

Environmental Horticulture Production

April 2009 Volume 1, Issue 1

Hillsborough County/University of Florida/IFAS
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Bio and Welcome!

Many of you worked with Laura Miller at the extension office for many years. She did a great job of helping growers with their problems and bringing timely and useful information in the forms of workshops and seminars. As of last week I have replaced her as the commercial ornamental production extension agent. I hope to continue the University of Florida/IFAS tradition of the extension mission by bringing you helpful information for your commercial operation needs. I have had an ornamental background since leaving the University of Florida with a B.S. degree in horticulture and a M.S. degree in horticulture with a minor in agronomy weed science in 1998. I was employed as a propagation manager with Speedling, Inc., Cherry Lake Tree Farm, and Holmberg Farms. I have consulted and scouted for pests for a few agricultural operations. I also own a small diversified farm in Plant City

which produces woody ornamentals, tree and woody liner and starter material, and organic vegetables. My position with the Cooperative Extension Service is a multi-county role which includes both Hillsborough and Polk counties. My program efforts will help improve commercial greenhouse, nursery and sod operations through the adoption of Best Management Practices, integrated pest management, sustainability, and resource management. I will help commercial operators become more efficient with natural, human, and time resources in their operations to increase productivity. My job is also to help producers gain useful information from the university research efforts and to be a clearing house of information via talks, seminars, workshops and electronic media. I hope that all of you will introduce yourselves to me in the near future. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any problems or informational needs. My program in extension and the resources at my disposal are only as useful as your voicing of what the problems and needs are in your operations. So if you get the notion, drop by, call, mail, or email what you would like to see in future programs. I look forward to working for you.

I will give you up to the minute information through the use of my blog. www.hortagent.blogspot.com If you visit my blog you will be able to find timely facts, tips, news items, alerts, reports, workshops, calendar items, or click on past seminar PowerPoint information. You can also visit my website for other information and factsheets. www.tiny.cc/envirohortprod. If you have any questions comments or programs you would like to see from this agent please email me at STSteed@ufl.edu.

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!!! IMPORTANT !!!

We are currently transitioning to an all email newsletter to keep costs to a minimum. By October we will be publishing this newsletter via email only.

To subscribe please go to either of these links. Then click on the red subscribe link.

<http://tiny.cc/EnHortProd>

<http://tinyurl.com/EnvHort-Prod>

News:



Larry Arrington, formally the dean and director of UF/IFAS has succeeded Jimmy Cheek as interim senior vice president of Agriculture and Natural resources. Arrington, originally from Plant City has been with the university since 1981 when he started as a faculty member in agricultural education and communication. He was a district director from 1991 to 1997. He has served as a dean since 2003.

Horticulture BMPs for Water Conservation & Treatment at the GCREC in Balm: See included brochure for more information!

You can register by going to my website www.tiny.cc/envirohortprod. Then link to events calendar.

Make Haste with Your Waste:

Hillsborough County is having a pesticide collection day to remove any old pesticides from your operation. The program reduces your liability for environmental concerns and regulatory issues. Please make use of it. You can drop off any pesticides, no questions asked at EQ Florida, 7202 East 8th Ave, Tampa, FL.



Pesticide updates:

On January 9, the FDACS approved the registration of Biopreparaty Co. Ltd.'s biofungicide *Pythium oligandrum* DV74 (Polyversum®) for use on greenhouse ornamental plants and turf grass on sod farms. The EPA registration number is 81606-1. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 2/5/09).

2010 Perennial Plant of the Year:

The perennial Plant Association named *Baptisia australis* (flase blue indigo) as its 2010 Perennial Plant of the Year. Its characteristics are low maintenance, an upright, spreading habit with a height of 3-5 and width of 6 feet. It is good for borders and specimen plantings. It has indigo-blue lupine-like flowers. It is hardy from zones 3-9 and has no major disease or insect problems. For more information visit: www.perennialplant.org.



Drought...a period of abnormally dry weather sufficiently prolonged from the lack of rainfall to cause a hydrologic imbalance.



(SWFWMD drought page <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/drought/>)

This is the time of year when the lack of water seems to be a fever pitch, just before the summer rains kick in. Drought conditions still exist and we are in a three year deficit for rainfall. Southwest Florida Water Management District says we are down about 30" of rain for the district. What to do? Maybe start looking at adding a few drought tolerant plants to your line up. Maybe tailor your marketing efforts around this news to promote some of the plants that you currently grow. Here are a few plants that are included in the drought tolerant list. (Adapted from IFAS Fact Sheet, Conserving Water in the Home Landscape, Robert Black, 1993)

Drought Tolerant Plants:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Trees		Perennials	
Box elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>
Chaste-tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Chinese elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Yucca	<i>Yucca spp.</i>
Crape myrtle	<i>Lagerstoemia indica</i>		
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Annuals	
Laurel oak	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	Annual phlox	<i>Phlox drummondii</i>
Live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Baby's breath	<i>Gypsophila spp.</i>
Podocarpus	<i>Podocarpus spp.</i>	Black-eyed susan (coneflower)	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Shumard oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Blue-eyed African daisy	<i>Arctotis stoechadifolia</i>
Siberian elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
Turkey oak	<i>Quercus laevis</i>	Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>
Washington palm	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Cape marigold	<i>Dimorphotheca sinuate</i>
	Shrubs	Chinese forget-me-not	<i>Cynoglossum</i>
<i>amabile</i> Chinese photinia	<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Firethorn (pyracantha)	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>
Japanese privet	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Gazania	<i>Gazania linearis</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Globe amaranth	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>
Leatherleaf mahonia	<i>Mahonia bealei</i>	Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>
Red-leaf photinia	<i>Photinia glabra</i>	Moss rose	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>
Shining sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>
Strawberry bush	<i>Euonymus Americana</i>	Verbena	<i>Verbena hybride</i>
Yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>		
Yellow elder	<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Succulents	
		Aloe	<i>Aloe spp.</i>
Ground covers		Carrion flower	<i>Stapelia spp.</i>
Junipers	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Century plant	<i>Agave americana</i>
Mondo grass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	Crown of thorns	<i>Euphorbia milii</i>
Weeping lantana	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	Hottentot fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>
		Ice plant	<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallium</i>
		Lawngrasses	
Chinese trumpet creeper	<i>Campsis grandiflora</i>		
Cross vine	<i>Bignonia carpreolata</i>	Bahia	<i>Paspalum notatum</i>
Dutchman's pipe	<i>Aristolochia durior</i>		
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>		
Japanese clematis	<i>Clematis dioscoreifolia</i>		
Trumpet creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>		
Trumpet honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>		

Ambrosia Beetles on the Attack.

The redbay ambrosia beetle (RAB) (*Xyleborus glabratus*) was introduced through Port Wentworth in Georgia in 2002 through infested wood packing material – crates or pallets. It has now spread to Florida, and S. Carolina. The ambrosia beetle is extending its range westward and southward. It is causing damage in it's migration through the Southeast by boring into host trees and forming galleries in the sapwood. The beetles carry with them a symbiotic fungus in mouth pouches which digests the woody conducting tissues (sapwood/xylem, phloem) disrupting the flow of water and nutrients in the tree. The beetle adults and larvae feed on the mycelium and spore clusters of the fungus. Typically ambrosia beetles attack trees under some type of environmental stress (e.g., drought). If you grow any of these trees you should step up the level of your scouting efforts.

Hosts include: Trees in the Lauraceae (Laurel Family).

- Redbay (*Persea borbonia*)
- Silk bay (*P. borbonia* var. *humilis*)
- Swampbay (*P. palustris*)
- Avocado (*P. americana*)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
- Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*)
- Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
- Pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*)
- California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*)*
- *Other potential hosts are under investigation*



“No, no... no more bugs!”

Calendar of Events:

April 14, 2009	TBWG Meeting	Harrell's Nursery
April 21, 2009	Pesticide Collection Day	Hillsborough County
April 24, 2009	Florida Sod Growers Field Day & Trade Show	Bradenton
April 29, 2009	Hort. BMPs for Water Conservation & Treatment	Balm
May 12, 2009	TBWG Meeting	J & R Nursery
May 14, 2009	Floriculture Field Day	Gainesville
May 21-24, 2009	Florida Native Plant Society Conference	West Palm Beach