



Commercial Clippings

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

August/September 2013

Issue 27, Page 1



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I'm Not Who You Think...

By Erin Harlow

You might think you know the palm weevil because you have seen it take out Canary Island Date Palms, Washingtonias and other palms, but keep a wary eye out for this new Red Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*. It is a highly invasive species worldwide and is devastating to palm industries. It has only been found in the United States in Laguna Beach, California in 2010, but this is one weevil we don't want in Florida.



Photos by John Kabashima

It looks almost identical to our native Palmetto Weevil, *Rhynchophorus cruentatus*. Both have varying patterns of black and red markings on their bodies, eat palms, and cause similar

Wanted: Dead or Alive

damage. So why is this weevil any different than the one already here? The Red Palm Weevil is a vector for a

nematode that causes red ring disease in palms. This is a devastating disease and it is unclear if our native weevil would be able to vector this nematode too. The invasive palm weevil also will infest healthy palms trees and not just stressed ones like the native. Currently the invasive weevil is a pest to 24 species of palms in 14 different genera.

The Florida Department of Plant Inspection in Gainesville has requested that if you see any palm weevils even if you think they are the native to please mail them dead samples.



Photos by John Kabashima

Weevils can be placed in the freezer for several days before they are mailed for identification. Early detection of these pests is our best defense against them entering the state. Please mail samples to the Bureau of Entomology at the Division of Plant Industry located at PO Box 147100 Gainesville, FL 32614-7100 for identification or drop them by the Extension Office and we will get them to Gainesville.

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.

August 15, 2013
Thursday
(Duval)

**Limited Commercial Landscape
Maintenance Workshop**

8:15 am - 3:00 pm - Full Day; 8:15 am – 12:00 pm - Half Day
\$30.00 for either full or half day

Sept 24, 2013
Tuesday
(Clay)

6 CEUs Total: 3 CORE & 3 LCLM, 3 LL&O, or 3 L&O
Lunch included, textbooks not included
Optional LCLM or LL&O Exam at 3:00 pm
You must have all required paperwork to take the exam.

Dec 12, 2013
Thursday
(Duval)

To register, download the brochure, or for more information about the exam or books, please visit: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml>.

This class is designed for people who do not have their license yet. If you are re-certifying your LCLM or LL&O you should attend a class that offers those CEUs. There are many to choose from throughout the year.

August 23, 2013
Friday
(Duval)

**Branching Out Landscaping Series:
New and Emerging Pests**

8:30 am - 9:30 am
FREE
1 ISA, 1 FNGLA, and 1 LL&O, 1 LCLM, 1 O&T, 1 L&O CEU available

Topic will change each month, so check out each month.

Sept 12, 2013
Thursday
(Duval)

**Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources
by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs)**

8:30 am – 3:30 pm
\$25.00

Dec 17, 2013
Tuesday
(Duval)

4 CEUs: 2 CORE & 2 L&O, 2 LCLM, 2 LL&O, 2 O&T or 2 Pvt, 4 LA CEUs, Technician Training Hours also available.

To register, download the brochure, or for more information about the workshop, please visit: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/GI-BMPs.shtml>.

This is the pre-requisite class for the Urban Fertilizer License. Everyone who works with fertilizers for-hire is required to have this license by Jan 1, 2014, even if you are licensed in another category including pest control operators. You will complete your GI-BMP test the day of the class, if you pass, you can then apply to get your Limited Urban Fertilizer License through the State of Florida.

Sept 23, 2013
Monday
(Duval)

ID Cardholder Training

9:00 am - 12:40 pm (4 hours) 9:00 am - 10:40 am (2 hours)
2 or 4 hours of technician training hours in pesticide safety or CORE CEUs

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.

Sept 27, 2013
Friday
(Duval)

Branching Out Landscaping Series:
Key Pests/ Key Plants

8:30 am - 9:30 am
 FREE
 1 ISA, 1 FNGLA, and 1 LL&O, 1 LCLM, 1 O&T, 1 L&O CEU available

Oct 1, 2013
Tuesday
(Duval)

Worker Protection Standards: Train-the-Trainer

9:00 am - 11:30 am
 \$5.00

Required for farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses that use pesticides on their property.

Oct 8, 2013
Tuesday
(Duval)

HOA Series: Doing Business as a Florida-Friendly Company

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 \$10.00

Topics will include Florida-Friendly design, changes that can be made to properties, what should be expected from a company.

This program is geared towards commercial landscape and pest control companies, HOA board members, and management associations.

Oct 25, 2013
Friday
(Duval)

Branching Out Landscaping Series:
Pruning Young Trees & Pesticide Label Changes (OSHA Required)

8:30 am - 9:30 am
 FREE
 1 ISA, 1 FNGLA, and 1 LL&O, 1 LCLM, 1 O&T, 1 L&O CEU available

Topic will change each month, so check out each month.

Oct 29, 2013
Tuesday
(Duval)

Ornamental & Turf Pesticide Test Review

8:30 am - 10:30 am
 \$5.00

Optional Ornamental & Turf exam from 10:45 am - 12:30 pm
 This class is a review of the ornamental and turf manual and professionals should come having already studied the material. This exam is required for restricted-use applications on golf courses, cemeteries, parks, and athletic fields. General Standards (CORE) exam must also be taken to receive the license and can be done that same day.

New Online Environmental Horticulture Management Certification

By Erin Harlow

This certification is great for people who want to get ahead in their industry, but don't need a BS degree and can't attend traditional classes. The certification requires 15 credit hours to be chosen by the student and they are all given online so you can do it from anywhere in the state. A grade of a C or better is needed to earn the certification. Students must have completed high school to participate. Course choices include:

- Turfgrass Culture (4 credits)
- Introductory Nursery management (4 credits)
- Environmental Plant Identification (1 credits)
- Florida Native Landscape (3 credits)
- Landscape and Turfgrass Management (3 credits)
- Nutritional Management of Nursery Crops (3 credits)
- Arboriculture (4 credits)
- Annual and Perennial Gardening (1 credits)
- Plant Propagation (2 credits)
- Landscape Plant Establishment (2 credits)
- Residential Landscape Design (3 credits) or Introduction to Ecosystem Restoration (4 credits)



For more information about eligibility and pricing contact:

Dr. Kimberly Moore, 954-577-6328, Ft. Lauderdale Research & Education Center, 3205 College Ave., Davie, FL 33314-7799

Do you know what this is?

Sticks an leaves and... ?

By Amy Morie, Clay County Extension

Have you or a client noticed an odd bit of debris literally 'hanging around'? You may have spotted this mystery insect. They can often be found on windows and under eaves. They seem to move when you're not looking, as they can change locations over time. You may even spot them creeping along. Can you guess what's inside? Stay tuned until next month to find out!



Tank Bug - *Megacopta cribraria*

By Amy Morie, Clay County Extension

Last month we looked at a potential new invader to the sunshine state. Did you guess what it was? The bean plataspid, *Megacopta cribraria*, is a piercing sucking insect that has been a resident in Georgia for several years. Its first distribution was in a cluster of counties in North-Central Georgia in 2009, when it was reported in large numbers on houses. Since then it's been steadily expanding its range since then. It's originally found throughout a wide portion of Asia and India, where it prefers to feed on Kudzu. In fact, up to a 30% reduction in Kudzu biomass has been reported due to the bean plataspid, giving rise to another common name – 'kudzu bug.' Unfortunately, it's also quite happy eating a wide range of related plants: Lablab bean, soybean, pigeon pea, mung bean, kidney bean, lima bean, azuki bean,



Photograph by Daniel R. Suiter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.



Bean plataspid on the side of a house. Photograph by Daniel R. Suiter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.

urd-bean, cluster bean, Sesbania, Lespedeza, vetch, broad bean, wisteria, Chinese milk vetch, indigo, figs, and Indian beech tree area all potential meals. It can be a significant pest of soybeans in particular, and of legumes grown in home gardens.

Since the last issue of *Commercial Clippings*, I've learned that the publication "Florida Entomologist" reported in March 2013 that this pest has been confirmed in 16 Florida counties Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Duval, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Pasco, and Suwannee during the period between March and October 2012 (Florida Entomologist 96(1):258-260. 2013). If you find one, be sure to collect it to add to the known distribution area. Otherwise, advise clients to seal

cracks and crevices and repair screens to prevent entry to homes and structures. Vacuum any that do get inside with a shop vac containing a little soapy water (1 to 2 tablespoons dish soap per gallon of water)—these insects can stain fabrics and wall coverings, and can cause a lingering odor in conventional vacuums. Infestations can be chemically treated with most insecticides, but be sure to remove the dead bugs as large numbers of them can create an odor and attract carpet beetles and ants.



Early instars. Photograph by John Ruberson, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.

Sources:

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/hodges/Florida2011/Halbert.pdf>

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/pest-alerts/megacopta-cribraria.html>

http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/esps/factsheets/household_structural/kudzu_bugs_hs50.html

Late Season Defoliators

By Larry Figart, Urban Forestry Extension Agent

Have you noticed that there are more than the usual number of caterpillars enjoying a gourmet salad of your clients beautiful shade tree leaves this year? If you help take care of a hardwood tree you may have already had trees you are treating affected by a group of caterpillars called late season defoliators. The term late season defoliator comes from the time of year that the pests become active. Typically late season defoliators do not cause tree mortality because the tree has already had a chance to build up energy reserves for the winter. The opposite of a late season defoliator would be an early season defoliator. Early season defoliators are harmful to trees because they eat fresh new leaves in the spring before trees have a chance to build up any energy reserves. Harmful caterpillars such as gypsy moths and eastern tent caterpillars are early season defoliators.



Adult fall webworm.
Photo Credit: Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University

In normal years, the primary late season defoliator in Northeast Florida is the Fall Webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*). The larvae are one to one and a quarter inches long and covered with silky hairs. They are a pale green with a black stripe on the back with a yellow stripe on each side. The larvae hatch from eggs that were laid earlier in the year by a female moth. The



Fall webworm. Photo Credit: Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute-Slovakia

moths emerge from their pupal cocoons in the spring. The female can lay up to 500 eggs on the undersides of the leaves of host plants. When the larvae hatch, they immediately go to work eating foliage. They also construct webs around the foliage they are feeding on. As they get larger and seek out new foliage, the nests get larger. They feed on the tree for about 30-60 days expanding the web as they go. When the time comes for them to pupate, they will drop to the ground and form cocoon-like structures in the leaf litter.

Nature usually does a good job of keeping these pests in check. Natural predators and parasites such as assassin bugs, viruses, and birds attack all stages of the fall webworm life cycle and help to reduce their

numbers. Homeowners can help out the process by breaking open the nests with a broomstick or a hard stream of water from a garden hose. This breaks down the protective barrier and opens up the nest, so that birds and other enemies can get in.



Wheelbug eating a fall webworm.
Photo Credit: Lacy Hyche, Auburn University

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The most pronounced defoliating culprit this year has been the pinkstriped oakworms (*Anisota virginienensis*). They have been munching on landscape oak leaves in great numbers. The first thing homeowners usually notice is the pellets all over their cars or on their pool decks. These pellets are the castings of the caterpillar. The pinkstriped oakworm can be found all across the eastern United States. Hundreds of pinkstriped oakworm eggs are laid on the undersides of host plants in the spring. The caterpillars are greenish brown with four pink stripes running the length of the body. Their heads are fairly large and green in color. These oakworms can grow to about 2 inches long, and have a pair of long, curved black "horns". When the larvae are fully grown they fall to the ground and pupate in the soil with the last generation pupating through the winter.



Pinkstriped oakworm. Photo Credit: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Yellownecked Caterpillar. Photo Credit: Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University

The yellownecked caterpillar (*Datana ministra*) is a late season defoliator of oaks, as well, as other hardwoods. It tends to be more severe in yard situations than in the forest environment. The larvae are black with yellow stripes, and covered with fine hairs. There is a large yellow segment right behind the head. The larvae are about two inches when fully grown. They will arch their head and tails in a "U" shaped position when they are disturbed. Because they eat in large groups a tree can be completely defoliated in a matter of weeks during the late summer. When the larvae mature, they too will drop to the ground and spend the winter as pupae in the soil. In the spring, the moths will appear and like the fall webworm, natural predators usually keep these pests under control.

Again, natural predators are the reason these pests are under control most of the time. Any use of chemical control should be targeted towards the caterpillars. For control of caterpillar pests try products containing Bt, or *Bacillus thuringiensis* a common biological control method used for caterpillars. It works well on early instars. The problem with indiscriminant chemical control is that many products will kill the natural predators along with the pests. Therefore, chemical insecticides should be chosen wisely and the label directions should be followed.

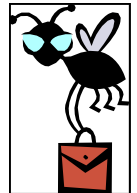
Duval County Extension
1010 N. McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32254
(904) 255-7450
Fax: (904) 387-8902
Website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Local EXTENSION Offices



Duval County
1010 N. McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville FL 32254
(904) 255-7450
FAX 387-8902
<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

Erin Harlow - Commercial Horticulture/Urban IPM
erine@coj.net

Larry Figart - Urban and Community Forestry
lfigart@coj.net

Rebecca Jordi - Co. Extension Director
Nassau County
543350 US Highway 1
Callahan, FL 32011-6486
(904) 491-7340
<http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/>
rljordi@ufl.edu

Amy Morie - Horticulture
Clay County
2463 SR 16 West
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(904) 284-6355
<http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu/>
amorie@ufl.edu

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