



# Commercial Clippings

FOR THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREEN INDUSTRY  
*Serving Clay, Duval, and Nassau County*

August/September 2012

Issue 21, Page 1



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## Providing Mosquito Control as a Service by Erin Harlow

With the recent rains, the large population of midges this year, and the continued mosquito problems, I have received a lot of phone calls regarding public health licensing from companies interested in adding the service of spraying for mosquitoes. Here are a few things you should know about the public health or mosquito license if you are considering offering this service to your customers.



Based on Memo 848 from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, only a public health license is needed for individuals who are installing (and test only with water) automated devices, government entities, or vendors contracted with the government to provide large-scale treatments. Everyone else needs a Pest Control Operators license in the category of General Household Pests (GHP) to provide services and possibly a public health license as well. Services needing the GHP license include: the installation and servicing of automated devices on any structure (including barns or stables), fogging, spraying, or barrier treatments. If a pest control company is going to do larviciding (making applications to aquatic areas for mosquito control) then they should also hold the public health license. Any restricted-use applications made to the water for control of aquatic weeds requires an Commercial Aquatics license.

The Duval County Extension Office provides testing for the public health license every first Wednesday of the month. There is no charge to take the exam or to obtain a license. To sign-up for an exam or to receive more information about testing visit our website at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/pesticide.licensing.shtml> and for Memo 848 visit [http://www.flacs.org/pdf/Memo\\_848.pdf](http://www.flacs.org/pdf/Memo_848.pdf). To access University of Florida's publications on mosquito control and techniques visit [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mosquito\\_control](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mosquito_control).

**All Classes Require Pre-Registration** and will be held at the Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254 unless otherwise stated. To register visit us at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click Commercial Horticulture/Calendar or call Becky Davidson at 904-255-7450. You can now pay online with a credit card.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>August 23, 2012</b><br/> <b>Thursday</b><br/> <b>(Gainesville)</b></p>  | <p><b>Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop</b></p>   |
| <p><b>October 15, 2012</b><br/> <b>Monday</b><br/> <b>(Hastings)</b></p>  | <p>8:15 am - 3:00 pm - Full Day; 8:15 am – 12:00 pm - Half Day<br/>         \$30.00 for either full or half day</p>   |
| <p><b>November 8, 2012</b><br/> <b>Thursday</b><br/> <b>(Lake City)</b></p>   | <p>6 CEUs Total: 3 CORE &amp; 3 LCLM, 3 LL&amp;O, or 3 L&amp;O<br/>         Lunch Included, textbooks not included<br/>         Optional LCLM or LL&amp;O Exam at 3:00 pm<br/>         You must have all required paperwork to take the exam.<br/>         For more information about the exam, books or to register, please visit:<br/> <a href="http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml">http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml</a>.</p> |
| <p><b>November 15, 2012</b><br/> <b>Thursday</b><br/> <b>(Gainesville)</b></p>  | <p>To register for Lake City call (386) 752-5384.<br/>         To register for Gainesville call (352) 955-2402.</p>   |
| <p>This class is designed for people who do not have their license yet. If you are re-certifying your LCLM or LL&amp;O you should try another class that has LCLM CEUs.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>October 13, 2012</b><br/> <b>Saturday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p><b>Right Tree, Right Place</b></p>   |
| <p><b>December 7, 2012</b><br/> <b>Friday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p><b>Advanced Landscape Workshop</b></p>   |
| <p><b>December 7, 2012</b><br/> <b>Friday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p>12:30 pm - 4:30 pm<br/>         \$20.00, 4 CEUs have been applied for: 4 L&amp;O, 4 LCLM, 4 LL&amp;O, 4 pvt</p>  |
| <p>Topics Include: Understanding nutrients, soil tests, and creating fertilizer programs and recognizing abnormalities of palms and other plants.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>November 27, 2012</b><br/> <b>November 28, 2012</b><br/> <b>Tuesday and</b><br/> <b>Wednesday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p><b>Two-Day Professional Landscape Training</b></p>   |
| <p><b>November 27, 2012</b><br/> <b>November 28, 2012</b><br/> <b>Tuesday and</b><br/> <b>Wednesday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p>8:30 am - 4:30 pm<br/>         \$150.00, includes snacks, lunch, and curriculum</p>  |
| <p>This can be used as a prep class for the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association (FNGLA) Certified Horticulture Professional exam (FCHP). The FNGLA FCHP manual will be used for this class and provided in the cost of the class. This is an intensive hands-on 2-day course. FNGLA and FL pesticide CEUs will be provided.</p> |   |

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>August 10, 2012</b><br/> <b>Friday</b><br/> <b>(Hastings)</b></p>  | <p><b>Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs)</b><br/> 8:30 am – 3:30 pm<br/> \$25.00</p>   |
| <p><b>October 25, 2012</b><br/> <b>Thursday</b><br/> <b>(Hastings)</b></p>   | <p>4 CEUS: 2 CORE &amp; 2 L&amp;O, 2 LCLM, 2 LL&amp;O, 2 O&amp;T or 2 Pvt<br/> Landscape Architect (LA) and FNGLA CEUs also available. Contact us to let us know you need these two categories.</p>   |
| <p><b>October 30, 2012</b><br/> <b>Tuesday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p>To register for Hastings call (386) 329-0318.<br/> To register for Duval call (904) 255-7450.</p>  |
| <p><b>December 18, 2012</b><br/> <b>Tuesday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>  | <p>This is the pre-requisite class for the Urban Fertilizer License. Everyone who works with fertilizers is required to have this license by Jan 1, 2014, even if you are licensed in another category.</p>   |
| <p><b>October 10, 2012</b><br/> <b>Wednesday</b><br/> <b>(Duval @ Ewing Irrigation)</b></p>  | <p><b>Irrigation Basics Workshop</b><br/> Sponsored by Ewing Irrigation.<br/> Class located at 11590 Davis Creek Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32256<br/> We will discuss basic irrigation techniques including repair, scheduling, and fixing minor breaks. We will also discuss licensing for Duval and surrounding counties.</p>  |
| <p><b>September 5, 2012</b><br/> <b>October 3, 2012</b><br/> <b>November 7, 2012</b><br/> <b>December 5, 2012</b></p> <p><b>Wednesdays</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p> | <p><b>Pesticide Testing in Duval County</b><br/> Includes Limited, Public Health, and Restricted-Use Exams<br/> 8:30 am - optional CORE review video<br/> 9:15 am - testing begins</p> <p>You may register for exams online or by calling Becky at 904-255-7450 two days prior to the exam date.<br/> You must have your paperwork to take a limited exams. These can be downloaded from our website.</p> |
| <p><b>October 19, 2012</b><br/> <b>Friday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>  | <p><b>Certified Pest Control Operators of Florida (CPCO) - CEU Day</b><br/> CEUs for Lawn and Ornamental, CORE, General Household Pests, Termite, and Fumigation; Price varies based on the number of sessions</p> <p>Call Terri at 407-217-5655 or download form at <a href="http://www.cpcofflorida.org/ceus.html">http://www.cpcofflorida.org/ceus.html</a></p>  |
| <p><b>October 31, 2012</b><br/> <b>Wednesday</b><br/> <b>(Duval)</b></p>   | <p><b>ID Cardholder Training</b><br/> 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm<br/> \$5.00<br/> 2 CORE CEU or 2 Tech Hours<br/> Hands-on activities</p>  |

## New Scale on Turf Identified in Florida

by Erin Harlow

As an Extension Agent, I get to see and hear about a lot of interesting things that go on around Jacksonville. One such case turned into a new scale identified in Florida. I must first thank Turf-Tech and also Scotts for initially bringing this scale to my attention. Scale on St. Augustine turf really isn't anything new, but once I found it on several sites I became more curious. The scale is on the stolons, particularly ones buried and not on the blades as you would normally find scale on St. Augustine turf.

The turf areas appear thin, bare, and so far have all had take-all root rot (TARR) too.

I returned home from work one day and finally decided to take a look at the dying spot in my front yard and to my surprise I found scale (along with TARR). I sent a sample to Lyle Buss, the entomologist in Gainesville. He then sent it to the Division of Plant Industries. It came back as a new record for Florida. This scale was last identified in Texas in 1968. It is called *Chortinaspis cottami*.

I have found it on several other sites in Jacksonville once I knew what to look for and imagine that it has been around for quite some time. The regular insect applications for chinch bugs and other pests probably keeps it in check. I don't know why we have seen more of it this year than in years past, perhaps it is due to the temperatures. At any rate, keep an eye out for it if you are having problems in your turf areas and cannot figure out why. Again, you may have to dig for some of the deeper stolons to find it. I really don't anticipate it being a major problem, just one more pest that you may come across at your sites.



Photo: Lyle Buss

## Do you know what this is?

**Have you been lucky enough to see one of these and if so, did you know what it was?**

Maybe you ran across this lizard-like animal when checking for chinch bugs in a St. Augustine lawn or maybe when you were raking leaves-up or digging in a shrub bed. If you saw one, you are lucky because they are very secretive during the day and rarely seen in our area – more common in Georgia than here. But did you know what it was? It's not a lizard if that's what you were thinking, so what is it? Find out by reading the October and November issue of Commercial Clippings. **RZ.**



## BENIGN HOMESTEADER, The Exotic Geastrums

by Raymond Zerba, Retired

Answer to the June/July 2012 "Do You Know What This Is?"

Following a few days of rain (at this time of year) a strange looking fungus often shows up on our dryer scrub oak soils. It starts as a white, egg-like structure that browns and then soon (amazingly) takes the shape of a star – it is in fact called an Earthstar. Here is its story:

These curious fungi are in a group we call the puffballs because they are constructed so that when they turn brown and dry, any rain hitting them causes them to “puff” out their spores – this is how they spread. The actual fungus lives underground feeding on organic matter which it helps to rot (not causing any problems for plants) but, when conditions are right, it produces

this fruiting body (similar to a mushroom) which you should start seeing in some of the landscapes you maintain. The oddity is that it can move and does so by doing “pushups.” Many are in the Genus *Geastrum*.

Earthstars start off as a round onion-shaped structure with a tough, whitish skin called the peridium. With rain (and the right temperature and humidity) this outer, leathery wall splits open. As it uncurls, this outer skin forms what looks like the legs of a “star” (4-12 arms depending on the species) lifting the center portion upwards. As this happens, the inner layer of “skin” stays in the shape of a ball. Those expanding legs raise this spore sac above the layer of leaves or surface debris that might inhibit its discharge of spores. When the sac

dries, and more rains come, the spores are puffed into the air where wind currents carry them as far as they are able. This insures that this fungus is not restricted to a small surface area which would cause it to compete with its offspring for food. It is really a unique approach to species spread.

There are large ball-shaped mushrooms (closely related) called puffballs that do the same thing without the leg-like structures (see final picture). Some of these can be several inches across. They also start off as white egg-like objects, but their outer layers of peridium just flake off revealing the brown spore sac that also puffs spores whenever rain hits it.



These are curious fungi but not something you should worry about. Actually, few people even know they are there, so you have to have a good eye to spot them in a landscape. Now is just their season to do their “thing.” If observed, you might pick one and share this story with your client. Assure them they are nothing to worry about. The only way to make them “gone” is to gather them up whenever seen – there are no sprays to stop them from reoccurring if conditions are right for their spread.



## SPHAEROPSIS on Holly: Sighted More Frequently By Larry Figart

Sphaeropsis gall is nothing new to Florida. It has always been around, just not seen as frequently in NE Florida as it has been recently. Sphaeropsis occurs on several different ornamental plants in Florida such as citrus, hawthorn, bottle brush, crepe myrtle, Ligustrum, oleander, and Prunus species. However it can be very detrimental to hollies. All holly species are susceptible.



Once you see sphaeropsis gall, it will be easy to remember. Symptoms range from inconspicuous swellings of young twigs, to irregular galls on older wood. Multiple shoots arise from galled areas, causing a “witches broom” type of growth. Horizontal branches can “tip up” to grow nearly vertically. Also, clusters of stunted, sometimes leafless shoots or witches brooms may be seen. Leaves on galled branches often turn yellow and drop. Death of the stem soon follows.

Recent preliminary studies have looked at whether any one holly species is more susceptible to Sphaeropsis. These studies determined that *Ilex crenata*, *Ilex* ‘Mary Nell’, and *Ilex x attenuata*, when inoculated with the disease formed larger lesions. In the NE Florida landscape Sphaeropsis gall has become a severe problem on East Palatka and Savannah

hollies in particular. This makes sense because they are *attenuata* hybrids. Natural or mechanical wounds in the wood allow entry points for the organism. The disease is much more likely to be found on a commercial site where the trees are pruned more regularly. Pruning may allow it to spread rapidly by transferring the fungus and allowing an entry point into the plant.

There is no fungicide labeled for Sphaeropsis in Florida. If caught early, one solution if presented with an infected tree is to prune branches at least 6 inches below where symptoms are seen. After cutting, look at the cut end of the stem to see if any discoloration from the fungal growth in the wood is noticed. If any discoloration in the wood is found, the branch should be cut back even further. Because wet humid conditions favor the spread of this disease, prune during dry times, avoiding periods when rainfall is expected 24 hours before or after pruning. Since there is no listed fungicide, prevention is key. When pruning hollies, using clean sterile equipment is the best method we have at this point to slow down the spread. After each cut, dip pruning tools in a disinfectant such as 10% Clorox or rubbing alcohol before using them on an other branch or plant. Severely infected plants should be **removed and destroyed**.

The disease may also be spread through infected cuttings. Take cuttings only from known disease free stock plants. Do not take cuttings from diseased holly.



## Steps to Planting a Tree Correctly by Larry Figart

1. Locate the root flare of the tree while it is still in the container. The root flare is the point where the first major root occurs at the base of the tree.
2. Remove all the soil in the container that may be covering the root flare. In some cases, the root system in the container or in the field grown root ball had had additional soil placed on top of the natural grade during routine nursery operation.
3. Measure the distance between the top-most root and the bottom of the root ball.
4. Dig the hole slightly shallower than this depth and as wide as possible.
5. Carefully remove the tree from the container.
6. Cut any potential girdling roots that are circling the root ball at the point where they start to curve. This will eliminate circling or girdling roots and assures that new roots will grow out into the new planting site.  
**\*\*Recent research has shown that shaving the outside layer of the root ball away eliminates most root defects and promotes proper root establishment.**
7. Place the tree in the hole so that the root flare is **slightly above** the natural soil level.
8. Backfill the hole while slowly adding water at the same time. This will remove any air pockets in the planting hole. No soil should be placed on top of the root ball when backfilling the hole.
9. No amendments like fertilizer or manure should be added to the hole. It can be fertilized if needed in a few months.
10. Add a thin layer of mulch around the tree, but not over the root ball.
11. Water the tree often. A two inch caliper tree needs four to six gallons of water daily for two weeks; every other day for two months, and then weekly until established.



## Creek Wars - Triple Challenge A Charity Fishing Tournament

Hosted by the Northeast Chapter of the Florida Irrigation Society

October 13, 2012 @ Sister's Creek

Proceeds benefit the Wolfson's Children Hospital and the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation. Last year \$10,000 was donated to Wolfson's. Come to the tournament and help us break that record.

Visit [www.creekwars.com](http://www.creekwars.com) for more information.

\$100.00 per boat for 4 people. Sponsorship opportunities available.



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For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904/255-7450) within a minimum of 5 working days of the program. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, when contacting our office, please use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Your comments and input are necessary for this to be a useful tool for all of us.

Extension Programs are open to all regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, religion, national origin, political opinions or affiliations.