

Environmental Horticulture Production Newsletter

WINTER EDITION

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FREE Pesticide CEU Website!

Here is what every private applicator spray license holder has been wishing since they received their spray license. Finally a webpage where you can go to get Pesticide Core CEU credits anytime you want, thanks to industry sponsorship and University of Florida/IFAS and Hillsborough County Extension. Just click on the webpage, go to one of the articles and read it. We currently have one Core CEU article on the site but are expecting more additions shortly as other Extension agents add them. After you're done reading, click on the button to take a short quiz. The software will grade the quiz for you and let you know your results. If you get better than a 70% passing

grade you will be e-mailed one Core CEU Credit from the Extension office. It couldn't be easier unless I hand delivered a CEU credit to you without you doing anything. Since this is illegal and won't happen, this new CEU web-



page is the next easiest thing and legal. I want to thank the generous sponsorship of our

first sponsor Audie Ham of Diamond R Fertilizer. If you would like to be a sponsor of this CEU webpage please let me know. This will allow CEU's to be brought to the public at no charge in a very efficient manner. Go ahead and take a look at the website and enjoy your free CEU's.

Here is a link to the Industry Sponsored UF/IFAS Hillsborough County CEU Website.

<http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/Ag/AgOrnProd/OnlinePesticideCEUs.html>

"There are two essential epochs in any enterprise - to begin, and to get done."

Liberty Hyde
Bailey

Ten Things to Improve On This Year

I'm not big on setting New Year's resolutions. Instead, I work on gradual improvement over time. I was thinking about some things around nurseries where gradual improvement might help. I came up with a top 10 list for nurseries to improve.

1. Market your plants in a way you haven't in the past.

2. Learn about social media. It can change your business.

3. Save water. Improve the way you irrigate plants.

4. Work on saving your energy usage.

5. Be more sustainable in your operation.

6. Learn something new about production.

7. Volunteer a little.

8. Organize the office.

9. Give someone a word of appreciation.

10. Do less work, enjoy your time with those who matter.



Tampa's Spring Expo

It is that time of year again. The Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers Spring Expo is right around the corner. The show opens on Friday, Feb. 25, 2011. Check out what is new at the local nurseries. In an age where everything is done electronically or by mobile device it is nice to go and put a face with a name and shake a hand. Along with the Expo is the booth auction. Vendors donate their entire booth

and allied members donate items to be auctioned off on Saturday at 1:00 pm. Proceeds from the Booth Auction are pledged to SHARE's FNGLA Endowed Research Fund at the University of FL and to educational Programs of the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service Horticultural Programs. The Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers have contributed over \$50,000 to the FNGLA

Endowed Research Fund collected from this auction and is the second largest contributor behind FNGLA. So drop by the expo to catch up with your colleagues or create new contacts for your business. Also, don't forget to help out the SHARE account at the auction. For more information about the expo here is a site for you. <http://www.tbwg.org/TSE.html>

Cash Incentives for BMP's

Water and nutrients are becoming an even larger issue in our area. I would recommend to any producers to first monitor your fertilizer program and water quality. To measure is to know. You need to know what you are doing in terms of fertilizer before you can affect change to the system. You also don't want to be spending any more money that you absolutely have to in order to grow your

plants. Secondly, I would also implore you to sign up for the BMPs if you haven't already done so. Eventually you will need to prove you are not adversely affecting the water leaving your farm, or you can sign up for the notice of intent to implement the best management practices for nursery crops and fall within the presumption of compliance. The process is fairly painless and quick to do. If

the whole thing sounds scary don't take my word for it. Please give me a ring and I can get you in contact with producers that have gone through the process and let you speak with them directly. SWFWMD also has generous incentives for adding technology to increase water and nutrient savings. For more information and contact information refer to this blog post. <http://tiny.cc/xeoav>



Check out the video of the fun and the winners we had at the 2011 NLF CDE

<http://tiny.cc/xq9uz>

Growing Youth

The Nursery, Landscape and Floriculture Career Development Event took place at the Hillsborough County Extension Office on Jan 27. Nearly eighty students and their sponsors from around Hillsborough County descended upon the

Extension office for a grueling half day of testing related to the nursery, landscape, and floriculture industry. The students have been preparing for this test with their teachers for the last few months. They were tested on id skills with land-

scape and floriculture plants, insects, weeds, and disease pests, and industry related tools as well as horticulture knowledge of production and landscaping. Click on the link under the picture to see some shots from the event and winners.

Don't Drift into Danger

In December, the sixth district court of appeal in San Jose upheld a jury's earlier decision to award a \$1 million judgment against Western Farm Service in favor of the organic farm Jacobs Farm Del Cabo. The suit, which was decided originally in September 2008, blames Western Farm service for allowing organophosphate pesticides that were applied on adjacent Brussels sprout fields to drift onto the organic crops growing nearby. Although the pesticides were not above the 50 ppm

safety levels, organic crops must not have any non-organic residues and still meet USDA Organic Standards. A combination of environmental factors facilitated the pesticide drift onto the organic crop, specifically coastal fog and winds. No violations were found after an investigation of the pesticide application but Western Farm Services will still be liable for the damages. More info can be found at <http://tiny.cc/p5m29> In Hillsborough and Polk counties we

live in an increasingly residential setting. Many production operations that produce plants have non-farm neighbors. It is advisable that when spraying anything on your crops make sure you read the label and know the environmental conditions under which you will be spraying to avoid off target pesticide drift. Most applications of pesticides in our industry are made with a spray gun. Here is a fact sheet on the proper calibration of those devices. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/i225>



Photo credit UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office.

Extension Calendar

February 25-26, 2011 - TBWG Spring Expo & Booth Auction, FL State Fairgrounds.

March 6, 2011 - Florida Strawberry Festival Youth Plant Show and Sale, Festival Fairgrounds

April 8, 2011 - FNGLA Tampa Chapter Golf Tournament, Fox Hollow Golf Course.

March , 2011 - FNGLA Board Meeting at Hills. Co. Extension Office

March , 2011 - WPS Train-The-Trainer Class Polk Co. Extension Office, Bartow

April 12, 2011 - TBWG Meeting, Stardust Farms "Propagation Panel"

Conduct a WPS self-audit inspection. Click on this link <http://tiny.cc/ucs3e>

Comply with WPS

We will be having a WPS Train-the-Trainer Class in Bartow at the Extension office on March 8, 2010 starting at 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. If you have employees that need to be trained for the Worker Protection Standards then you will either need to be a licensed pesticide applicator or you will need to have a WPS

Train-the-Trainer certificate. You can sign up for this class by calling me at the Hillsborough County Extension office. I would recommend that you conduct a self audit of your farm. I have copied the checklist that the inspectors use to do field inspections when they show up at your nursery or greenhouse operation. Click

on the following link to download the pdf files and make sure that you comply. <http://tiny.cc/ucs3e> Follow the checklist and make sure to correct where you don't meet the rules.

If you would like to register for the class call 813-744-5519 ext. 147.





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Solutions for Your Life.

IPMU Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda

Didn't get around to stopping in at the Integrated Pest Management Update that took place at Balm on 1/25/11? That's OK. I've got you covered. If you missed it here is a link to the presentations that had slides. This event represents the landscape track of the Extension program as it alternates each year between production and landscaping. Next year's Integrated Pest Management Update will be the production track mainly targeting information for plant producers. Here is the link to the presentations.

<http://tiny.cc/1r8ml>

The presentations we have are:

Natural Insecticides - Eileen Buss

Distinguishing Landscape Dis-

ease and Insect Problems from Environmental Stresses-Turfgrass - Young-Ki Jo

Distinguishing Landscape Disease and Insect Problems from Environmental Stresses -Biotic versus Abiotic - Catharine Mannion

Diagnosing Problem Palms - Monica Elliot

This program has won numerous awards over the years. Last year the program won a National Association of County Agriculture Agents Search for Excellence in Landscape Horticulture award.

I will be in charge of the statewide event again next year and would value your honest input.

We are currently seeking speakers

you would like to hear for the main portion of the program. We are also seeking chemical manufacturers that have a new product you would like to find out more about or get updated on the label changes. If you have ideas please let me know and I will do my best in trying to get those topics and speakers to the event next year. If you don't have a particular speaker in mind but have an idea for a topic let me know. We will do our best in finding a speaker either here in Florida or in the US. Technology today allows us to go further afield to find you the absolute best and latest information so that you can be current in your integrated pest management production practices. Hope to see you there next year!