

Commercial Clippings

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

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

October/November 2014

Issue 34, Page 1

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

Digging Into Who Can do Mole Treatments

By Erin Harlow

In case you have not heard, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) issued a memo in April of this year addressing who can legally provide services for eliminating pocket gophers and moles from a landscape. According to memo 911, anyone who is taking “action” against pocket gophers or moles requires a pest control operators license in the lawn and ornamental category. If an applicator chooses to use a product that converts or produces a gas or fumigant, then a pest control operator in the fumigation category is required.



If you want to set traps for pocket gophers or moles, then you need to obtain the Limited Certification for commercial wildlife management. This certification does not allow you to use baits, only traps. Check your treatment plans and make sure you are making applications legally. If you have questions about obtaining licenses, please contact your local extension office. A complete copy of Memorandum 911 can be found at http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/35875/835391/Memo_911.pdf.

Photo credit: UGA Natural History Museum

Help Protect Residents Against West Nile and Chikungunya

By Erin Harlow

Even if you do not provide services for mosquito control you can help keep residents safe from mosquito-vectored diseases. Check out Memo 917 from DACs at http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/37969/851262/Memo_917.pdf for information on chikungunya and remind your clients to:

- Drain and dump standing water.
- Dusk and dawn are the most active times for mosquitos and to remain indoors if possible.
- Dress in long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors.
- DEET is an ingredient to look for in their insect repellent (or another effective choice such as lemon oil of eucalyptus, picardin, p-menthane 3, 8-diol or IR3535).





2014

FALL WORKSHOPS

**October 1, 2014
November 5, 2014
December 3, 2014
Wednesday
(Duval)**

Pesticide Testing

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/>.

**October 2, 2014
Thursday @ Ewing
Irrigation**

Turf Talks Around Town: Large Patch Prevention and Control

8:00 am - 9:00 am

FREE

Seminar will be at 11590 Davis Creek Ct. Jacksonville, FL 32256

Sponsored by Ewing Irrigation

(904)370-1100 phone



Register at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/TurfTalks.shtml>

**October 7, 2014
Tuesday
(Duval)**

Worker Protection Standards: Train-the-Trainer

9:00 am - 11:30 am

\$5.00

This workshop is designed to meet the state requirements for farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses that are using chemicals on their properties.



**October 8, 2014
Wednesday
(Citra)**

UF/IFAS North Central Turfgrass Field Day

8:00 am - 2:30 pm

\$35.00

Research up-dates from UF's turf specialists at their research plots.

To register visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-north-central-florida-turfgrass-field-day-tickets-12729220441> or call Dr. Jason Kruse at 352-273-4569 or jkk@ufl.edu.

**October 21, 2014
Tuesday
(Duval)**

HOA Series: Pond Management

9:15 am - 12:30 pm

\$5.00

Workshop is geared towards HOA board members, property managers, and anyone interested in learning about the role of retention ponds in urban settings.

Speakers include Dr. Mark Clark , UF and Dr. Gail Hansen, UF.

Pre-register at <http://www.HOAponds.eventbrite.com>



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 904-255-7450.

**October 24, 2014
Friday
@ St. Simons
Island**

GA CEUs!

UGA Pesticide Safety & Handling

9:00 am - 4:00 pm
\$50 until Oct 16th; \$60 after
Location: St. Simons Island Casino, 550 Beachview Dr, St. Simons Island, GA 31522
5 GA CEUs: categories: 21,22,23,24,25,26,27,31,32,35,36,37,38,or 41; ISA and FL CEUs

Register at www.ugagriffincontinuinged.com and look under "Upcoming Events" or call (770) 229-3477 or email conteduc@uga.edu

**November 3, 2014
Monday
(Clay)**

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
Optional LCLM or LL&O Exam at 3:00 pm
You must have all required paperwork to take the exam.

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.

**November 11, 13,
20 and
December 4, 2014**

Certified Arborist Exam Prep

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

This 4-part series helps prepare individuals for the certified arborist exam. The exam will be scheduled for a date soon after the last class. To register contact Larry Figart at lfigart@coj.net.



Zoysia Turning Black?

By Erin Harlow

If you maintain zoysia lawns then you might have seen this disease and wondered what has turned the turf black. It is a fungal disease called *Curvularia* Leaf Blight (AKA Dog's Foot Disease) and tends to affect 'Emerald' and Meyer' zoysia most often. It is related to *Bipolaris* or melting out and has similar symptoms. It is not a widespread disease, but you may see it occasionally during periods of warm temperatures (70°F to 85°



F). Turf with excessive nitrogen applications, excessive thatch, extended periods of leaf wetness, and poor soil drainage are more prone to disease. Symptoms include blades with leaf spots and lesions during cooler weather that may turn into crown and root rots in hot humid weather. The turf tends to have a purplish cast and can turn black. Usually the turf is already stressed from environmental conditions, insects, or improper cultural practices, or disease-causing organisms.

DMI type fungicides are the most effective and include active ingredients such as myclobutanil, proppiconazole, triadimefon, and fenarimol. These fungicides can cause stunting of turfgrass and should be used with caution during periods of high temperatures.

If you think you have this disease, it is best to confirm it through a laboratory diagnosis. Information for submitting samples to the University of Florida's Plant Disease Clinic can be found at <http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/Clinic/index.shtml>.

Resources:

Disease Management in Warm-Season Turfgrasses. http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/PDFFiles/000877/Disease_Management_in_Warm-Season_Turfgrasses_-_2006.pdf. NC State

Bipolaris, *Drechslera* and *Exserohilum* Leaf Spot, Crown and Root Rot. <http://plantdiseasehandbook.tamu.edu/landscaping/lawn-turf/sorted-by-names-of-diseases/bipolaris-drechslera-and-exserohilum-leaf-spot-crown-and-root-rot/>. Texas A&M

Photo Credit: Lane Tredway, NC State.



[HTTP://DUVAL.IFAS.UFL.EDU](http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu)

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

Save the Dates!



Winter Workshops

Best Management Practices for the Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries (GI-BMPs) Tuesday, December 9, 2014

(Located at the Clay County Extension Office)

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 call 904-284-6355.

This is the pre-requisite class for the Urban Fertilizer License. Anyone 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 and if you pass, you can then apply to get your Limited Urban Fertilizer License through the State of Florida.

2-Day Professional Landscape Workshop December 16th and 17th, 2014

Intense 2-day hands-on workshop for professionals. Information covered will include everything from soils and plant botany to turf diseases. More information to come.

Jacksonville Landscape Show and Educational Seminars February 12th and 13th, 2015

Attend both days or select individual sessions. Speakers this year will include research and Extension faculty from UF's Plant Pathology Department, Turf Breeding Program, and Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology.

Halloween Itch?

By Amy Morie

In time for Halloween comes this tale of creepy crawly pests that are out to get you! Well, to be fair they will also attack a wide range of creatures - amphibians, birds, reptiles, and other mammals. When they get ahold of humans, you may not know it right away. These tiny crawlers will swarm over their prey, but can roam around looking for the best spots to bite for a few hours before settling in. They feed by injecting tissue-liquefying saliva, then slurping up the resulting liquid.

When they've finished feeding, you'll know by the irritating itching bumps or welts they leave behind. They're so small, nearly invisible to the naked eye, and their actual bite is painless, so you may have to think back hours or days to determine where you were attacked.

Have you ever felt the itch of this issue's mystery pest? If you have you likely know them by one of their common names, redbug or chigger. *Entombicula alfreddugesi* are common summer mites found throughout the south, with continuous breeding in woodlands, grassy areas and many other habitats. It's a myth that handling Spanish moss will give you chiggers – as long as it's still in the trees! Chiggers are terrestrial and infestations will be fairly localized in areas of grassy weeds or other brushy areas. After hatching, the larva become very active and will climb grass, moss, and other material waiting for a host to pass.

Chiggers swarm their prey and settle in to feed in skin folds or under areas with close clothing contact such as socks or waistbands. After feeding for 1-4 days, they drop off their host to complete their lifecycle; nymphs and adults feed on vegetation. The best way to remove chiggers is to shower after being in areas that might harbor these pests. Use hot water, lathering 2-3 times. An anti-itch cream helps bites. Try to avoid scratching – while chiggers don't transmit disease, infections are common from scratching skin raw. Wash clothes in hot water as well. Make sure to wear an insect repellent such as DEET and protective clothing (long sleeve shirt tucked in, long pants tucked into socks).



You can check for chiggers using a 12" square of paper (black or white). Check spots about 100' apart, placing the squares on the ground for 5 minutes. Chiggers will show up as tiny pinkish dots moving toward the top corner of the paper. The best defense against chiggers is to either stay out of their habitat or remove it – keep areas mowed to reduce breeding areas for both the chigger and potential hosts such as rodents. Miticides can be used if chiggers infest lawns; mow first for best results.

References

"Chiggers." <https://ufhealth.org/chiggers#prettyPhoto>

"Chiggers" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig085>

"Invisible Itches: Insect and Non-Insect Causes." <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG34300.pdf>

"Public-Health Pesticide Applicator Training Manual: Mites and Ticks." http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/fasulo/vector/chapter_05.htm

Picture of Chigger bites: Flickr Creative Commons, courtesy of Scott.Zona

Biological Control of Air Potato

By Larry Figart

The Air Potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) is an invasive vine that was probably introduced to the United States during the slave trade. It was first identified around Mobile, Alabama in 1778. It is cultivated in Oceania and the West Indies but wild tubers in the US are bitter and often poisonous.



Air Potato skeletonized by the Air Potato Leaf Beetle.
Photo: E. Pankok

Air potato causes ecological damage to the native habitats in Florida by aggressively climbing over trees and shrubs forming a dense canopy that shades out anything below it.. This shading leads to the suppression and eventual death of the native vegetation that it covers.

The air potato is listed in Florida as a noxious weed. This means that it is illegal to possess, propagate, or sell any part of this plant. It is also listed on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council as a plant that is altering native plant communities by displacing native species.

Air potato rarely flowers and does not produce seed in Florida. The plant spreads vegetatively by producing small bulbils “potatoes” that fall to the ground and produce new plants. It is hard to control the air potato with the use of herbicides. Glyphosate is effective, however, it is difficult to get thorough coverage on a plant that can be 60 feet tall. Also, you may kill the plant, but the hundreds of bulbils can still potentially produce new plants.

With many of the established invasive plants, there is little hope of control because the invaders have spread at an amazing rate. With air potato beetles, we now have a new weapon that is showing great potential in controlling this plant.

The new weapon is called the Air Potato Leaf Beetle (*Lilioceris cheni*). The development of this beetle as a biological control for air potato is the result of over ten years of research and testing by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, USDA and the University of Florida. The adults of the air potato beetle are about 3/8 inch long and 3/16 inch wide. The wings are red and the abdomen, thorax, head and legs are black. The beetle is native to China and was discovered feeding on air potato in its native range. It has been thoroughly tested and it ONLY eats air potato. The State of Florida has been releasing the air potato leaf beetle in natural areas of the state hardest hit by the air potato vine. The results have been impressive. The adults skeletonize the leaves and also eat the young tender growing tips. The larvae skeletonize the undersides of the leaf and also feed occasionally on the bulbil.



Recently released Air Potato Leaf Beetles feeding.
Photo by V. Groner

The State of Florida has set up a process to obtain beetles. Residents of Florida can fill out and submit a form to be put on a waiting list to get

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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.