

Commercial Clippings

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

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

February/March 2015

Issue 36, Page 1

Inside this issue:

Turf Herbicide & Fertilizer	1
Fall Programs	2-3
Bahiminy Blind Snake	4-5
Crapemyrtle Pruning	6
Pruning Roses	7
Contact Us	8



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

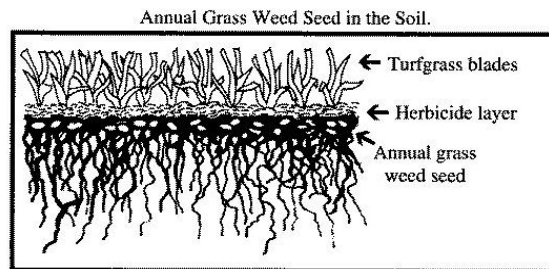
Timing is Everything for Lawns and Landscapes

By Erin Harlow

Pre-emergent Herbicide

Pre-emergent herbicides are one of the most effective ways to get an early handle on weeds for summer. To be effective, the pre-emergent herbicide has to be down before the weed seeds germinate so a good guideline in North FL is prior to March 1st. Be careful about putting it out too early, if there is a lot of rainfall, the product won't be there to be available.

The pre-emergent herbicide creates a barrier that inhibits root or shoot development and needs to remain intact for the product to work. These herbicides won't hurt existing plants, although you may see some root clubbing or slower green-up if you are using a root-inhibiting type of herbicide such as prodiamine.



Pre-emergent herbicide barrier. Credit: OSU

Most summer weeds will be treated with this first application, however, there are some that germinate later including crabgrass and chamberbitter. A second application of pre-emergent herbicide is normally recommended around May to be ready for these stubborn summer weeds. Reading your label and knowing which weeds you are targeting will help ensure success whether in the lawn or landscape.

Fertilizer

Fertilizing of shrubs usually takes place in February, but for turf, UF's new recommendation is around April 15th for North Florida. If that is too late for your route-based business then opt for very low doses of nitrogen in March to aid in spring green-up. However, check your nitrogen source because if it breaks down through microbial action, then the microbes may not be active if the soil temperatures are not warm enough and you will not see the response you expect. This new recommendation is based on eight years of research by Drs. Laurie Trenholm, Bryan Unruh, and John Cisar, funded by the Department of Environmental Protection. The research showed that turf grass is not taking up large amounts of nitrogen or phosphorous in the winter and early spring months because roots just aren't developed enough or the temperature is not conducive to nutrient uptake. Be careful applying nitrogen too early in the year (January or February) because if growth occurs and then there is a hard freeze the turf can become damaged.

SPRING WORKSHOPS

2015

<p>February 4, 2015 March 4, 2015 April 1, 2015 Wednesday (Duval)</p>	<p>Pesticide Testing</p> <p>9:15 am Please pre-register by either calling 904-255-7450 or if you are taking a restricted-use or limited pesticide test then you can register to take the test via a computer at our office. You have to sign-up for a voucher and test date at https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/.</p>
<p>February 18, 2015 Wednesday (Duval)</p>	<p>Florida Turfgrass Association Regional Seminar</p> <p>More information at http://www.ftga.org/ or call 800-882-6721 to register. GCSAA and FL Pesticide CEUs available</p>
<p>March 4, 2015 (Duval)</p>	<p>Worker Protection Standards: Train-the-Trainer</p> <p>9:00 am - 11:30 am \$5.00</p> <p>Workshop is for pesticide applicators on farms, forests, nurseries, or greenhouses.</p>
<p>March 12, 2015 Friday (Duval)</p>	<p>Advanced Landscape Workshop: Palms and New Landscape Pests</p> <p>8:30 am - 12:10 pm \$15.00 CEUS have been applied for: 4 L&O, 4 LCLM, 4 LLO, 4 O&T, 4 ROW, 4 Pvt, 4 FNGLA</p>
<p>March 13, 2015 (Clay) 904-284-6355 to register</p>	<p>Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop</p> <p>8:15 am - 3:00 pm - Full Day; 8:15 am – 12:00 pm - Half Day \$30.00 for either full or half day</p>
<p>April 9, 2015 (Duval)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>To register, download the brochure, or for more information about the exam or books, please visit: http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml.</p> <p>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.</p>



Find us on:
facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
DuvalCountyAgriculture](https://www.facebook.com/DuvalCountyAgriculture)

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

March 30, April 13,
20, 27
(Duval - Monday
Evenings)

ISA Arborist Exam Preparation

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
\$50.00

To register visit : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/certified-arborist-exam-preparation-tickets-15570916029> or make checks payable to DCOHAC and send to:

Larry Figart, 1010 N McDuff Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32254

This course is designed to review some of the important concepts of the Arborist Certification Study Guide. This course will augment any study program you may be currently doing. **It does not take the place of studying for the exam.** Each participant will receive a notebook with program notes.

March 26, 2015
(Clay)
904-284-6355 to
register

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

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: <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.

April 14, 2015
(Duval)

Pest Control Operator CEU Day

CEUs & Technician Training Hours Provided as well.
8:00 am - 9:40 am Lawn & Ornamental (\$5.00) (2 L&O, 2 LUF, 2 LL&O, 2 LCLM, 2 O&T, 2
Pvt)
10:00 am - 11:40 am CORE (\$5.00) (2 CORE 482, 2 CORE 487)
11:40 am - 12:30 pm Lunch from Clara's Tidbits (\$15.00) Optional
12:30 pm - 2:10 pm - General Household Pests (\$5.00) (2 GHP, 2 LS)
2:30 pm - 4:10 pm - Wood Destroying Organisms/Termite (\$5.00) (2 WDO)
2:30 pm - 4:10 pm - Public Health (\$5.00) (2 PH) (concurrent session)

Pre-register for lunch by emailing Erin Harlow at erine@coj.net or paying online at [http://
duval.ifas.ufl.edu/PCO_CEU_Day.shtml](http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/PCO_CEU_Day.shtml).

Friday the 13th Feature: The ‘Black Worms’

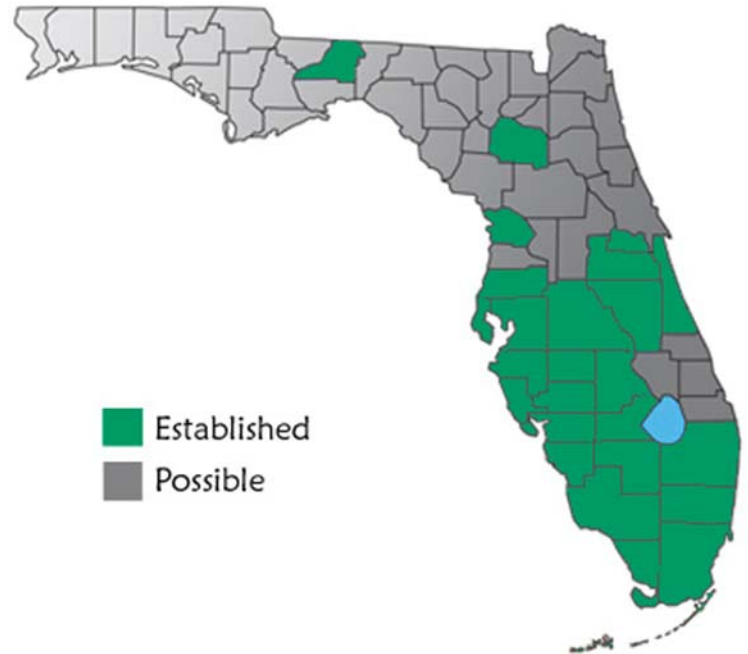
By Amy Morie

This year, February and March each have a Friday the 13th. What better opportunity to take a look at one of those ‘creepy’ Florida residents you may encounter in the landscape? Let’s face it, there’s no state like our own state of Florida for natural critters that give us the jitters. But is this uncanny resident all that it’s hyped up to be or is this a no-alarm sighting for you and your crew? Creepy or not – you be the judge.

You may know this description if you’ve come across our uncanny creature. It’s black or brownish-black, it’s shiny, it likes to hide under logs or burrow in leaves and soil – including flower pots! It has an all-female population that can reproduce without males, helping the spread of this invader. It may even end-up indoors... crept out yet? If so, take a deep breath. The likely identification is a *Ramphotyphlops braminus* or Brahminy blind snake. Also known as a ‘Flower Pot Snake’ for its frequent choice of homes, these tiny (2” – 6”) creatures are non-venomous. Brahminy blind snakes eat the eggs, larvae and adults of ants and termites. They resemble earthworms, but look closely and you’ll see scales and not segments.

NON-NATIVE SPECIES:

If you spot a Brahminy blind snake, report it to www.IveGot1.org



Brahminy blind snake range image: UF/IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Continued on page 5



[HTTP://DUVAL.IFAS.UFL.EDU](http://DUVAL.IFAS.UFL.EDU)

Come check out what else is going on at the Extension Office!



Image: Leslie S. Babonis, UF Department of Zoology

References:

“Brahminy Blind Snake, Flower Pot Snake [NON-NATIVE].” <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-snakes/list/ramphotyphlops-braminus/>

“Dealing with Snakes in Florida's Residential Areas - Identifying Commonly Encountered Snakes.” <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw258>

“Florida's Snakes: Brahminy Blindsnake (Ramphotyphlops braminus).” <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/snakes/brahminyblindsnake.shtml>

“Nonnatives - Brahminy Blind Snake.” <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/reptiles/brahminy-blind-snake/>

Continued from page 4

To prevent snakes from getting indoors, make sure window screens and door seals are in good repair. If pots will be kept indoors seasonally to protect tender plants, advise clients to blow out leaves, shake containers and otherwise encourage blind snakes and other potential indoor pests to leave. Do this a few hours ahead of moving time. The ‘Black Worms’ may not be trouble for your work, but they’re trouble for Florida: report this and other invasive species if you see them by visiting www.IveGot1.org online.



Image: Jason Bazzano, National Park Service

Rainbird Irrigation Academy coming to Jacksonville!

April 20, 2015 - Introduction to Irrigation & Installation
 April 21 & 22, 2015 - Irrigation Technician Course—2 Day
 April 23, 2015 - Landscape Irrigation Design Process
 April 24, 2015 - Efficient Irrigation Scheduling



To register or for more information visit http://www.prereg.net/rainbird3/list_events.cfm?id=931&code=&emp= or call

This is not a University of Florida event, although the class will be held at the Duval County Extension Office.

How to Properly Prune Crapemyrtles

By Larry Figart, UF/Duval County Urban Forestry Extension Agent

It is that time of year when your clients start thinking about pruning their crapemyrtles. Unfortunately, for many folks that involves topping the tree. Topping requires less skill and time than other pruning methods, but it also results in delayed flowering, weak growth and unattractive sprouting. Not only is topping crapemyrtles ugly, it increases maintenance requirements on an otherwise low-maintenance tree.

In the past, it was true that you pruned crapemyrtles to reduce powdery mildew infestations. With today's resistant cultivars, crapemyrtles require very little pruning. In fact, a crapemyrtle planted in full sun with plenty of space to grow needs little to no pruning at all.



Remove rubbing or crossing branches

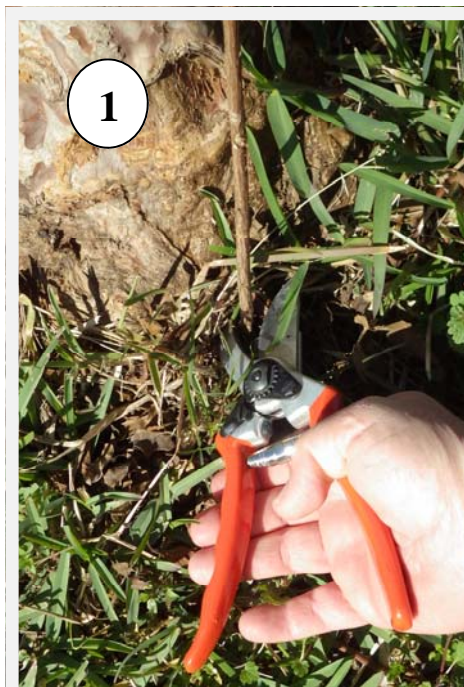
pruning is the most labor intensive, but it also results in a more aesthetically attractive tree.

Recent research from the University of Florida has demonstrated that the number of crapemyrtle blooms decrease in direct correlation to the size of the branch removed. In other words, the larger the branch removed, the fewer the blooms. However, blooms on pruned trees were larger than blooms on un-pruned trees. To receive the benefit of larger flowers from pruning, prune just pencil sized branches without jeopardizing overall tree health caused by topping the tree. For more information refer to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/EP/EP39900.pdf>.

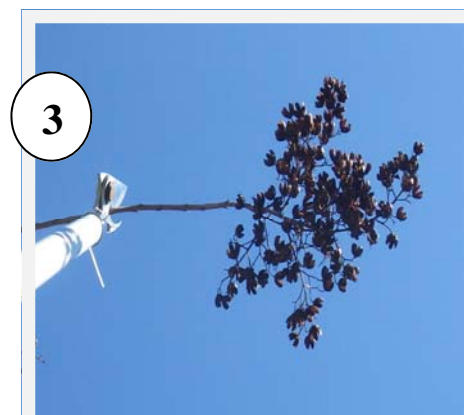
If you find yourself in the position to prune crapemyrtles, here are a few simple steps to follow. First, prune sucker sprouts and basal sprouts. If left to grow, these sprouts may form woody stems that eventually compete with existing main stems.

Second, prune any rubbing or crossing branches, as well as, dead branches. This may include branches that are crossing through the canopy from one side to another. As always make the pruning cuts at the branch collar.

Third, (this one is optional) tip prune the branches to remove spent flower buds. This is also called pencil pruning because the branches removed are no thicker than a pencil. This type of



Prune Basal Sprouts.



Remove spent flowers (optional)



<http://www.nefngla.org>

7 Educational Seminars with CEUs

Speakers include:

Dr. Gary Knox, UF Ornamental Specialist
 Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, UF Turf Breeder
 Dr. Andrew Koeser, UF Horticulture Specialist
 Dr. Steven Arthurs, UF IPM Specialist
 Dr. Matthew Smith, UF Pathology Specialist
 Erin Harlow, UF Extension Agent
 Terra Freeman, UF Extension Agent
 Karen Stauderman, UF Extension Agent



Show Your Roses some Love on Valentine's Day

By Erin Harlow

Valentine's Day is synonymous with roses, but if you are a landscaper you should be thinking about pruning the roses in the landscape come February 14th. Knockout and drift roses have become very popular and are seen in both residential and commercial properties. While these roses don't necessarily have to be pruned, it will help improve form and overall health of the plant if they are maintained. In February or early March, remove 1/3rd to 1/2 of the plant. You also want to remove any dead, crossing, or diseased canes at this time. Make sure to prune right above a bud. You should expect blooms again in eight to nine weeks. If it is a climbing rose then don't prune until after the rose has bloomed since they bloom on last year's wood.



Shrub rose after pruning.
Photo credit: Theresa Friday

This is also the perfect time to fertilize your shrub roses. It is recommended that you use a rose fertilizer with micronutrients. Depending on your schedule and the aesthetics the customer wants will depend on the type of fertilizer to choose and how often to apply. Roses enthusiast will tell you to fertilize every month, but it is unlikely you will be paid to fertilize more than twice a year. So work out your schedule with your client. If you are limited on the number of applications then look for a slow release product (N-P-K) with soluble micronutrients. Normally rose fertilizers are 1:1:1 ratio between the nitrogen: phosphorous: potassium. They are also normally acidifying to help lower pH. Read the label for rates and remember to not band the fertilizer around the roots, but rather scatter it out over the root area.

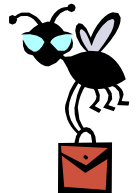
Duval County Extension
1010 N. McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32254
(904) 255-7450
Fax: (904) 387-8902
Website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 1482

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Local EXTENSION Offices



Duval County
1010 N. McDuff Avenue
Jacksonville FL 32254
(904) 255-7450 Phone
(904) 387-8902 Fax
<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) 530-6353 or 1-855-212-1244
<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

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.