

# Commercial Clippings

December/January 2016

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



## Become a Certified Landscape Technician

The Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) provides industry certifications opportunities to individuals or companies who want to gain more knowledge in landscaping, for employee advancement and also those who want to increase their professionalism. There are five different FNGLA certifications including horticulture professional, landscape technician, maintenance, contractor and designer. These are all stand-alone exams and the Duval County Extension Office has been providing a class for preparing for the horticulture professional exam for many years. In January 2016, the Extension Office will offer the FNGLA Landscape Technician (FCLT) exam at the Jacksonville Zoo for the first time.

This exam is hands-on and includes eight different stations that individuals must complete to earn their certification. The certification focuses on installation and includes plant identification, plan layout, tree planting, staking and pruning, palm banding and propping, grading, drainage and elevations, irrigation, equipment operation and job evaluation. Each section must be passed with a minimum score of 70%. Once a certification is earned it is valid for three years and requires 15 FNGLA continuing education units (CEUs) to renew. We hope to rotate this exam and also the landscape maintenance certification exam each year. This means that this exam would be available again in 2018 in Northeast Florida, so if you are interested make sure you participate. This exam is only offered at three other sites in Florida. The Extension Office will also continue to provide the 2-Day Landscape Professional class as a review of the FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional exam once a year.

Individuals signed up to take the FCLT exam will have the opportunity to walk through the exam the afternoon of January 26th. In the future, we plan on providing a more comprehensive, in-depth class if there is interest. To register for the exam please contact Merry Mott at [mmott@fn gla.org](mailto:mmott@fn gla.org).

Erin Harlow is the Commercial Horticulture Agent for the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Duval County.



# WINTER WORKSHOPS

2015-2016

<b>January 6 February 3 March 2 Wednesday (Duval)</b>	<b>Pesticide Testing - Restricted-Use, Limited, and Public Health Exams</b>  9:15 am and 11:30 am Please pre-register at <a href="https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com">https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com</a> for restricted-use (commercial, public, or private) and limited exams. For public health exams please call 904-255-7450 or email Erin Harlow at <a href="mailto:erine@coj.net">erine@coj.net</a> .
<b>February 5 Friday (Duval)</b>	<b>Pesticide Testing - Certified Pest Operator Exams</b>  9:15 am - 4 hour exam Must be pre-register at <a href="https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com">https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com</a> . Must be pre-approved by Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Bring your voucher number, approval documents and picture ID.
<b>January 4 Monday (Callahan) 904-530-6353</b>	<b>CORE Pesticide Review and Exam</b>  9:00 am - 1:00 pm \$30 pre-registration by 12/27; \$50 at the door  Four hour review class for the CORE exam. 4 CORE CEUs are also available. The CORE Exam will be available following the class (optional). Lunch included. This is a review class and examinees are expected to study prior to attending the class. To register, please call Luke Harlow at 904-530-6353.
<b>January 14 Thursday (Duval)</b>	<b>Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs)</b>  8:30 am – 3:30 pm \$25.00 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: <a href="http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/GI-BMPs.shtml">http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/GI-BMPs.shtml</a> .  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.
<b>January 27 Wednesday (Jax Zoo)</b>	<b>UF is hosting the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association's Certified Landscape Technician Exam</b>  \$ 225 for FNGLA members and \$425 for non-members Check article on page 1 for more information. To register please contact Merry Mott at <a href="mailto:mmott@fngla.org">mmott@fngla.org</a> .

## All classes require pre-registration

Unless stated will be held at the  
Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N McDuff Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254  
To register visit us at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu> and click Commercial Horticulture/Calendar  
or call 904-255-7450

**February 11 & 12  
Thurs-Friday  
(Jax Fairgrounds)**

### **Jacksonville Landscape Show Seminars**

9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
\$15.00 per seminar  
To register visit <http://www.nefngla.org/> or pay at the door.  
More information on page 5.  
ISA, FL pesticide, GA pesticide, and FNGLA CEUs will be available.

**February 18  
Thursday  
(Duval)**

### **Florida Turfgrass Association Regional Seminars**

8:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Members - \$45 early registration; \$60 on-site  
Non-Members - \$50 early; \$60 on-site  
  
Register at: <http://www.ftga.org/turf-seminars/general-information/>  
  
CEUS available: FDACS, GCSAA, FNGLA, and CCA.  
Lunch included.

**February 23  
Tuesday  
(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  
  
6 CEUs Total: 3 CORE & 3 LCLM, 3 LL&O or 3 L&O  
Lunch included, textbooks not included  
The exam is no longer provided after the class. Please check with your local extension office for testing options.  
  
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 consider attending a different class that offers those CEUs. There are many to choose from throughout the year.

**February 25  
Thursday  
(Duval)**

### **Right-of-Way & Natural Areas Exam Review & Testing**

8:30 am - 2 :30 pm  
\$40 pre-registration prior to 2/19/16; \$60 after 2/22 or at the door  
  
Right-of-way and natural areas CEUs will be available.  
This is a review class and examinees are expected to study prior to attending the class.

# Beach Vitex, A New Invader

Larry Figart



Beach vitex plant  
Photo: Larry Figart, UF/IFAS



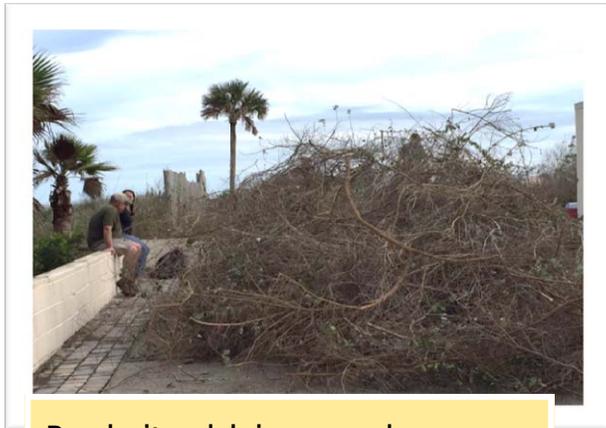
Many of our invasive plants did not sneak into the United States, they were invited. Kudzu and Melaleuca are two examples. A new invasive plant that was widely planted in South Carolina for dune stabilization has been recently found in NE. Florida. This plant is called beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*). The plant has recently been evaluated as “**Invasive - Not Recommended**” on the IFAS Assessment.

This plant does a great job of stabilizing dunes, almost too good. It is very salt tolerant, spreads very quickly, has a thick woody root system that traps sand and attractive purple flowers. Originating from the coastal areas of the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific, the beach vitex has no natural enemies in the United States. In many areas it has grown unchecked and is now threatening sea turtle nests. It can grow so fast it will grow on top of the nests while the eggs are incubating, preventing them from emerging after they hatch.

In Florida, the beach vitex was first discovered in the panhandle near Pensacola in 2013 and has recently been found in several places in Ponte Vedra. It is not known how widespread this plant is in NE Florida. A large plant that had been growing unchecked for about three years was just reported in Ponte Vedra. The clump had reached the size of about 1/4th of an acre and had completely dominated the dune excluding all other plants. The images in this article are from that site. →

*Beach vitex, continued*

Unlike many of our invasive plants, beach vitex is something that can be eradicated with some effort. So the bottom line is how you get rid of it. First you will need to remove as much of the plant as you can. If there are seeds on the plant, as many as possible would need to be collected (in the removal work day I just attended, we picked the seeds off the plants before we removed the plant). This is very labor intensive. You would then apply a herbicide to the freshly cut stumps. Thick stands of small seedlings or re-sprouts can be treated with a roller dipped in herbicide. Sparse seedling populations can be pulled out manually. Clippings should be placed in plastic trash bags and sent to a landfill. They should not be used for mulch, as seeds and broken shoots left



**Beach vitex debris removed.**  
Photo: Larry Figart, UF/IFAS

behind will wash to new beaches during storms and take root. For further information, contact me at [lfigart@coj.net](mailto:lfigart@coj.net).

**Beach vitex runners.**  
Photo: Larry Figart, UF/IFAS



Larry Figart is the Urban Forestry Agent for the University of Florida Extension, Duval County.

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**Jacksonville Landscape SHOW**

**February 11 & 12, 2016**  
at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds

**FNGLA**  
FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION  
Leading America's Green Industry

Buy tickets online and Save \$2

## 2016 Seminars

- Recognizing Nutrient Deficiencies on Ornamentals
- Pesticide Safety and Handling Part I & II
- Improving Your Accounts through Proper Product Use
- Sedge Control in Turf
- Mycorrhizae: How it Affects Soil Structure and Plant Development
- Revving-up Your Landscape: Tried and Trialed Plants for Commercial Sites

## Registration

Register online and save! <http://www.nefngla.org/>  
You can also pay at the door. \$15 per seminar.

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

FDACS, GA, ISA, and FNGLA

# Winter Watering

## Are You Watering on the Correct Day?

It's been a bit wetter than usual so far as we move toward the beginning of 2016. While there's no way to predict whether wet weather will show up in our normally dry winter months of December and January, keeping plants supplied with the right amount of moisture over winter is critical to plant health. Overwatering in particular is a major source of plant failure in the landscape. Watering may not be your responsibility in the landscapes you work with, but it can have a huge impact on the results of your work. Learn the signs of overwatering and discuss them with clients when they arise.



Puddles, algae and mosses are obvious signs of over-watering. Less obvious might be the impact on plants. Initially, plants may appear wilted. Also look for stunted plant growth, yellowing and/or dropping leaves, or leaves that turn brown but are soft and limp instead of dry and crunchy. You may also see edemas – blister or pimple-like protrusions on leaves that become brown and scab-like. These result when plant cells burst from over-hydration. Advising clients to adjust irrigation to recommended levels can help address signs of overwatering. By law, automatic irrigation system watering is restricted to one day a week during daylight savings time (first Sunday in November through second Sunday in March). The rest of the year, two waterings a week are allowed. Watering must take place between 4pm and 10 am; the day of the week depends on the property type and address:

Time of year	Homes with <u>odd</u> numbered or no addresses	Homes with <u>even</u> numbered addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight saving time	Wednesday/Saturday	Thursday/Sunday	Tuesday/Friday
Eastern Standard Time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

You can still water-in products you apply as required by the label, but be mindful of each landscape's watering schedule to avoid over-watering. Watering one day a week is the recommended rate for optimal plant health, but it's not recommended to take a "set it and forget it" or a "turn off the tap" approach. Some regular water is critical to plant health, as well as, fire safety concerns. Watering should ideally be spaced so that the top 1"-2" of soil are allowed to dry out between irrigation events. With that in mind, adjustments to irrigation timing may be needed based on rainfall levels. An operational shut-off device should be installed and checked a few times a year to make sure it is in good working →

*Watering, continued*

order. Also recommend checking the system when watering times change to make sure parts are in good working order and are delivering the right amount of water. Clients can also purchase an inexpensive rain gauge to keep an eye on how much water their landscape is getting from Mother Nature. With better information on watering for healthy landscapes, your clients can become allies in keeping landscapes looking their best.

Table credit: <http://floridaswater.com/wateringrestrictions>

Image credits: UF/IFAS Communications

References:

“Watering Your Florida Lawn.” UF/IFAS: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh025>

“Frequently Asked Questions on District Watering Restrictions.” St Johns River Water Management District: <http://floridaswater.com/wateringrestrictions/FAQs.html>

“Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook: #2: Water Efficiently” UF/IFAS: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Water\\_Efficiently\\_vSept09.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Water_Efficiently_vSept09.pdf)

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Amy Morie is the Horticulture Agent for the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Clay County.



## Certified Pest Operator Exams on the Move!

All 4 categories of CPO exams are now available at your local Extension Office.

At this time, 24 Extension Offices, including Duval County are now providing CPO exams on the computer.

To take advantage of taking your exam close to home, apply for your license online at <https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com>. You will upload all of your paperwork for approval by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and then you can schedule with your extension office to take your exam.

Our next test date in Duval County is February 6th! We will be providing them every few weeks or as there is a need and will post the schedule on our calendar at [http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/commer\\_hort\\_training.shtml](http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/commer_hort_training.shtml) and in this newsletter.

For questions with scheduling, please contact Erin Harlow at [erine@coj.net](mailto:erine@coj.net).



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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.

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