



# Commercial Clippings

FEB - MAR 2023

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## New Commercial Horticulture Agent

**By: George Richardson UF/IFAS**

Hello All,

I have had the pleasure to meet some of you and you may have heard my background, but I would like to introduce myself to those I have not met in person yet. My name is George Richardson, and I am the new Commercial Horticulture Agent for UF/IFAS Duval County. In 2017, I interned for the position under Erin Harlow. She was a fantastic role model and although they are smaller than mine, I have some big shoes to fill. I graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Entomology and Nematology with an emphasis on Urban Pest Management in 2018.

Prior to college, I was not really interested in

insects, but was interested in plants and other



areas of biology. However, insect management was previously the family business. My grandparents, Earl & Louise Dixon, started Peninsular Pest Control Inc. in 1954. My plan at the time was to go to college, study entomology, and then work my way up the family business from the bottom. I followed through with this and started working for them as a Sentricon and WDO technician. After I had that down, I started working as a GHP technician. Then

came inspections, sales, and V.I.P./sensitive clients. I had plenty of experience with everything outside of fumigation, as that was a service the company did not perform. I was about four years into working my way through the business when we lost our wonderful vice president, Terry Shepherd. I had known Terry my whole life, and his loss was devastating to our family and company. Things were simply not the same and we knew we would not be able to replace him. My mother and father, Carolyn & George Richardson, sold the business to Massey Services in July of 2022.

**Continued on page 6.**



# Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Pesticide Exam

## Prep January 26th, 2023



### Available CEUs:

- 3 - LCLM
- 3 - LLO
- 3 - O&T
- 3 - CORE
- 3 - L&O

**Course fee: \$30.00**

If you have any questions pertaining to class information, please contact:

George Richardson  
904-255-7450  
wrgator@ufl.edu

Register at [Click Here!](#)

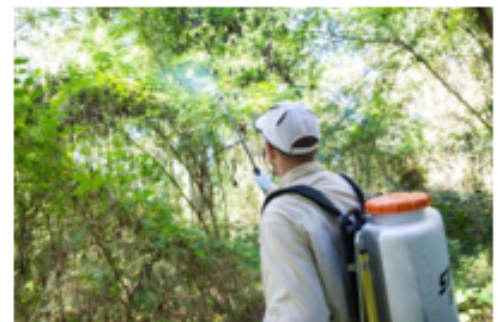
If you cut lawns and/or maintain ornamentals at private homes and businesses and wish to apply pesticides on the job, including Round-Up, then this six-hour training class is a requirement before obtaining the **Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance License (LCLM)**.

With this license, you will be able to apply herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides that state "Caution" on the label on all but lawns and turfs.

This class reviews the fundamentals that you will need to pass the LCLM exam.

The study materials can be found under the LCLM section of this document: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PI292> [Click Here!](#)

Agenda and exam info on website and back. **Lunch included**



## LCLM EXAM PREP WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Topic & CEU	Speaker
8:30 – 9:20	Pesticide Safety and Environmental Concerns (CORE)	George Richardson
9:20 – 10:10	Weed Classification and Herbicide Technology (LCLM, LLO, L&O, O&T, PVT)	Luke Harlow
10:10 – 10:20	Break	
10:20 – 11:10	Weed Classification and Herbicide Technology (LCLM, LLO, L&O, O&T, PVT)	Luke Harlow
11:10 – 12:00	LCLM Laws and Regulations (CORE)	Taylor Clem
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch; ½ Day CEU Distribution	
12:30 – 1:20	Major Insect Pests of Ornamentals and Their Feeding Characteristics (LCLM, LLO, L&O, O&T, PVT)	Taylor Clem
1:20 – 1:35	Break	
1:35 – 2:25	Understanding the Pesticide Label & calculations (CORE)	George Richardson

Register for exam held in extension office on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/> [Click here!](#)



# Jacksonville Landscape SHOW



JACKSONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS

FEB.  
9&10  
2023

ATTEND THESE GREAT LEARNING SEMINARS:

- Landscaping for Pollinators
- Weed Management in Landscapes and Nurseries
- Understanding Irrigation Practices to Improve Fertilizer and Pesticide Management
- The Basics of Insect Identification and Sample Collection
- Improving Soil Health
- Alternative Turfgrass and Sustainable Landscapes
- Palm Maintenance Update



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## FNGLA TRADE SHOW FEBRUARY 2023

FEBRUARY 9 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday			1 Credit Hour
TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	CEUs (FLA & GA)
9:30-10:30	Landscaping for Pollinators	Erin Harlow UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County	FLA: L&O, O&T, LL&O, LCLM, PVT AG, ROW GA: O&T ROW
11:00-12:00pm	Weed Management in Landscapes and Nurseries	Dr. Chris Marble UF/IFAS Extension MFREC	FLA: L&O, O&T, LL&O, LCLM, D&R, ROW, PVT AG GA: O&T ROW
1:00-2:00pm	Understanding Irrigation Practices to Improve Fertilizer and Pesticide Management	Luke Harlow UF/IFAS Extension	FLA: L&O, O&T, LL&O, LCLM, ROW, PVT AG, D&R GA: None
2:30pm-3:30pm	The Basics of Insect Identification and Sample Collection	George Richardson UF/IFAS Extension Duval County	FLA: Core GA: O&T ROW
FEBRUARY 10 <sup>th</sup> - Friday			
TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	CEUs (FLA & GA)
9:30-10:30	Improving Soil Health	Dr. AJ Lindsey, UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture	FLA: LCLM, LL&O, L&O, O&T, D&R, PVT AG, ROW, CORE GA: O&T, ROW, AG PL, Forest
11:00-12:00	Alternative Turfgrass and Sustainable Landscapes	Brooke Moffis, UF/IFAS Extension Lake County	FLA: LCLM, LL&O, L&O, O&T, ROW, PVT AG GA: O&T ROW
1:00-2:00pm	Palm Maintenance Update	Larry Figart, UF/IFAS Extension Duval County	FLA: LCLM, LL&O, L&O, O&T, ROW, PVT AG, AG TREE CROP GA: Forest, PVT, O&T, ROW

Register at Eventbrite: [The Jacksonville Landscape Show Tickets, Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#) [CLICK here!](#)



## New Commercial Horticulture Agent Continued...

Just prior to the sale I began to think about other career possibilities. With my degree and experience I knew I wanted to do something in the green industries, and luckily this position was open.

**My goal now is to provide relevant continuing education and assistance to all of you!**

# Nocturnal Nuisances

By: George Richardson

Cooler weather normally leads to an increase in calls from customers with reports of a scratching noise in the attic or walls. In addition to their usual hunt for food and water, rodents seek harborage from the extreme temperatures. Rodents can enter a structure through openings such as broken crawlspace vents, eave vents, and gaps around utilities. The inspection of these areas and rodent proofing any openings is the most important step of rodent control. One of the most important lessons I learned early in my pest control career was that this exclusion needed to be done prior to any elimination efforts. If it is not performed, you can continue to catch rodents in snaps or have poisoned rodents

if the house is in a high rodent density area. This can lead to some very unhappy customers. It is extremely important to use the correct materials so that you don't have to perform this twice as rodents are very intelligent and have very sharp teeth. For example, rodents can easily chew through spray foam.

Sometimes animal activity can be misdiagnosed as rat or mouse, when the noises are actually from squirrels. There are some questions that can help you narrow down your inspection. What time of day are they hearing it at? Where in the house are they seeing or hearing it? If it is night to early morning, then it is likely a more nocturnal animal such as a roof rat, Norway rat, or house mouse. If they are hearing it during the day, then it is more likely to be a squirrel. However, if the population is so dense, there may be activity during the day from nocturnal animals competing for food or water. Look out for tell-tale signs such as droppings, urine, rub marks or gnawing marks. Identifying the signs of active locations aids in proper trap or bait placement. Please refer to the UF/IFAS publication "ENY-224/DH044: Rat and Mouse Control" for more information on proper exclusion materials and control methods. [Click Here!](#)

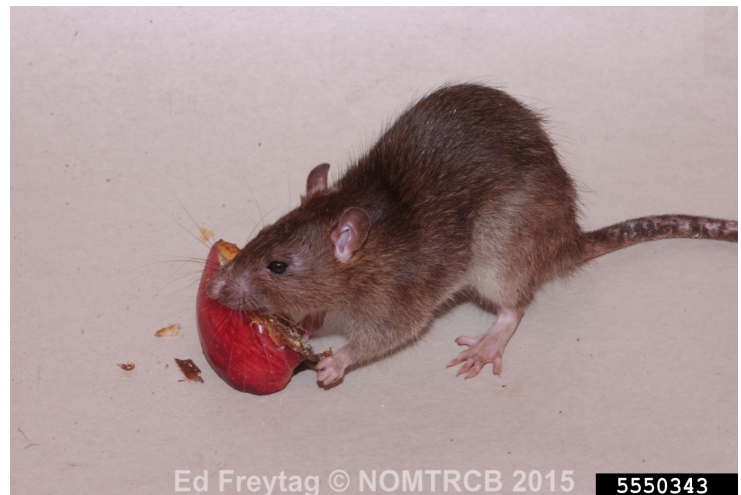


Figure 1. Norway rat, *Rattus norvegicus*.

Credit: Ed Freytag, City of New Orleans, Bugwood.org



# Large Patch – *Rhizoctonia solani*

By: George Richardson



Figure 2. Large Patch Fungus, *Rhizoctonia solani*

Credit: George Richardson, UF/IFAS

This fungal pathogen attacks all warm-season turfgrass species when cooler, wet weather comes in the fall. The characteristic ring patches will grow until it warms up above 80 degrees in the spring. Unlike some other turf issues, the grass can fill in that spot again while the pathogen is dormant. However, if conducive conditions and the pathogen are not treated then the pathogen can return to affect the area again. Large patch likes cooler temperatures and moisture that results in the leaves being wet for 48 hours or more. The moisture can be from rainfall, excessive irrigation, or extended periods of high humidity. Large patch damage starts with circular, discolored patches that expand over time. The edge of the damage is darker where the fungus is actively growing and sometimes appear yellow-orange. The center of a patch is usually brown with decaying or dead leaves. The turf may recover in the middle and have some healthy growth. There are other things that can have a patch like appearance such as other fungal infections and chinch bugs. To determine if it is large patch, pull a few nodes of grass from the outer edge of the damaged area. If the leaf pulls out of the sheath easily and the base is dark and smells of rot, it is likely large patch. Herbicide damage can look similar, but there is no rotting smell, and the leaf base is dry.

To manage this pathogen, we need to improve cultural practices. We can't control the weather, so we need to work with the homeowner to ensure no excess water is being applied via irrigation. Irrigation should only be applied in the early morning hours before 8 am at  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches (depending upon soil type and drainage). On our end we can make sure we are not applying excessive nitrogen during wet, cool weather. If the turf needs a nitrogen application, slow-release nitrogen with equal parts potassium to nitrogen should be applied before or during conducive conditions. For more information, please see the UF-IFAS publication SS-PLP-5: "Large Patch". [CLICK HERE!](#)

# Subterranean Termite Conducive Conditions

BY: GEORGE RICHARDSON UF/IFAS

Our native species *Reticulitermes* spp. swarm from fall to late spring into summer with the peak swarming normally occurring from February through March. You may have gotten some phone calls already from customers seeing alates. Of course, you can provide inspections and soil treatments, but it is important to communicate that the customer still has some responsibilities. For example, let's say a soil-perimeter liquid termiticide treatment was performed. If the homeowner comes behind that treatment and disturbs the area in some manner, they have essentially defeated the purpose of the barrier treatment, and this could lead to an active infestation. Disturbing the area could be anything from putting a heavy layer of mulch, performing other landscaping, new construction, or even installing a firewood rack over that treatment area close to the structure.



Figure 3. Termite species, Left-to-right (Formosan subterranean, Eastern subterranean, Dark southern subterranean, Cuban Subterranean, West Indian drywood, Southern Drywood)

Credits: Lyle J. Buss, UF/IFAS

In addition to not disturbing the area, there are some other things the homeowner can do. One of the first things to look at on inspection is the proximity of plants to the house. There should be enough space and visibility for a proper inspection close to the foundation. Plants should not be touching the house and should be at least 2 feet away. You can explain that if these plants are not trimmed, it acts as a bridge for the termites to attack their structure (this includes overhanging branches onto the roof). Make sure they have the six-inch inspection space at the foundation.

Another common issue is the A/C drainage line depositing the condensation too close to the foundation. They need to make sure it is depositing the condensate water further from their house. It is also important to ensure gutters, other drainage, and irrigation are moving water away from the structure.

This can all be summed up as: 1.) Get water and wood away from structure, 2.) Get plants and other bridges away from structure, and 3.) Don't disturb treated soil. The most important part of this is continuing the preventative maintenance annually. It may be a property with tenants that come in and out, so it is important to share this information with them as well. For more information, please see the UF-IFAS publication ENY-2044: "Termite Prevention and Control". [CLICK HERE!](#)



# UPCOMING LCLM/GI-BMP EVENTS

IN FUTURE ARTICLES EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION LINKS WILL BE PRESENT WITH MORE INFORMATION AS WELL AS OTHER CEU'S.

Date	Event	Hosting County	Format
Jan 26	LCLM	Duval	Face-to-face
Feb 14	LCLM	Alachua/Columbia	Face-to-face
Mar 7	GI BMP	Duval/Nassau	Face-to-face
Mar 31	GI BMP	Columbia/Alachua	Face-to-face
Apr 4	LCLM	Duval	Face-to-face
Apr 26	GI BMP	Putnam	Face-to-face
May 30	GI BMP	Bradford	Face-to-face
Jun 22	LCLM	Alachua/Columbia	Face-to-face
Aug 8	GI BMP	Duval	Face-to-face
Sep 12	LCLM	Columbia	Face-to-face
Sep 22	LCLM	Putnam	Face-to-face
Oct 17	LCLM	Duval	Face-to-face
Oct 19	GI BMP	Alachua	Face-to-face
Nov 1	LCLM	Alachua	Face-to-face



Contact **me** with any questions or information you would like to see in new issues!



## Local Extension Offices

### Duval County Extension Office

1010 N McDuff Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32254

(904) 255-7450

Website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

**George Richardson**

**Commercial Horticulture Agent**

Email: [wrgator@ufl.edu](mailto:wrgator@ufl.edu)

### Clay County Extension:

2463 State Road 16 West

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0278

Wayne Hobbs

Specialty: Environmental Horticulture

[whhobbs@ufl.edu](mailto:whhobbs@ufl.edu)

Tel: (904) 284-6355

### Baker County Extension:

1025 W Macclenny Ave

Macclenny, FL 32063

Alicia Lamborn

Specialty: Environmental Horticulture

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Tel: (904) 259-3520

### Nassau County Extension:

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Callahan, FL 32011

Taylor Clem – County Extension Director

Specialty: Environmental Horticulture

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Tel: (904) 530-6351

David Hebert

Specialty: Agriculture & Natural Resources

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### St. Johns County Extension:

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Terra Freeman

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(904) 209-0430 ext. 4773

Prissy Fletcher

Specialty: Commercial Agriculture

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