

Dave Palmer - Extension Agent I
Hillsborough County Extension Service
5339 S. CR 579, Seffner Fl., 33584
(813) 744-5519 fax (813) 744-5776

Check out our website at:
<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/index.htm>

Contents

Tree & Landscape Short Course
Water Restrictions -
- A Moving Target
In the News
Legal Issues
Pest news
Ongoing Research
Business News
Did you Know?
New Publications
Calendar of Events
Interesting Websites

Tree & Landscape Short Course

For over 20 years, the Tree & Landscape Short Course has provided an educational opportunity for the horticulture service industries. The 2001 Short Course, held on February 23rd this year, was no different. Nearly 500 professionals gathered at the Four Points Sheraton in Tampa to soak up some knowledge, earn some CEU's, make new friends and renew old friendships. Many owners and employees from landscape companies, arborists, parks departments, retail garden centers and pest control firms attended.

Many years ago, the event was held at the Hillsborough Extension offices. At that time only 20-30 professionals participated and they fit easily into the existing conference rooms. The Short Course has grown, however. Attendees at this year's event represented 76 different cities, 21 counties, plus Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Bahamas. The speakers at the latest Short Course included:

Dr Gary Knox gave an overview of his ongoing research into the advantages and disadvantages or various methods of pruning Crape Myrtle.

Kathy Burks, a botanist from the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management, spoke about invasive plant regulations, the problems invasive can cause and the controversy surrounding invasive plants.

Erica Santella was up next. Erica is the Regional Technical Manager for TruGreen ChemLawn in Florida and the current President of the Florida Turf Grass Association. Erica brought the participants up to speed on how to win the battle of the weeds in Florida.

Nina Powers, a horticulturist and the Maintenance Coordinator from Sarasota County told the group how to create beautiful, environmentally friendly and water conservative landscapes in the face of our long-term drought.

Dr Jason Grabosky closed the Short Course with an overview of his work on the effects of pavement and compaction on the roots, and overall health, of trees and other ornamental plants.

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.



Water Restrictions... A Moving Target

Confused by all the media hype about the drought and the current water restrictions? You have good reason to be. In 2000, various municipalities changed their restrictions frequently in response to the changing situation. In addition, there may be two different sets of water restrictions that apply to you and your customer. In order to understand which restrictions someone is under, you really have to read every line of both sets of rules. Then you can compare and see which is the strictest. **The**

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) restrictions are in effect except where more stringent water restrictions have been imposed by local governments. See details of SWFWMD's restrictions at:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/waterres/factsheets/facts.htm>



Photo courtesy of SWFWMD

What are SWFWMD's restrictions?

Restrictions include:

- limit lawn watering to one 3/4-inch application per week.
- Even addresses may water on Tuesdays, odd addresses may water on Sundays, and watering must be accomplished before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Exemptions include

- the ability to use low-volume irrigation to water non-lawn areas on other days of the week
- the ability to water-in new plant material during a 60 day establishment period.

How long will these restrictions last?

Emergency water shortage restrictions have been in effect for the entire region since May 1, 2000. Although the emergency restrictions were originally intended to expire on June 30, 2000, **they have been extended** until there is sufficient water resource recovery.

What are Hillsborough County's restrictions?

Restrictions include:

- Addresses ending in 0 or 1 may water on Mondays; those ending in 2 or 3, on Tuesdays; 4 or 5 on Wednesdays; 6 or 7 on Thursdays; 8 or 9 on Fridays.
- Properties with no address, such as common areas or medians, may also water on Fridays.
- **Watering of lawns** may be done only once a day, either before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

Exemptions include:

- Low-volume watering devices, such as drip or soaker hoses, are currently not restricted for use on plant materials other than grass.
- Hand watering of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens with a watering can or hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle is permitted on any day at any time.
- Hand watering of lawns is allowed only during prescribed days and watering times



Photo courtesy of SWFWMD

- New lawns and landscaping are exempt from day-of-week restrictions for the first 30 days after planting, but they can be watered only on alternate days. Addresses ending in even numbers may water on even days and odd addresses on odd-numbered days. The new planting must cover at least 50 percent of a

sprinkler system's irrigation zone, in order to water the entire zone. Otherwise, it should be hand-watered or a manual sprinkler used.

- Watering-in of chemical treatments on lawns and landscaping can only be done on the resident's allowed watering day, unless the treatment is done by a professional in the business of applying such products, and a date treatment sign is placed on the lawn (preferably near the mailbox).

See details of Hillsborough County's restrictions:

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/waterdept/restrictions.html>

What are the City of Tampa's water restrictions?

Restrictions include

- Even numbered addresses may continue to irrigate only on Tuesdays; odd numbered addresses may continue to irrigate only on Sundays. No watering is allowed between the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Sundays
- There is NO exemption for new landscaping

Exemptions include:

- low volume irrigation of landscaping is not restricted
- low-volume hand watering is not restricted
- operation of recirculating decorative fountains and water features is permitted

See details of the City of Tampa's restrictions at:

http://www.ci.tampa.fl.us/dept_water/emernxnew.htm

Water restrictions affecting other cities and counties within SWFWMD can be found at:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/waterres/rstrinfo/rstrinfo.htm>

Did You Know?

The National Golf Foundation reports that over 490 golf course construction projects were completed across the nation in 2000.

(Source: GCSAA - NewsWeekly for Dec 14,2000)

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER WHEN...

You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.

You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.

You decide to procrastinate but then never get around to it.

In the News

Five states [Florida, New York, Texas, North Carolina and Ohio] and the District of Columbia are pressuring Orkin Pest Control to stop making promises the company can't or won't keep in its advertising and termite-treatment contracts. The company has agreed to most of a series of demands that could end a two-year investigation by the states and change the way the business deals with its customers, documents obtained by the [Orlando] Sun-Sentinel show. (Source:

<http://sun-sentinel.com/news/daily/detail/0,1136,37500000000105088,00.html>)

Two cases of citrus canker were found in Palm Beach County, Fla. The discoveries are the 1st in the county since November. Canker began appearing in south Florida in 1995. The state has been using a 1,900-foot rule, mandating removal of infected trees and any other susceptible ones within that radius. A judge has stopped the state from removing healthy trees near infected trees, but the order does not apply to Palm Beach County. (Source: Weekly NMPRO e-mail for Feb. 20, 2001)

Based on EPA review of malathion, possible label changes are being considered. Lists have been compiled for uses being supported (many crops) and uses not supported (all animal uses, **all indoor uses**, **all greenhouse uses**, all open-forest uses, all seed treatments, peanuts, soybeans, and all pressurized can formulations). (Source: Chemically Speaking Feb 2001)



The chemical manufacturer BASF hopes to have **14 new active ingredients** registered by 2006, five of which will be fungicides. (Source: *Chemically Speaking Feb 2001*)
A meeting in November between regulators and the industry discussed ways to get Asulox labeled for commercial applicator use. Asulox the only chemical that can selectively control crabgrass in St Augustine home lawns and commercial turfgrass, (Source: *Florida Turf Digest, Jan/Feb 2001*)

Legal Issues

Emissions from blowers - Commercial operators of gasoline powered outdoor power equipment have a conditional exemption for morning use of this equipment in the Houston, Texas, area, according to a report by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). That exemption applies only to commercial operators that submit an acceptable emission reduction plan. However, homeowners and all non-commercial operators of this equipment will be exempt from a morning use ban. In summer 2000, the Texas National Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) proposed to ban the morning use of all outdoor power equipment in the Houston metropolitan area as part of the Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP). Although the final rule has been issued, it will not take effect until 2005. (Source: *Lawn & Landscape's News Now Mailing List. Feb 13, 2001*)



Photo courtesy of Stihl

Noise from blowers - Following months of negotiations with residents, the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) and other green industry groups, the city of Palo Alto has implemented a new leaf blower ordinance this month. As of Jan. 1, 2001, all commercial gardeners must be certified by the Palo Alto Police Department to operate any type of leaf blower. Blowers may be used in the city from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The use of any type of leaf blower by anyone, including residents, will be prohibited Sundays and holidays. The only exception allowed in the ordinance for the above hours of operation are city crews who are cleaning the municipal golf course, city parks, parking lots and business districts. Additionally, any person, including residents may not use any leaf blower not rated at less than 65 dB. (Source: *Lawn & Landscape's News Now Mailing List. Mar 6, 2001*)

In the "Beware What You Wish For" Category

Last year the Los Angeles county school board enacted an anti-herbicide policy for district schools, estimating that manual weed control would take only 1/6 of grounds keeping time and budgeting \$650,000 for equipment and 15 full time weeders. So far, according to a Wall Street Journal article, more than 50% of grounds keeping time is spent torching, digging or pulling weeds at a cost of \$1.5 million and the work of 37 full time employees. (Source: *Chemically Speaking Oct 2000*)

Blowers in general - The Ariz. Legislature is reviewing HB2109, which bans the use of gas- or diesel-powered leaf blowers throughout most of Phoenix and Maricopa County. If passed, the law would take effect Jan. 1, 2002. The bill calls for a warning with the 1st violation, a \$50 fine for the 2nd violation and a \$100 fine for the 3rd or any subsequent violation. (Source: *Weekly NMPRO e-mail for January 30, 2001*)

Chemicals - In a case that may end up affecting the lives of more Canadians than most political and legal issues that surface in Ottawa, the Supreme Court of Canada examined on Dec. 7, 2000, whether towns may ban lawn pesticides. The case pits environmentalists, who say pesticides are too risky to be used for cosmetic purposes, against landscapers, who say a judicious use of pesticides should be allowed. The case involves the leafy

Montreal suburb of Hudson, which in 1991 became the first Canadian municipality to ban pesticides - chemicals that attack weeds or insects. Golf courses and large farms were exempted. Since then 36 other Quebec towns as well as the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, have enacted similar bans. Other towns are now looking at this court case for guidance. (Source: *Lawn & Landscape's News Now Mailing List. Dec 13, 2000*)

Pesticide notification - On March 1 a New York pesticide-use notification law went into effect. It requires 48-hour notification to neighbors within 150 feet of property that is scheduled to be sprayed. It was enacted as a statewide law, but adoption is on a county by county basis. Four counties (Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester and Albany) chose to enact the law, which could be thrown out by the courts. A coalition of industry groups filed suits against Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties claiming the law violates the State Environmental Quality Review Act. A suit could also be filed against the 4th county, said Mark Rupprecht, N.Y. State Nursery & Landscape Assoc. exec. dir. (Source: *Weekly NMPRO e-mail for March 6, 2001*)

Did You Know?

Australian botanists recently discovered a species of tree dating back at least 90 million years. The "living fossil" has unofficially been named the Nightcap oak because it was discovered in the Nightcap Range rainforest near Byron Bay. Peter Weston of Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens identified the tree after botanist Robert Kooyman discovered a stand of 20 mature trees. Not a true oak, the tree belongs to the Proteaceae family. The Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens has taken cuttings from the trees. (Source: *Weekly NMPRO e-mail for January 9, 2001*)

<p>YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM UPSTATE NY WHEN ... Your snowmobile, lawn mower, and fishing boat all have big block Chevy engines.</p>
--

Pest News

Mites - *Calcarus carinatus* (purple or ribbed tea mite) is attacking spathiphyllum in Fla. Smaller in size than two spotted spider mites, it is considered a rust mite because it causes bronzing on infested leaves. Mite cast skins and mite wax residue on leaf surfaces give plants a dusty appearance. Adult females are purple with white wax stripes running around the body. Most eggs are laid along leaf veins. At 72°F eggs hatch in 6-8 days. Total development time from egg to adult is 10-12 days. Mite numbers have been shown to decline when plants are frequently watered with overhead irrigation. Multiple applications of miticides (Adept, Avid or Thiodan) have been effective. (Source - *Lance Osborne, Entomologist - University of Fla*)

Mole cricket nematodes - A tiny parasite imported from South America by University of Florida researchers will soon be available commercially to end a 30-year battle with mole crickets, one of the most troublesome agricultural pests in the Southeast.

Field tests show that the parasite -- a worm-like organism known as the mole cricket nematode -- will survive in the region's climate and kill mole crickets on a long-term basis. As the nematode spreads, it provides highly effective mole cricket control or at least reduces damage to a level that is acceptable from an economic standpoint. UF holds three patents on use of the nematode for pest control. MicroBio in Ames, Iowa will market the organism as Nematac S in late 2001. The product will be marketed to turfgrass and sod farmers as well as home gardeners. Golf courses are expected to be major users. (Source: *IFAS News Release Dec 12, 2000 http://news.ifas.ufl.edu/print/2000/00_1208.html*)

Beetle 1 - A new beetle *Myllocerus undatus*, was discovered on Florida Southeast coast in 2000. Apparently the beetle is from Sri Lanka according to Charles O'Brien of Florida A&M. DACS entomologist indicates that it appears to eat a wide variety of plants. Tests are underway to determine more about the pest. (Source:

Beetle 2 - The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has notified officials that shipments of bamboo stakes from China have contained at least 2 exotic species of long-horned beetles that are considered potential pests to nursery stock. (Source: *FNGA's Greenline, Fall 2000*)



Myllocerus undatus

Ongoing Research

Designer Plants? In the May 2000 *Ornamental Outlook*, Stephen Pategas in "Pategas on Plants" writes "Scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, CA have discovered a gene that acts as a control for plant height by restricting the activity of a growth hormone. I envision a future with designer plants and wonder about the impacts on the landscape? Distinct possibilities:

An expanded product line in nurseries. Imagine yew podocarpus available at mature heights in 1-foot increments from 1 to 10 feet. When they reach their designed height they stop growing.

No-mow grass

Landscape plans with plants specified for their ultimate size

Overall decrease in maintenance and energy use

Trees to fit under power lines

Less yard waste as pruning is reduced

An increase in formal gardens as maintenance is reduced

Fewer plants growing into the eaves of homes

Landscapes of grasses sculpted with varying heights

How will plants respond? Will they fill in after die-back? Will their vigor be compromised? Will they rebel?" (Source: *Ornamental Outlook May 2000*)

Quotable Quote:

For every action,
there is an equal and
opposite criticism.

Fire ants - Researchers are looking at a new pesticide-free method of controlling imported fire ants. Scientists are treating mounds with electricity that triggers the ants to release a pheromone. This chemical lures beneficial phorid flies, which then parasitize the ants. Ants that release the chemical attract 6 times as many phorid flies. (Source: *Weekly NMPRO e-mail for Nov. 7, 2000*)

New herbicides from lichens? The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have found a natural compound in lichens that may be a potential new herbicide. Lichens are a hybrid of a fungus and an alga living together. Of the more than 20,000 known species, only a few have been analyzed and identified as containing biologically active compounds. (Source: *ASHS Newsletter Vol 12(2) Feb 2001*)



White grub - photo from UF

biologically active compounds. (Source: *ASHS Newsletter Vol 12(2) Feb 2001*)

White grubs may soon be eating their way to an early grave. A scent disguised as beetle food attracts root-damaging white grubs into a trap or into a treated area where they are captured or can feed on low-dose insecticides, said an ARS entomologist. Although larvae do the most root damage, the goal is to keep adults from reproducing. (Source: *Weekly NMPRO e-mail for Feb. 20, 2000*)

Business News

ProSource One, previously known as Terra is for sale again. Amid many rumors about its pending sale, the company has confirmed that 15 different organizations have signed letters of confidentiality and received a bid packet in order to make an offer. The nearly \$2-billion distribution business serves the turf, nursery, forestry and agricultural markets.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM UPSTATE NY WHEN ...

You know that Buffalo not only exists, but that it isn't far from Hell.

Deere & Company announced in December that it has agreed to acquire the Great Dane Power Equipment Company. Great Dane Power Equipment, which had nearly \$23 million in sales in 1999, was incorporated in 1996 by Dane Scag. The company manufactures a limited line of commercial mowing equipment, including a stand-on commercial mower unique to the industry. Scag will remain with the company and focus on research and development of new products for commercial mowing.

Did You Know?

The global market for non-agricultural pesticides is worth \$7 billion per year and growing at 4% per year according to Agrow reports. The US accounts for 40% for the world market for household pesticides with sales exceeding \$1 billion. The global turf care market for turf care products is about \$850 million - half used in the golf course industry and half in the lawn care industry. (Source: *Chemically Speaking Oct 2000*)

Toro is now the official turf and irrigation company of Walt Disney World Resort. According to a Toro press release, landscapes within the Walt Disney World Resort are equivalent to almost 3,000 football fields and are cared for by a staff of more than 650 horticulture and landscape professionals. At three mowings per week, Toro equipment will cover up to 450,000 "mowing miles" per year or 18 trips around the Earth at the equator. (Source: *Lawn & Landscape's News Now Mailing List , Feb 5, 2001*)

New Publications

Commercial Ornamental Scouting Manual (SP235) edited by Don Short, Gary Simone and Robert Dunn. This 174-page manual contains a wealth of information about the use of IPM. Although designed for use in commercial nurseries, much of the information is equally valid in the landscape. It contains chapters on basic plant pathology, and entomology, beneficial insects and mistaken identities, plant scouting mechanics, collection and submission of sample and 124 pages of color photographs. Cost is \$10 plus \$4 shipping. Contact Eva Squires at the IFAS Bookstore 352-392-2411

The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses - Rick Darke. According to Stephen Pategas, this book is a gem. The book is very complete with tons of photography and information on many, many species. Check the website of Timber Press at www.timberpress.com

Interesting Websites

<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/index.htm> **ProHort** - I've recently updated the website. New features include an explanation of the water restrictions and links to local agencies, an expanded hort information index, access to the newsletters and much more.

<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~insect/> **Featured Creatures** - I cant say enough about this site - hundreds of insects listed with pictures, biology etc

<http://pest.ifas.ufl.edu/ceu.htm> CEU Information - UF's CEU site for those who need CEU's, this is the place - all of the approved CEU's statewide.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 1-3 - Menninger Flowering Tree Conference** Contact FNGA 1-800-375-3642
- Apr 4 - Why Landscapes Fail** - The Florida House, Sarasota Extension 941-316-1000
- Apr 6 - Money Maker Workshop** - Contact Bill Phagan 813-961-2149
- Apr 7 - Limited Commercial Exam Prep Class** - Contact Bill Phagan 813-961-2149
- Apr 10 - Pesticide Testing** - 9am Hillsborough County Extension office - 813-744-5519
- Apr 14 - FNGA Landscape Design Tour** - FNGA 1-800-375-3642
- Apr 17 - N. Fla Bermudagrass Seminar** - Duval Extension 904-387-8850
- Apr 20 - Business & Horticulture Classes** Contact Bill Phagan for details 813-961-2149
- Apr 20 - Urban Tree Seminar - Pinellas Extension** - Pinellas Extension 727-582-2100
- Apr 28 - Pest Management in the Urban Environment** - Pinellas Extension 727-582-2100
- May 3 - Quarterly Pesticide Training** - Sarasota Extension 941-316-1000
- May 5 - Limited Comm Maint Exam Prep Class** - Contact Bob Kessler 954-346-6487
- May 7-8 - Southeast Pest Management Conference** - Gainesville 352-392-1901x142 or <http://extlab7.entnem.ufl.edu/PestAlert/spmcsch.htm> **CEU's**
- May 8 - Pesticide Testing Hillsborough County** 9:00am 813-744-5519
- May 13 - Limited Comm Maint Training & Testing** - Pinellas Extension 727-582-2100
- May 14-18 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course** - Ft Lauderdale, www.ifas.ufl.edu/~conferweb/aw
- May 17-18 - Floriculture Spring Seminar** - Suncoast Greenhouses, Seffner 1-800-375-3642 or mmott@fnga.org
- May 26 - PCO CEU Class** - Contact Bob Kessler 954-346-6487
- Jun 4-27 - FCLC, FCLT, FCLD Short Course** (Mon-Wed-Fri) Pinellas Tech Ctr, St Pete 1-800-375-3642
- Jun 10-12 - Florida State Horticulture Society Annual Meeting** - Stuart. See the FSHS website at: <http://valencia.lal.ufl.edu/jkbu/fshs/index.html>
- Jun 12 - Pesticide Testing Hillsborough County** - 9:00am 813-744-5519
- Jun 14 - Updating Irrigation Systems** - Pinellas Extension 727-582-2100
- Jun 15 - Hands on FCLC, FCLT, FCLD Review** - Lee County Extension Service, Ft Myers 1-800-375-3642
- June 23-26, 2001- Trees Florida 2001-** Tarpon Springs, FL (352) 379-3808
- Jul 10 - Pesticide Testing Hillsborough County** 9:00am 813-744-5519
- Jul 13-14 FCLC, FCLT, FCLD Certification Exams** - Pinellas Tech Edu Ctr, St Pete 1-800-375-3642
- Aug 13-15 - FTGA's 14th Annual Turfgrass Odyssey**, Gainesville 1-800-882-6721
- Sep 22 - FCLC Review Course** - part of FNATS, Orlando - 1-800-375-3642
- Oct 2001 - FCLC, FCLT, FCLD Review** - Edgewood Childrens Ranch, Orlando 1-800-375-3642
- Nov 2001 - FCLC, FCLT, FCLD Certification Exams** - Edgewood Childrens Ranch, Orlando 1-800-375-3642
- Jan 2002 - FCLC, FCLT, FCLD Review Course** - part of TPIE, Ft Lauderdale, 1-800-375-3642

To subscribe to this newsletter, go to
<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/index.htm>
and click on "Newsletters"