

## Focus on: Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices

### Remember the Protection of Water Resources part!

Have you seen a copy of Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida? If the name sounds familiar but you don't have a copy, make your way to the office or the internet and get yourself one today!

This is more than a simple recommendation to learn more about the environmental impact of the Green Industries. You may have heard of various ordinances around the state related to how fertilizer can be used or sold. This is a trend that is likely to continue. Can you imagine trying to keep track and comply with different ordinances depending on where you are working in the state?

### Where Are These Ordinances in Effect?

These ordinances began in 2000 in St. Johns County in northeast Florida and have since



been passed or are under consideration in Sarasota, Martin and Lee Counties; Wellington (in Palm Beach County), and Naples.

The ordinances vary, but in general they regulate the specifics of fertilizer use, and or require landscape maintenance people to be trained or certified. Some discourage or ban the use of quick release nitrogen and or phosphorous fertilizers. There are a lot of details! Take a look at the newly updated ordinance page on [www.prohort.net](http://www.prohort.net) for details and links to specific ordinances.

### Why Are These Ordinances Made?

**If you would like to be responsible for polluting drinking water please raise your hand!**

Have you noticed the *For Protection of Water Resources* part of the Green Industries BMPs? This is a major part of the title because protecting water quality in the state is a major concern.

Almost all of Florida's drinking water is drawn from wells, and as you've probably noticed, most of our soils here are sand. **Sand bags may help prevent the movement of water but sandy soil does not!** Fertilizers and pesticides can easily move down through the soil with rainfall or irrigation and go directly into our sources of drinking water.

Storm runoff from typical summer storms can also carry these pollutants into surface water like lakes, and streams where they become nutrients for algae, and other weeds.

The Green Industry is by no means the only group using fertilizers and pesticides or

*Best Management Practices Continued on page 2*

contributing to non-point source pollution, but runoff from lawns does make a significant drop in the bucket. It may be difficult to imagine that one landscape company or applicator can actually affect all of Florida's water quality, but when you consider the total number of landscape companies out there it is absolutely the case.

### **How Can We Avoid Multiple Ordinances?**

There are efforts underway to make the BMPs a certification standard throughout the state. In other words, your company attends training in Green Industry BMPs, and each participant receives a certificate which would be valid throughout the state. This would avoid the confusion of having different standards in different counties or municipalities, and hopefully make it easier for governments and the industry!

### **What Are the BMPs?**

The BMPs were developed by Green Industry representatives, government agencies, water management districts, and the University of Florida as guidelines for the turf and landscape management industry to protect Florida's water resources. It was not intended as law, but an outline of landscape practices to make wise use of our resources.

The BMPs address issues such as site design, irrigation, mulching, mowing, pruning, fertilizing, and pest control. Do any of these sound important?

### **Where Can I Get A Copy?**

Stop by the Extension office in Seffner for a copy of the BMPs, or download and print the 60 page publication from the UF Turfgrass website at <http://turf.ufl.edu/> .

This publication is also available in Spanish!

### **When Can I Attend Training?**

UF Turf Specialist, Dr. Laurie Trenholm will be coming to Seffner on March 28 to conduct BMP training. Keep an eye out for other dates and registration materials online and in the next Growing Concerns. Be there and be prepared for any coming regulation! ■

### **Upcoming BMP Training**

GREEN INDUSTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: TRAIN THE TRAINER EVENT

#### **JANUARY 10**

PINELLAS COUNTY EXTENSION

**CONTACT JANE MORSE AT  
(727) 582-2562**

OR FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT

[HTTP://COOP.CO.PINELLAS.FL.US/COMMHORT/](http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/commhort/)

#### **MARCH 28**

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EXTENSION

**Contact Mary Beth Henry at  
(813) 744-5519 x 103**

OR FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT

[WWW.PROHORT.NET](http://www.prohort.net)

---

*"I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message. Yeah, I'm a thrill seeker, but crikey, education's the most important thing."*

**Steve Irwin**

**September 4 2006**

[www.brainyquote.com](http://www.brainyquote.com)

---

## Changes in the 2007 Tree and Landscape Short Course

### BYOL

Next year's Tree and Landscape Short Course is in the planning stages and we are looking forward to an exciting day of solid educational programming! Several speakers are lined up including Doug Caldwell of Collier County Extension, and Amy Shober of the Gulf Coast Research Center. Topics will include a pest management update, citrus disease concerns, chinch bug resistance, and a look at fertilizer in the landscape. Come out and join us for this one stop shopping for tree and landscape issues! Pick up your Pesticide licensing, ISA and FNGLA CEUs at the bargain price of just \$25!

### BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)

The costs of putting The Tree and Landscape Short Course together have recently doubled! As you can imagine this has caused a sort of scrambling to adjust. Be prepared with a lunch, or visit the trade show for lunch this year. In an effort to avoid raising the cost of the program lunch will no longer be provided as part of the program.

### Sponsor the 2007 Short Course

We are also trying to adjust to rising costs by offering sponsorship opportunities. If your company is interested in reaching 400-500 tree and landscape professionals in one day contact Mary Beth Henry at (813)744-5519 x 103. Creative sponsorship opportunities are available! Are you interested in donating equipment or products for a raffle? Like to have a booth at the short course? Would your company like to be featured on program flyers or banners? How about your logo on the big screen during lunch? The possibilities are wide open!

Take a look at last year's Short Course at [www.prohort.net](http://www.prohort.net). ■

## Your Turn!

### Do we need regulation?

This is where you are invited to respond with your thoughts and experiences on a particular subject. So let me know what you think! Does the industry need government regulations like fertilizer ordinances and required certifications? Should the BMPs be considered as a state-wide enforced standard? Is the industry capable of regulating itself?

Contact me at [mbhenry@ufl.edu](mailto:mbhenry@ufl.edu) or (813) 744-5519 x 103.

### What do you think of the new Formatting?

This latest edition of Growing Concerns features new formatting. It's about making it easier to get information in without playing with so many buttons! If you have also experienced the frustration of dealing with computer settings that you can't see or disassemble with your own two hands you may be interested in the various templates like this one available online. This one is from Microsoft office. I think it's attractive, organized and easy to read and I hope you do too! Let me know what you think! ■

---

*"The sooner you realize how short life is, the quicker you will write your own agenda."*

[No Chairs Make for Short Meetings](#)

---

## New Faculty to Welcome

Please welcome our new Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Community Association Outreach Program Coordinator, Lisa Strange. Lisa previously worked in the Compost Happens Program in the Hillsborough County Extension Office, and has taken this newly created position.

Lisa is busy conducting site visits and presentations for homeowner and condominium associations, helping them to adopt Florida "friendly" landscaping designs and practices. Let your customers know about this new service to Hillsborough and Polk Counties! Contact Lisa at (813) 744-5519 x 142 or email her at [strangel@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:strangel@hillsboroughcounty.org).

Please welcome Jane Morse, the new Commercial Horticulture Agent in Pinellas County. Jane is well experienced in Extension! She worked with homeowners for over six years in Manatee and has taken the long vacant position in Pinellas County. Jane is flowing with ambitious creative juices and busy working on unique training materials. Jane and I hope to coordinate our efforts for the greatest impact we can achieve. Give Jane a call at (727) 582-2562 or email her at [jvmorse@ufl.edu](mailto:jvmorse@ufl.edu).

Please welcome new Assistant Professor Amy Shober to the Gulf Coast Research Center in Balm. Amy comes to us from University of Delaware, where she earned her PhD. in Environmental Soil Management. Amy's work in nutrient management, focusing on phosphorus management will serve her well in the current climate of fertilizer concerns. Amy will be speaking on fertilizer issues in the landscape for our 2007 Tree and Landscape Short Course coming up on February 23. Come out and welcome her at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. ■

## New Walk-In CEUs!

Call (813) 744-5519 ahead to be sure!

Are you looking to get in a couple convenient CEUs before your license expires? Hillsborough County now offers these convenient CEUs on a walk in basis:

- 1 Core CEU for: video, multiple Ornamental Outlook articles
- 1 Aquatic CEU video
- 2 CEUs total- "Mole Crickets and Enemies of Mole Crickets" Bug Tutorials CD, may be split in the following categories: Commercial Lawn and Ornamental, Ornamental and Turf, Limited Lawn and Ornamental, Private Applicator, Agricultural Row Crop

Stop by and "git r dun"! ■

## Pesticide Training Manuals Now Available at Hillsborough Extension!

Frustrated with run around?

Have you stopped by the office to purchase pesticide training manuals in time to study for the exam? Were you frustrated to find they had to be ordered and shipped from Gainesville? Pesticide training manuals will be available at the Hillsborough County Extension Office beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. Only the most commonly requested materials will be available so call to be sure we have what you are looking for!

Payment is an issue as **we are not able to accept credit cards!** Cash or check only please. Checks should be made out to the Tree and Landscape Advisory Committee. Let's hope this convenience takes some of the stress out of preparing for those exams! ■

## Fact is Stranger than Fiction

What to do with raccoons?

Have you been asked about how to handle unwanted attention from raccoons? Wouldn't it be nice if some wildlife could just keep to themselves and stay out of our cat's food? Raccoons can sometimes make themselves a nuisance by getting into our garbage, setting up a nursery in our attics or eating our pineapples just as they are perfectly ripe. What can be done with these animals in the wrong place?

You are probably aware that raccoons can carry rabies and a host of other diseases. If the common sense tips below don't do the job, repellents are not always effective, and live trapping is generally your best option. There are traps commercially available and these should be placed in an area the raccoon regularly visits, and checked often.

Be aware that raccoons must be causing damage to property before it is legal to remove them. What to do with the animal once it is trapped is another question. It is

illegal to relocate raccoons because of their high populations and disease concerns. To avoid this question there are wildlife trappers to hire for the service. Be aware that the animals are usually euthanized, unless a wildlife rehabilitation service is used. Rehabilitation services work with orphans, etc. and have access to the permits required for live releases. Find wildlife trappers through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at

[HTTP://WWW.FLORIDACONSERVATION.ORG/](http://www.floridacconservation.org/)

### Common sense solutions to problems with raccoons:

Don't feed them: Everyone likes a free meal and feeding raccoons will encourage them to stick around.

Keep your pet food in the house or another place that is not easy to access.

Keep garbage cans covered tightly and in an inaccessible area.

Plant fruits near the house or busy areas to deter easy access.

Find out more details at

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW033> ■



## Programming Available Through Extension

### What goes on around here?

As I have spent more time in Extension, I have come to understand the broad spectrum of programs and services that are available through Extension. I have found that without a doubt most people have no idea what Extension is about. When I tell people I am an Extension Agent, many people have visions of secret extension cords or some other nameless question marks.

Extension is not a secret society of electrical cord policing people. It is a link between the Land Grant Universities and the general public. There are many variations of just how Extension functions and the depth of services it provides from state to state, but the general idea is to bring research based information to everyday people to improve their lives. Very noble indeed!

I would like to introduce some of the other programs that are available through the Hillsborough County Office, and hope you find the programming useful! I'll be featuring one article from another Agent in the office and let you know some of their activities that may interest you. There are a wide range of services available to you through Hillsborough County Extension, see what you can use!

The following article is from Lisa Leslie, our agent who conducts programs on personal finances. Lisa is available to teach **personal** finance classes of 15 people or more at your site. Find out more about what goes on around here by checking out the Hillsborough County Extension website at <http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu> ■

## New Tool to Prevent Identity Theft

by Lisa Leslie, Hillsborough County Extension Agent

A new credit protection law went into effect in Florida on July 1, 2006. The aim of the legislation is to give consumers greater control of their credit reports by allowing them to put a security freeze on their reports. This will mean that credit reporting agencies can not disclose information in your credit report to would-be creditors. The goal is to prevent a thief from being able to open new credit accounts in your name.

One point to consider is the security freeze will prevent a consumer from the convenience of being granted instant access to credit. However, a consumer who needs to shop for a new loan or credit account can have the freeze temporarily lifted by contacting the credit bureaus. The law says credit reporting agencies have three days from the time they receive the request to lift the freeze.

The credit freeze should not affect a consumer's ability to shop for insurance. Insurance companies are exempt from the freeze for the purposes of underwriting an insurance policy and in setting or adjusting rates.

So how much does this new protection cost? If you are 65 or older or can prove you were a victim of identity theft there is no charge to place a security freeze. Otherwise each of the three major credit bureaus can charge up to \$10. Everyone (including those over 65) will have to pay each credit bureau \$10 to have the freeze temporarily lifted.

*Best Management Practices Continued on page 7*

In order to place a freeze you must send a certified letter to each of the three credit bureaus. Once they receive the letter they have five days to comply with your request. The consumer reporting agencies must then send a written confirmation of the security freeze to you within 10 days. They will also send you a password that can be used to temporarily remove the freeze. Keep the passwords in a safe place because you can be charged \$10 if you need to have a credit bureau re-issue your password.

Links to information about protecting your identity be found on our website <http://hillsboroughfcs.ifas.ufl.edu> , click on the link to the financial management section. ■

## 2006 Horticulture Events Calendar

**Looking for CEUs?** Computer-based CEUs and/or CEU videos may be available at your local Extension office.

**Looking for online CEUs?** A searchable listing of approved CEUs, including online opportunities, is available at <http://www.safepesticideuse.com/search/ceusearch.asp>

**Looking for events throughout the state?** Check out the Statewide Extension Web Page calendar at <http://calendar.ifas.ufl.edu>

### NOVEMBER CLICK ON THE LINKS AT [WWW.PROHORT.NET](http://WWW.PROHORT.NET)

Date	Place	Info
Nov 1	Bartow	<b>Pesticide Testing; Core Exam Prep; Ornamental and Turf Exam Prep</b> (863) 519-8677
Nov 1-3	Cocoa Beach	<b>From Stem to Stern Boating and Waterways Management in Florida</b> <a href="http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/boatsummit/">http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/boatsummit/</a>
Nov 2	Sarasota County	<b>Palms in the Landscape</b> (941) 722-4524 Register at <a href="http://www.extension.worldispnetwork.com/index.html">http://www.extension.worldispnetwork.com/index.html</a>
Nov 2	Bradenton	<b>Suncoast Grounds Maintenance Seminar</b> <a href="#">Agenda and Registration</a> (941) 722-4524 <b>CEUs</b> <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm</a>
Nov 3	Naples	<b>Landscape Maintenance Series- Part 2 Landscape Installation &amp; Post Planting Care</b> <b>Spanish</b> (239) 353-4244 <a href="http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm">http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm</a>

November Calendar Continued on page 8

Nov 4	Bartow	<b>Progressive Agriculture Safety Day</b> 5th, 6th, & 7th Grades (863) 519-8677
Nov 7	Sarasota County	<b>Palms in the Landscape</b> (941) 722-4524 Register at <a href="http://www.extension.worldispnetwork.com/index.html">http://www.extension.worldispnetwork.com/index.html</a>
Nov 9	Sarasota	<b>Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training and Exam</b> <a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Registration</a> (941) 722-4524 <b>CEUs</b> <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm</a>
Nov 9	Bartow	<b>Citrus Worker Safety and Tractor Rodeo</b> (863) 519-8677
Nov 3	Naples	<b>Common Woody Ornamental Plant Identification</b> <b>ISA / FNGLA CEUs</b> (239) 353-4244 <a href="http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm">http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm</a>
Nov 13-17	Ft. Lauderdale	<b>19th UF/IFAS Annual School of Structural Fumigation</b> Register at <a href="http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fumigation/">http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fumigation/</a> or call Brian Cabrera at (954) 577-6363
Nov 14	Seffner	<b>Pesticide Testing- Hillsborough County Extension</b> (813) 744-5519 x 103
Nov 14	Apopka	<b>CEU Day</b> <b>CEUs</b> (352)-343-4101 see the brochure at <a href="http://landscape.ifas.ufl.edu/pesticide%20training/PAT2006.pdf">http://landscape.ifas.ufl.edu/pesticide%20training/PAT2006.pdf</a>
Nov 15	Largo	<b>Pesticide Testing- Pinellas County Extension</b> (727) 582-2100
Nov 17	Naples	<b>Landscape Maintenance Series- Part 3 Fertilizing &amp; Weed Management</b> <b>Spanish</b> (239) 353-4244 <a href="http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm">http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm</a>
Nov 18	Naples	<b>Designing the Right Place for the Desired Tree</b> <b>ISA / FNGLA CEUs</b> (239) 353-4244 <a href="http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm">http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/2006%20Training%20Schedule.htm</a>

Nov 21	Sarasota County	<b>Spiders- Dr. Fred Santana IPM Coordinator</b> (941) 722-4524 Register at <a href="http://www.extension.worldispnetwork.com/index.html">http://www.extension.worldispnetwork.com/index.html</a>
Nov 28	Sarasota	<b>Landscape CEUs Pest Problems and Solutions</b> <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">Agenda and Registration</a> (941) 722-4524 <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm</a>
Nov 28-30	Largo	<b>Pest Update</b> <b>Multiple CEUs See Agenda <a href="#">Here</a></b> (727) 582-2562 <a href="http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/Commhort/calendar.htm">http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/Commhort/calendar.htm</a>

**DECEMBER** CLICK ON THE LINKS AT [WWW.PROHORT.NET](http://WWW.PROHORT.NET)

Date	Place	Info
Dec 1	Bartow	<b>Pesticide Testing; Core Exam Prep; Aquatic Exam Prep</b> (863) 519-8677
Dec 5	Bradenton	<b>Weed Control Short Course</b> (941) 722-4524 Aquatic and Right of Way <b>CEUs</b> <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm</a>
Dec 12	Palmetto	<b>Core Exam Prep and Testing</b> <b>CEUs</b> (941)772-4524
Dec 12	Seffner	<b>Pesticide Testing Hillsborough County Extension</b> (813) 744-5519 x 103
Dec 13	Orlando	<b>Review for the Ornamental/Turf and Private Applicator Agriculture Exams</b> (407) 836-7570 See the brochure at <a href="http://landscape.ifas.ufl.edu/pesticide%20training/PAT2006.pdf">http://landscape.ifas.ufl.edu/pesticide%20training/PAT2006.pdf</a>
Dec 14	Venice	<b>Landscape CEUs Pest Problems and Solutions</b> <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">Agenda and Registration</a> (941) 722-4524 <a href="http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm">http://manateehort.ifas.ufl.edu/classes.htm</a>
Dec 20	Largo	<b>Pesticide Testing Pinellas County Extension</b> (727) 582-2100

# Growing Concerns

Mary Beth Henry

Hillsborough Extension Service  
5339 S. County Road 579  
Seffner, Fl., 33584-3334

---

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Focus on: Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices
- 3 Changes in the 2007 Tree and Landscape Short Course  
Your Turn!
- 4 New Faculty to Welcome  
New Walk-In CEUs  
Pesticide Manuals Now Available!
- 5 Fact is Stranger than Fiction: What to do with Raccoons
- 6 What Goes On Around Here?

**Make Plans to Attend the  
Tree and Landscape  
Short Course February 23  
at the Florida State  
Fairgrounds. Pesticide,  
FNGLA, and ISA CEUs!  
All for just \$25! See last  
years program at  
[www.prohort.net](http://www.prohort.net)**

*Hillsborough County Extension is a cooperative service of Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and the University of Florida.*

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M., University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

Any trade names mentioned in the publication are provided solely for information purposes. The Cooperative Extension Service does not endorse or guarantee the standard of the product, nor does it wish to discriminate against any products of similar nature.