



# Commercial Clippings

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

**UF | IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**June/July 2014**

**Issue 32, Page 1**

## Inside this issue:

Fertilizer License	<b>1</b>
Summer Programs	<b>2-3</b>
Graphiola Leaf Spot	<b>4</b>
Online Renewal	<b>5</b>
Pruning Trees	<b>6-7</b>
Contact Us	<b>8</b>

## Applying Fertilizer? Do you have Your License Yet?

By Erin Harlow

If you apply fertilizers as part of your business in an urban setting then you need to have your Limited Urban Fertilizer Certification. This includes granular and liquid applications to turf and ornamentals and organic or synthetic products.

The Department of Agriculture is busy inspecting and asked me to include a reminder in our newsletter because they are finding an overwhelming number of people do not have their license. Many applicators have completed the Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP), but then have not applied for the Urban Fertilizer License. These are two separate documents.

To get the fertilizer license you have to complete the GI-BMP workshop either online, in-person, or by a DVD. More information on upcoming classes, how to order the free DVD, or sign-up for the online class can be found at <http://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu>. Once you pass the test at the end then you will receive your GI-BMP certificate and can then apply for your Limited Urban Fertilizer License with the state. You can even pay for it online now with a credit card. Learn how to do this on page 5. Paying for it online is much easier because you don't have to mail any documents to Tallahassee.

If you fail to obtain this license and continue to fertilizer shrubs or turf without it then you are operating without a license. This could result in a fine upwards of \$5,000.



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



# SUMMER WORKSHOPS

2014

**June 4, 2014**  
**July 18, 2014**  
**August 6, 2014**  
**Wednesday**  
**(Duval)**

## Pesticide Testing

9:15 am

Please pre-register by either calling Becky Davidson at 904-255-7450 or if you are taking a restricted-use 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/>.

**June 5, 2014**  
**Thursday**  
**(Duval)**

## Certified Pest Control Operators of Florida (CPCO) CEU Day

7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Free for CPCO Members

\$30 per category for non-members, \$20 for tech training

To register call 954-729-2726 or visit <http://cpccofflorida.org/ceus.html>. All categories 2 L&O, 2 CORE, 2 GHP, 2 WDO, 2 FUM.

**June 6, 2014**  
**Friday**  
**(Duval)**

## 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.

**July 1, 2014**  
**Tuesday**  
**@ Ewing Irrigation**

## Turf Talks Around Town: Sedge Control and Prevention

8:00 am - 9:00 am

FREE

Seminar will be at 11590 Davis Creek Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32256; phone (904) 370-1100

Sponsored by Ewing Irrigation; register at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/TurfTalks.shtml>



**July 7-11, 2014**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**(Duval) @ Blue Cypress**

## 4-H Discover Florida 4-H Summer Camp (Ages 11-14)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

\$95.00 per child, includes snacks and activities



Provides youth with a glimpse into the natural world of Florida. We will focus on plants, trees, insects, water, soils, and historical Florida culture. Activities will include building native bee colonies, making paper, and ends with a kayaking trip. Register by calling Gaye Schmidt at 904-255-7450 or online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/duval-county-4-h-2599075056?ref=eorgbtn>

**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.

<b>July 29, 2014 Tuesday @ John Deere Landscapes</b>	<p><b>Turf Talks Around Town: Webworm and Armyworm Control and Prevention</b></p> <p>8:00 am - 9:00 am, Seminar will be at John Deere Landscapes at 8618 Phillips Hwy, Jacksonville, FL 32256, Phone 904-880-0999</p> <p>FREE Sponsored by John Deere Landscapes; register at <a href="http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/TurfTalks.shtml">http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/TurfTalks.shtml</a></p>  <p><b>JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES</b></p>
<b>July 16, 2014 Wednesday (Duval)</b>	<p><b>Homeowner Association Series: Exploring Florida-Friendly Landscaping - Turf and Beyond</b></p> <p>9:00 am - 11:30 am \$5.00 Program is intended for HOA board members, residents, and landscapers.</p> 
<b>August 8, 2014 Friday (Duval)</b>	<p><b>Advanced Landscape Training: Turf Basics - Cultivar Selection, Insects, Diseases, Weeds</b></p> <p>\$20.00 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Includes materials and handouts</p>
<b>August 19, 2014 Tuesday (Duval)</b>	<p><b>Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop</b></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>6 CEUs Total: 3 CORE &amp; 3 LCLM, 3 LL&amp;O, or 3 L&amp;O Lunch included, textbooks not included Optional LCLM or LL&amp;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: <a href="http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml">http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml</a>.</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 consider attending a different class that offers those CEUs. There are many to choose from throughout the year.</p>

## Date Palms Looking Spotty, Bumpy?

By Amy Morie

Are your client's date palm fronds looking a bit spotty, bumpy and crunchy this year? Before you assume an insect or nutrient deficiency is doing the damage, take a closer look. Ask yourself if the following are true:

- ◆ Is there chlorotic stippling on the older fronds?
- ◆ Are there small, dark or black-and-white, cup-shaped bumps on the underside of damaged fronds?
- ◆ Are the bump somewhat widely spaced and spread out?
- ◆ Is yellow dust present?



If all or most of the above are true, your problem may not be insects or nutrition. Commonly known as False Smut, *Graphiola phoenicis* is usually a minor issue if correctly diagnosed. This problem can be found on two primary hosts in Florida: Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) and Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). It also may infect other palms, but damage on other species is usually minor. Like many other forms of palm damage, this problem shows as chlorotic spotting on older leaves. While similar to potassium (K) deficiency or insect feeding, the underside of the fronds reveals a dark raised granule called sorus (sori is the plural form) that can easily be mistaken for insect frass. Look closer to spot the characteristic cup-shaped top, which may contain distinctly contrasting white filaments and yellow spores.

The good news is, the damage is cosmetic. The best way to get *Graphiola* Leaf Spot under control is to make conditions less favorable for development. Adjust irrigation so that fronds are not wet when watering. Prune surrounding plants for better air circulation.

Generally, pruning fronds is not required. If you've kept a good fertilization program for your client's palms, then for clients with higher maintenance expectations it's okay to prune fronds with 30% or more damage to the surface area. Unlike many fungi that develop rapidly, *Graphiola* takes almost a year from infection to spore production. Treatments can be expensive and will require repeated application. Fungicides will only help keep the problem from reoccurring, but won't fix the appearance of infected leaves. For the rare case of a severe infestation, mark your calendar for the infection period, November through late March, to begin fungicide treatments.

### References

- “False Smut Disease of Palms: *Graphiola phoenicis*” <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/CommHort/CommHortPubs/False%20smut.pdf>
- “*Graphiola* Leaf Spot (False Smut) of Palm” <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp140>
- “Leaf Spots and Leaf Blights of Palm” <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp142>

## PAYING FOR LICENSES AND EXAMS JUST GOT EASIER

BY ERIN HARLOW

In a world where everything is becoming digital, you now have the option to pay for new licenses and license renewals online. To pay for a renewal you have to be within 60 days of the expiration date. You can also upload all of your CEU forms at any time. This is great if you can't keep track of them for four years.

To renew or pay for a license or exam go to the website <https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com/>. You will have to create an account when you first sign in, but you can then pay for any of your limited licenses (fertilizer, round-up, wildlife, structural, or government) and any of the restricted-use exams.

If you are going to take any of these exams in Duval County then you will be prompted to sign-up for a voucher number to take the exam on a computer here at our office. Yes, you read that correctly, you can now take your Limited Certifications on the computer and get instant results! You do have to bring the voucher saying you have paid before we will administer an exam. Exams are given on the first Wed of the month and you have to be pre-registered. We still do not offer the state Pest Control Operator's Exam however.



### TURF TALKS AROUND TOWN

Join Extension for this NEW seminar series all about turfgrass. Topics will rotate as will locations throughout Jacksonville. CEUs will be provided. Seminar is FREE.

7/1 - Sedge Control and Prevention. Sponsored by Ewing Irrigation. Call Ewing at 904-880-0999 or the Extension Office at 904-255-7450 to register.



7/29 - Webworm and Armyworm Control and Prevention sponsored by John Deere Landscapes



Register at [http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/  
TurfTalks.shtml](http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/TurfTalks.shtml) or by calling 904-255-7450 or the local sponsor.

## How NOT to Prune Trees

By Larry Figart



Image 1

There are tons of articles out there that explain the correct way to prune trees. In an attempt to try a different approach, this article will highlight some recently pruned trees in Jacksonville and recommend how things should have been done differently. Hopefully it will be easier to recognize poor pruning so that as suppliers of tree care services we will be better able to provide quality tree care.

First, lets start with this lacebark elm in **Image 1**. It was pruned using a cut called a heading cut. Some may call this topping. This kind of pruning is dangerous for two reasons. First, it opens the entire tree to decay increasing the likelihood of tree failure in the future and then the new sprouts that form are poorly attached and may break off when they get larger. If anyone requesting your services says that their tree needs to be topped, provide them with the proper information detailing why topping is bad for trees. While it may be possible to restore this tree with time, it is not recommended because

of the increased likelihood of tree failure in the future. It is better to remove this tree and start over.

The tree in **Image 2** has been over lifted. This over-lifting or over-thinning is often referred to as lions-tailing. It leaves live branches only at the tips of the canopy. Lions-tailing is often sold as a type of pruning that makes the tree more wind tolerant by allowing the wind to go through the canopy versus against it. While one may argue that this type of pruning is practical and easy to do, it actually makes the tree more susceptible to wind damage rather than less. All the weight is concentrated in the outer part of the limb and it would take less effort to break them.



Image 2

*Continued on page 7*

## How NOT to Prune Trees, *continued from pg 6*

By Larry Figart



To restore a tree that has been over-thinned or lions-tailed, allow sprouts to develop along the branches for a few years. Your goal is to eventually develop a few sprouts into permanent branches. Remove some of the sprouts and shorten others two or three years after the tree was over-pruned making sure that the ones you leave are more or less evenly distributed along the branches. Make a special effort to keep sprouts toward the base of the main branches to develop.

Palm trees are not immune from poor pruning. Often they are a victim of pruning called a "hurricane cut", see **Image 3**. Unfortunately this type of pruning, provided by folks that are not knowledgeable about palms is on the rise. First, it is not needed since most palms are wind resistant anyway. Secondly this type of pruning weakens the tree by causing the trunk to gradually become skinnier and skinnier resulting in a weak trunk. This poor practice also contributes to nutrient deficiencies in the tree and reduces the cold tolerance of the tree in winter. The solution to hurricane cuts is to only prune brown or half-brown fronds. The outline of palm canopies, for most species, should be a nine o'clock to three o'clock position.

Unlike these examples of poor pruning, **proper pruning** contributes to the wind tolerance, longevity and health of our trees. For more information on tree pruning go to [www.hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody](http://www.hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody). To find information about becoming an ISA Certified Arborist go to [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) and click on "Professional Credentials".

Image 3

### Get Instant Results on your Limited Exams

Take your Limited exams on a computer at the Extension Office  
and get instant results! Find out how to do it on page 5.

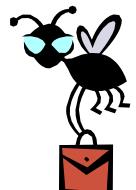
Duval County Extension  
1010 N. McDuff Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32254  
(904) 255-7450  
Fax: (904) 387-8902  
Website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

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  
FAX 387-8902  
<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

Erin Harlow - Commercial Horticulture/Urban IPM  
[erine@coj.net](mailto:erine@coj.net)

Larry Figart - Urban and Community Forestry  
[lfigart@coj.net](mailto: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/>  
[rlijordi@ufl.edu](mailto:rlijordi@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](mailto: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.