

Changes in the 2007 Tree and Landscape Short Course

BYOL

The 2007 Tree and Landscape Short Course is coming fast upon us. It is set for February 23 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. We are looking forward to this rich opportunity for educational priming and greeting those in the industry we serve!

Please be aware there have been some changes to this year's Short Course. Lunch will no longer be offered as part of the Short Course, so bring your own lunch or visit the Spring Expo building for lunch. Getting everyone back on time will be a challenge, as we only have an hour for lunch in the program.

Please note: there is a charge for parking at the Fairgrounds. If you leave the Fairgrounds for lunch, you will have to pay to park again when you return.



What is the Tree and Landscape Short Course?

The Tree and Landscape Short Course is a 30 year tradition in Hillsborough County. It is held in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers Spring Expo, and includes entrance to the Expo. Each year we feature updates from tree and landscape experts to keep the industry current in what's happening in the field.

Who's going to be there?

This year the program features University of Florida Specialists and Extension Agents, along with experienced tree experts.

What's on the Agenda?

Several pest issues will be addressed in addition to planning with street trees and understanding how fertilizer affects the environment. See the enclosed flyer for details.

How Can I Sign Up?

Registration is available using the enclosed form. Fill it out and send it or fax it in for processing. Online registration is now open at <http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/GC1.htm>.

Please note: online registration is by credit card only and will be open until February 22 at 12:00 noon. ■

Current Outdoor Water Use Restrictions in Hillsborough County

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water/restrictions

Irrigation of established lawns and landscaping in unincorporated Hillsborough County is allowed one day a week.

These restrictions apply to all water sources including private wells, surface water and utility-provided water. They do not apply to reclaimed water, although these customers are encouraged to use only what they need. Residents who receive their water from the City of Tampa but who live in unincorporated Hillsborough County should follow the county's restrictions.

All irrigation must be accomplished prior to 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. Any one zone of a property may only be watered once during the allowable day, NOT both in the morning and again in the evening. The permitted days for watering are as follows:

Addresses ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Addresses ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Addresses ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Addresses ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Addresses ending in 8 or 9, locations with no address (common areas, entry areas), and locations with mixed addresses (office complexes, shopping centers)	Friday



Irrigation of New Lawns and Landscaping In Unincorporated Hillsborough County outside Tampa City Limits

Irrigation of new lawns and landscaping is restricted as follows. During the initial thirty (30) days, new lawns and landscaping may be watered any day, but not between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Following the initial 30-day period, irrigation of new lawns and landscaping may occur on alternating days for an additional thirty (30) days, with even-numbered addresses on even-numbered dates, and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered dates. Following this period all lawns and landscaping are considered established, and must follow the restrictions outlined above.

New plant material must cover at least 50% of an irrigation zone in order to water with an in-ground sprinkler system during the initial establishment period. If not, the new plant material must be hand watered following the same time of day and day of week restrictions for new plant establishment. Also, only those zones containing 50% new plant material may be watered, not the entire yard.

For more details and links to city ordinances see the Hillsborough County Water Use Restrictions page at

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water/restrictions



Resources for Spanish Speakers

Do you or someone you know struggle to speak and understand English? There are resources in Hillsborough County to help! Some of these organizations can also help with finally getting your GED or other educational goals.

CONTACTS

ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
(813) 276-5654

HISPANIC SERVICES COUNCIL
(813) 876-7223

HILLSBOROUGH LITERACY COUNCIL
(813) 273-3650

VOCATIONAL ENGLISH TRAINING IN THE WORKPLACE
(813) 877-9303

CARIBE REFUGEE PROGRAM
(813) 231-1972

Online Tools

If you regularly work with Spanish speakers it may be helpful to download the construction Spanish available free at <http://www.cdc.gov/elcosh/docs/d0300/d000300/d000300.html#a1>.

This site has a printable list of common terms in construction and landscaping and you can also click on letters for specific terms.

Other useful resources include online translation tools that are available for a wide variety of languages. Copy your text into the tool, and it translates into the language you select. It is important to note that these translation tools are not a fool proof translation for any topic and all Spanish speakers. They often do a less than perfect job of translating technical information.

It's also important to note here that not all Spanish is the same. Just like in English, or any other language, there are various dialects depending on where the speaker comes from. For example, the Spanish spoken in Mexico is different from the Spanish spoken in Cuba, etc. This means that the Spanish translation from the tool may be different from the Spanish you or your workers actually speak.

These are not the end all of translation tools, but they are easily available and free. Check out the translation for yourselves and try it on a Spanish speaker you know!

Translation tools to try:

http://www.google.com/language_tools

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>

UPCOMING TRAINING IN SPANISH

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EXTENSION MARCH 23

LIMITED COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
6 HOUR TRAINING IN SPANISH
EXAM IN ENGLISH

ANYONE NEEDING CORE OR LIMITED COMMERCIAL
LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CEUS MAY ATTEND

CHECK [HTTP://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/) FOR UPCOMING
REGISTRATION

CONTACT MARY BETH HENRY AT (813) 744 5519 ■

Fact is Stranger than Fiction

Africanized Honey Bees

Have you heard of Africanized Honey Bees? You know, killer bees? You've probably seen documentaries showing people covered with bees and running for their lives. Maybe you've heard of people dying in Texas after being attacked by killer bees. Well, Africanized Honey Bees or (AHB) are not only found in Texas, in fact, they have been found in Florida since 2001. Here's more good news: **The highest concentrations of AHB have been found in the Tampa Bay area at monitoring stations around the ports.**



<http://www2.okstate.edu/pio/beeface.html>

What are Africanized Honey Bees?

Africanized Honey Bees are a particularly aggressive type of invasive honeybee. They are different from the European honey bees, which are the honeybees commonly encountered before this time. European

Honey bees have been bred for traits like gentleness and honey production and are much less likely to go on the offensive than the AHB. AHB have made a living by putting their energy into reproduction rather than honey. They pick up and move their nests more often, and will nest in smaller, more confined spaces.

How Can You Tell Them Apart?

AHB are slightly smaller than European Honey bees, but don't count on being able to notice. The only definite way to tell the two apart is by DNA testing. What really sets the AHB apart is its behavior.

Africanized Honey Bee Behaviors:

- Reacts to disturbances intensely and quickly within 50 feet or more of nest, vibrations (from power equipment) within 100 feet
- Will chase for a mile or more
- Reproduces to make large numbers of reproductive swarms
- Nests in smaller cavities and underground (water meters, grills, etc.)
- Moves nest readily (referred to as absconds)

Where are Africanized Honey Bees From?

Africanized honey bees are a subspecies of honey bees that were brought to Brazil from Africa for breeding in the 1950s. It was thought that breeding the African honey bee with the European honey bee would make the European honey bees better adapted to tropical conditions and produce more honey.

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Some of these African bees were released, and began to form large wild populations. These populations have steadily been moving north since that time, and the Africanized honey bee was first found in the U.S. in Texas in 1990.

What do I do if I think I've seen Africanized Honey Bees?

Anyone working outdoors, and especially with powered equipment (sound familiar?), should be aware of the risk of encountering Africanized Honey bees. If you see or happen upon a swarm of bees, your best bet is to consider them Africanized and keep away. The bees should be removed by a pest control company that is prepared to handle the AHB. A listing of pest control companies prepared to handle the AHB is available through Hillsborough County Extension, and will be posted on the Hot Topics page of <http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

What do I do if I'm Attacked?

If you find yourself in the situation of being attacked by honey bees, the best thing to do is run. Run in a straight direction rather than circles if you can. Try to get to an enclosed structure or vehicle. Standing still and swatting the bees is not recommended, the movement will cause them to sting. Protect

your face and eyes, use your shirt pulled over your face if you can.

What not to do if attacked:

- Do not stand still and swat the bees
- Do not hide in bushes
- Do not go into ponds or other water, the bees will continue to pursue, and you may end up drowning



How can I bee proof my worksite?

The best thing you can do to prevent a swarm from moving in is to seal up small holes or cavities around the property. Beware that AHB tend to nest in small areas like water meters. It's recommended that openings greater than 1/8 inch be sealed off. Old tires, buildings, or vehicles are also a prime piece of real estate for the AHB, so do what you can to remove these and reduce the chances of a swarm coming to a worksite near you. ■

"Because knowing is half the battle."

G.I. Joe

Irrigation Audits Available in Hillsborough County

Are you working with outdated or malfunctioning irrigation systems? Are you not sure if all the components work at all? Irrigation audits are available by calling Hillsborough County Water Resource Services. Senior Water Conservation Inspector Gerard Watson can be reached at (813)274-6800 x 43382.

Gerard will check the components of the system and make any appropriate recommendations for adjustment, repair or replacement. Similar services are also available for City of Tampa Water customers. Contact Brent White at 274-8121 x 1013.

Let your customers know about this service, and prepare for watering restrictions and low rain fall! ■

"We never know the worth of water

till the well is dry."

Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

<http://www.quotegarden.com>

Your Turn!

What do you think about Spanish in the industry?

This is where you are invited to respond with your thoughts and experiences on a particular subject. So let me know what you think!

How should Spanish speakers be handled in the industry? Should it be required that pesticide labels and exams be written in Spanish?

Contact me at mbhenry@ufl.edu or

(813) 744-5519 x 103. ■

Upcoming BMP Training

GREEN INDUSTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: TRAIN THE TRAINER EVENT

JANUARY 31

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

SEE ENCLOSED FLYER OR

[HTTP://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/) FOR DETAILS ■

What Goes on Around Here?

Programming Available Through Extension

Lisa Leslie is our Family and Consumer Sciences Home Environment Agent who conducts training on personal finance. Check out her latest article on tax issues! Find out more about what goes on around here by checking out the Hillsborough County Extension website at <http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu>. ■

A New Tax Refund and Savings Opportunity

by Lisa Leslie, Hillsborough County Extension Agent

Tax filing this year offers new refund and savings opportunities. People filing 2006 tax returns in 2007 will be eligible for a refund of the long distance telephone taxes they have paid. Tax filers will also have more options and flexibility for choosing how to receive their federal income tax refunds.

Federal appeals courts have ruled that a long distance telephone tax that has been collected since 1898 is no longer compatible with today's modern information society. As a result of these decisions, consumers who paid the long-distance tax will be eligible to file for a refund of the long distance taxes they have paid for the last three years.

People who would like to receive the refund will be able to file for the refund on their 2006 returns. All of the 1040 forms will include a line for requesting the refund. The refund only applies to long distance. Taxes on local phone service have not gone away.

People who have kept records of their old phone bills will be able to claim the full amount of the taxes they have paid. The IRS is providing a standard refund from \$30 - \$60 for those who have not kept records. The exact amount of your standard refund depends on the number of exemptions you claim.

- One exemption – refund amount is \$30
- Two exemptions - \$40.
- Three exemptions - \$50.
- Four exemptions - \$60.

New Tool to Help You Save

In previous years, taxpayers could choose to have their refund direct deposited in their checking or savings account or they could have opted for a paper check mailed to their address. Starting this year, taxpayers can opt to send their refund to three different accounts such as a checking, savings and retirement accounts.

The idea behind split refunds is to encourage people to increase their savings or retirement account balances. In order to take advantage of the split refund option, taxpayers must use Form 888. This is a simple form that tax filers use to tell how they would like their refund split and the account numbers to which the funds should be deposited. Form 888 is then attached to your 1040 form. Tax filers who want their refund direct deposited into only one account do not need to file Form 888.

Refunds directed into savings and checking accounts usually arrive within three – four weeks. Hopefully, the short turn around time of refunds will help consumers avoid rapid refund anticipation loans. These types of loans can come with high interest rates.

For more information visit the IRS website – www.irs.gov.

Sources: Internal Revenue Service Publications - Splitting Federal Income Tax Refunds and Government to Stop Collecting Long-Distance Telephone Tax ■

2007 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>

JANUARY CLICK ON THE LINKS AT [HTTP://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/)

Date	Place	Info
Jan 10	Tampa	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 11	Ft. Myers	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 16	Seffner	Aquatic and Right of Way CEU Day (813) 744-5519 x 103 Agenda and Registration
Jan 16	Port St. Lucie	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 17	Largo	Pesticide Testing - Pinellas County Extension (727) 582-2100
Jan 17	Lake Worth	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 18	Plantation	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 23	Ocala	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 24	Sarasota	Managing Mangroves for Shoreline Health Seminar (941) 861-9900
Jan 24	Jacksonville	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 30	Milton	Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) Regional Turf Seminar (800) 882-6721
Jan 31	Largo	Green Industries Best Management Practices: Train the Trainer (727) 582-2562 http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/Commhort/calendar.htm See Agenda Here *Date Changed from Jan 10

FEBRUARY [CLICK ON THE LINKS AT HTTP://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/)

Date	Place	Info
Feb 1	Bartow	Pesticide Testing (863) 519-8677
Feb 8	Largo	Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training and Testing (727) 582-2100 CEUs http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/Commhort/calendar.htm
Feb 9	Seffner	Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training and Testing (772) 562-1442 CEUs
Feb 16	Largo	PCO ID Cardholder Training (727) 582-2100 CEUs http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/Commhort/calendar.htm
Feb 21	Largo	Pesticide Testing- Pinellas County Extension (727) 582-2100
Feb 23	Tampa	Tree and Landscape Short Course Held at the Florida State Fair Grounds (813) 744-5519 x 103 CEUs Registration Flyer <i>* Online registration using credit cards will be available in January 2007.</i>

MARCH [CLICK ON THE LINKS AT HTTP://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://PROHORT.IFAS.UFL.EDU/)

Date	Place	Info
March 1	Bartow	Pesticide Testing (863) 519-8677
March 13	Seffner	Pesticide Testing- Hillsborough County Extension (813) 744-5519 x 103
March 21	Largo	Pesticide Testing- Pinellas County Extension (727) 582-2100
March 23	Seffner	Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training in Spanish and Exam (813) 744-5519 x 103 Spanish CEUs
March 28	Seffner	Green Industry Best Management Practices Training (813) 744-5519 x 103 Registration Flyer
March 29	Largo	Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Training and Testing (727) 582-2100 CEUs http://coop.co.pinellas.fl.us/Commhort/calendar.htm

"May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions."

Joey Adams

<http://www.quotegarden.com>

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Growing Concerns

Mary Beth Henry

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

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**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 this
year's program at
<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/>**

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