



# Commercial Clippings

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

October/November 2012

Issue 22, Page 1



## In this Issue:

Armillaria Root Rot	pg 1
Upcoming Classes	pg 2-3
Computerized Pesticide Exams	pg 4
Do You Know?	pg 4
Featured Creature	pg 5
Lions-Tailing Trees	pg 6-7
Turfgrass Field Day & Creek Wars	pg 7
Contact Us	pg 8



### Armillaria Root Rot By Erin Harlow

Mushroom Root Rot or Armillaria is a disease that affects many woody landscape plants. Symptoms range from wilting to death. You may notice dieback either in sections or on the entire plant. Symptoms can appear quickly, but often they develop slowly over time. Mushrooms are normally observed at this time of year (photo right), but not always. This fungal disease can kill most ornamental plants and is particularly damaging to stressed plants. This pathogen can also affect small woody shrubs and trees such as laurel oaks and sweet gums.



Mushrooms produced by Armillaria  
Photo credit: Dr. Jason Smith, UF, SFRC

Plants with this disease may have thin canopies, wilting branches, dieback, and loss of vigor. If you don't see the mushrooms, check the bark by peeling back a layer of the outer cambium. You are looking for white mycelium (photo on the right).

This disease is not treatable with a fungicide. You may have many plants that are affected, but not die right away until they are really stressed normally by environmental factors such as temperature or humidity changes. It is best to remove infected plants and replace them with healthier ones. For more information on Armillaria Root Rot, visit Gardening in a Minute [http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/problems/diseases\\_and\\_pests/mushroom\\_root.html](http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/problems/diseases_and_pests/mushroom_root.html) to access publications or listen to a radio show about the disease.



White fungal mycelia fan of Armillaria  
Photo credit: Dr. Ed Barnard, FL DOF/DOACS

**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.

**October 15, 2012  
Monday  
(Hastings)**

### **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

**November 8, 2012  
Thursday  
(Lake City)**

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

**November 15, 2012  
Thursday  
(Gainesville)**

You must have all required paperwork to take the exam.  
For more information about the exam, books or to register, please visit:  
<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/LCLM2012.shtml>.

To register for Hastings call (386) 329-0318.  
To register for Lake City call (386) 752-5384.  
To register for Gainesville call (352) 955-2402.

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 the Advanced Landscape classes.

**October 10, 2012  
Wednesday  
(Duval @ Ewing  
Irrigation)**

### **Irrigation Basics Workshop**

8 am - 12 pm,  
\$15.00, includes breakfast and lunch

Class located at 11590 Davis Creek Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32256  
We will discuss basic irrigation techniques including repair, scheduling, and fixing minor breaks. We will also discuss licensing for Duval and surrounding counties.

**November 27, 2012  
Tuesday and  
November 28, 2012  
Wednesday  
(Duval)**

### **Two-Day Professional Landscape Training**

8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
\$150.00

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. If you already have a manual please let me know and the cost of the class will be adjusted by \$75.00.

This is an intensive hands-on 2-day course. FNGLA and FL pesticide CEUs will be provided. Lunch and snacks provided.

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<p><b>October 25, 2012</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>(Hastings)</b></p> <p><b>October 30, 2012</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>(Duval)</b></p> <p><b>December 18, 2012</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>(Duval)</b></p>	<p><b>Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs)</b></p> <p>8:30 am – 3:30 pm \$25.00 4 CEUs: 2 CORE &amp; 2 L&amp;O, 2 LCLM, 2 LL&amp;O, 2 O&amp;T or 2 Pvt</p> <p>To register for Hastings call (386) 329-0318. To register for Duval call (904) 255-7450.</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>December 7, 2012</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>(Duval)</b></p>	<p><b>Advanced Landscape Workshop</b></p> <p>8:00 am - 12:00 pm \$20.00, 4 CEUs have been applied for: 4 L&amp;O, 4 LCLM, 4 LL&amp;O, 4 O&amp;T, 4 pvt</p> <p>This class is designed for individuals who need to recertify their licenses. Topics include understanding nutrients, soil tests, and creating fertilizer programs and recognizing abnormalities of palms and other plants.</p>
<p><b>November 7, 2012</b> <b>December 5, 2012</b></p> <p><b>Wednesdays</b> <b>(Duval)</b></p>	<p><b>Pesticide Testing in Duval County</b></p> <p>Includes Limited, Public Health, and Restricted-Use Exams 8:30 am - optional CORE review video 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. You must have your paperwork to take a limited exams. These can be downloaded from our website.</p>
<p><b>October 19, 2012</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>(Duval)</b></p>	<p><b>Certified Pest Control Operators of Florida (CPCO) - CEU Day</b></p> <p>CEUs for Lawn and Ornamental, CORE, General Household Pests, Termite, and Funigation</p> <p>To register or for more information call Terri at 407-217-5655 or download form at <a href="http://www.cpcoefflorida.org/ceus.html">http://www.cpcoefflorida.org/ceus.html</a></p>

## DACS Unveils New Computerized Pesticide Testing By Erin Harlow

In an effort to streamline the pesticide exam process, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) is providing computerized pesticide testing. The Duval County Extension Office was chosen as one of three sites around the state to begin to provide the online exams. Computerized testing will likely be available beginning in January, but only for certain exams. At the moment, all private, public, and commercial restricted-use exams are available. Public health and Limited exams are still only available in the paper format. Here are the answers to a few questions you might be wondering.

### Does this mean that I have to take my exam online?

No, you can opt for a paper test instead.

### What is the benefit of doing my test online?

You get your results immediately. It still takes a few weeks to send the license once you go online and pay for it, but you know if you passed that day and can take a record of your score back to your office.



### What is the process for taking an exam online?

You first need to go to this website and register as a new user. <https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com/> Then follow the steps for the exam you want to take and pick the times that you would like to come to the office and take your exam. At this time, they will be given at our regularly scheduled times and dates (the first Wednesday of the month).

### What if I still want to do a paper exam?

If you are interested in signing-up for the paper exam you can either call us or access the registration at the Duval County website at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/PesticideTesting2012.shtml>.

## Do you know what this is?

### Have you ever wondered – where do all the insects go when it gets really cold?

There are still a few insect pests around that are tough enough to survive temperatures in the thirties while continuing to feed on our landscape plants, but they really are few in number. For the most part, insects have found their own unique ways to overwinter in our area. While their methods may not be as dramatic as the steps they would take if they faced a blanket of snow and lived in the north – the techniques they employ here can be just as interesting – as shown in the picture of a ladybug (ladybird) beetle pupa. At the end of fall this insect lives in a “self-constructed” protective “home” as it changes from the larval form into an adult. Not only does this now protect it from the winter’s cold, but it just makes sense for it to not be around as a hungry adult when its food (aphids) are no where to be seen until new spring leaves begin to emerge. Such predator/prey synchronization goes on (unnoticed) all around us this time of year. Check out the winter issue of Commercial Clipping to learn more about how insects cope with winter cold and diminished food supplies in our area of the country. **RZ.**



## Florida-Friendly Predator - Southern Two-Lined Salamander

by Raymond Zerba, Retired

Answer to the August/September 2012 "Do You Know What This Is?"

This month I have chosen to highlight a very secretive predator that we occasionally run across when we aren't really looking for him/her, but its there just waiting for a small roach, pillbug, chinch bug, ant or other juicy morsel to come within its reach – the Southern Two-Lined Salamander (*Eurycea cirriguera*).



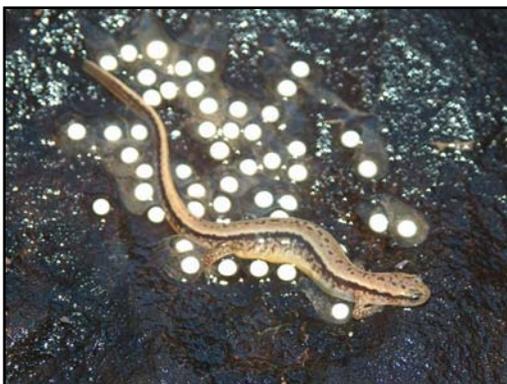
The word "salamander" is a term much like "vegetables." It is a general term to describe a wide variety of entities. In scientific circles it includes the newts, sirens, and amphiumas, but then there is a group of creatures that we actually refer to as salamanders, and they are in this group as well.

Salamanders are amphibians that have long tails and moist skin. Because their skin is scaleless (unlike their close relatives the lizards) they must keep their soft skin moist all the time and that makes it necessary for them to live in damp places during daylight hours. They have been referred to as "Spring Lizards" because they are often seen near the waters edge. Salamanders have no claws, and their legs are so short that their bellies drag on the ground when they run (unlike the lizard that lifts its body as do alligators to run). When they move, they often "swish" back and forth, propelling themselves quite rapidly.



The Southern Two-Lined Salamander is very slender with a back that is yellow or greenish-yellow, black-flecked and bordered laterally by dark (usually black) parallel stripes that begin at the eye and terminate at the end of the tail. They grow to 4 inches long. They are common throughout Georgia and into our Panhandle, but we are at the lower edge of their range so we also see them occasionally here in Northeast Florida. When we do see one we find them under logs, in leaf litter, large trees in a yard, and they will also live in St. Augustinegrass, especially if it is thatchy.

Salamanders can regenerate limbs, as well as tails and can even regenerate eye retinas and severed optic nerves. We have several types of salamanders more common to our area and they also are great predators to have around. Because their skin is so sensitive to the environment, it is not a good idea to handle them as the natural oils on our hands/fingers can be injurious to them. Our maintenance jobs are easier because salamanders are what they are – they fit well into the Best Management Practices of landscaping.



*My Information comes from several on-line sites, but also from a book entitled "Florida Fabulous Reptiles, and Amphibians" by Pete Carmichael and Winston Williams by World Publishers.*



## Lions-Tailing Trees by Larry Figart

The use of a type of tree pruning called lions-tailing has been on rise in Northeast Florida. It is being performed as a type of tree pruning that opens up the crown of the tree and will make trees more wind resistant. The problem is that nothing could be more further from the truth.

What is lions-tailing? This type of tree pruning involves removing the interior branches of a tree and leaving all the foliage growth at the ends of the branches. When it is completed, a lion-tailed tree looks very open with exposed branches and just an umbrella of leaves left in the canopy. The client is told that the wind will now blow through the canopy instead of against it. The clients are left with a tree that is actually more prone to wind damage.

The reason why lions-tailing is bad for trees lies in how trees naturally resist wind. A wind resistant tree will have well spaced interior branches that will dampen the effect of wind on the branch as it sways, reducing the amount of sway in the branch. Without those interior branches there is no dampening effect and the branch sways wildly back and forth in high winds making it more likely to break. One forester describes the effect of lions-tailing on a branch like this: *“Stick your arm out the window while riding in a car and open up your hand with the palm facing the wind. This is what a tree branch is like when it is lions-tailed”*.



This tree in a commercial office park has been lions-tailed. Photo Credit: Larry Figart



A residential tree that has been lions-tailed.

Photo Credit: Larry Figart

After a tree has been lion-tailed, all the weight of the branch is now concentrated at the end of the branch. The weight of the foliage is no longer distributed along the branch, just at the end. This leaves the branch more likely to fail. As time goes by the branch becomes more and more imbalanced as the new growth is concentrated at the end of the branch. A lion-tailed tree will also have its center of gravity raised higher in the canopy therefore making it easier for the wind to blow the tree over. If a large limb were to break, the method used to repair the branch would be to cut it back to a viable interior branch. If a lions-tailed branch were to break, there would be no place to prune it back to, leaving no option, but to make a large pruning cut where the lions-tailed branch originated from the trunk.

The practice of lions-tailing seems to have appeared out of the blue. There is no standard of proper tree pruning that involves lions-tailing. It appears the popularity has risen among tree cutters because it is much easier to reach and remove the interior branches than it would be to properly tie into the tree and

*Continued on Page 7*

*Lions-Tailing Continued from Page 6*

selectively prune using proper pruning guidelines. The use of lions-tailing has also stemmed out of the fear that trees are going to damage property in the event of a high wind event.

There are tree pruning techniques that can help to make our trees more wind resistant. It has been proven that well-pruned trees survive high winds better than poorly pruned or un-pruned trees.

Proper tree pruning should have four primary goals. They are to create strong structure, promote tree health and vigor, keep pruning wounds as small as possible, and remove dead, diseased, or hazardous limbs. Strong tree structure is promoted in proper pruning by reducing co-dominant stems and developing a strong well spaced scaffold limbs in the tree. The health of a tree should never be compromised by tree pruning.

Since the leaves of the tree are the food factories of the tree, severe pruning should be discouraged. Mature trees should have no more than 10% of the foliage removed unless there is a good reason to remove more. Younger trees may be able to tolerate a heavier pruning dose to improve future tree structure.

Large pruning cuts are much more prone to decay than smaller cuts. Also, larger pruning cuts cause the tree to divert precious energy towards defenses that could be allocated to growth and maintenance. Smaller pruning wounds are achieved by performing reduction and subordinating cuts on larger limbs rather than removing them altogether.

Finally pruning performed on a tree should make the tree a safer tree. Any dead, diseased, or weakly attached limbs should be removed or reduced. If a tree requires severe pruning in order to make it safe, perhaps the prudent choice would be to remove the tree altogether and replace it with a new tree.

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## UF/IFAS North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Day

<http://gatorturf.eventbrite.com> or call 352-273-4569

Oct 11, 2012

Citra, FL

\$35.00

CEU Presentations

Vendors

Field Tours



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](mailto:erine@coj.net)

Larry Figart - Urban Forester  
[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/>  
[rljordi@ufl.edu](mailto:rljordi@ufl.edu)

Clay County  
2463 SR 16 West  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
(904) 284-6355  
<http://clay.ifas.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.

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