trees & Shrubs, Efficient Design Strategies, and Pest Management Topics

Nov 10 - **Nursery, Greenhouse and Landscape Update** - Kingsland Ga - 912-386-3416 Features: include Tree Topics by Ed Gilman and Kim Coder, Keeping Lawns Green and Beds Colorful, and Pest Management Topics

Nov 14 - **Retaining Good Employees** - Karl Kepner at the Extension office in Seffner. Contact Bob Der at 813-744-5519x106 – See the brochure.

Nov 14 & 16 - **Limited Commercial Maintenance Exam Prep & Exam** - 12 noon to 5pm each day. Manatee County Extension Office, Palmetto. Contact Mark Shelby at 941-316-1000

Dec 7 - **Tri County Landscape Maintenance Association Business Seminar** - 6-8pm Dixie Power Equipment, Sarasota. Contact Mark Shelby 941-316-1000.

Dec 11-15 **Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Science Conference** - Naples, See the website at: <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~conferweb/everglades> or call Beth Miller Tipton 352-392-5930 Jan 17 - 20 **Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition** This year the event will include a Retail Short Course. Contact FNGA 1-800-375-3642

Feb 13-15 – **SE Regional Public Health Pest & Vector Mgmt Conference**— Sheraton 4-Points Hotel, Panama City. Contact Jack Peterson 850-872-4184x36 or see the website at <http://pherec.org>

Feb 23 – **Tree & Landscape Short Course** – NEW LOCATION!! Sheraton 4-Points at Hillsborough and Orient Rd, Tampa, Contact Dave 813-744-5519x103

Feb 23-25 – **Tampa Spring Expo** – THE Horticultural Trade Show in West Central Florida  
Hosted by the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers Contact 813-655-1914