



NURSERY • CITRUS • GOLF COURSE

GREEN-UP NEWS



By Dana Venrick, Commercial Horticulture Agent II

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

*** A Workshop for Nursery Growers**

Tuesday, August 16, 2005

Agriculture Center – Auditorium

v Free Lunch Will Be Provided

v No Registration Fee

- ?? Transform your business into a leaner, stronger and more profitable enterprise.
- ?? Learn how to prepare for numerous risks including rising costs, labor shortages, falling plant prices, freezes and **HURRICANES!**
- ?? Invest in your business by attending this invaluable workshop.

Speakers:

Dr. John J. Haydu, UF

Dr. Alan W. Hodges, UF

**Dr. Laurence M. Crane, National Crop Insurance
Services**

R.S.V. P. For Free Registration!!

NATIVE WILDFLOWER SEED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

MONDAY JUNE 20, 2005

10:00 A.M. – 12 NOON

VOLUSIA COUNTY

EXTENSION AUDITORIUM

3100 E. S.R. 44 – DELAND

**Dr. Jeff Norcini, Associate
Professor of Environmental
Horticulture, UF**

and

**David Snowden, FDOT Field
Operations Manager**

- ?? Native Wildflower
Ecotypes
- ?? Native wildflower Species
in Production
- ?? Production Methods
- ?? Pest Control of
Wildflowers
- ?? Cleaning/Storage/Testing
- ?? Seed Certification
- ?? FDOT Wildflower Seed
Distribution & Usage
(2.0 Private/O&T CEUs)

Sponsored by

**St. Johns River Country
Florida Farm Bureau
IFAS**

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FILED PRODUCTION

Ted E. Bilderback
Department of Horticultural Science
NCU, Raleigh, NC

Webpage <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/nursery/>

This is the third in a series of articles reporting information presented at the Great Southern Tree Conference (GSTC)

- ?? Some aspects of growing shade trees in the field are similar to producing other agricultural crops, but many characteristics, such as procuring line-out stock, spacing, weed management, and managing a crop for more than one year, are quite different.
- ?? The more specific the marketing strategy, the easier it will be to determine which plants to grow and how to design the planting plan.
- ?? No single factor influences the ultimate success of a field nursery more than soil. A soil probe can be used to determine which plants to grow and how to design the planting plan.
- ?? Locating a field nursery near rivers and streams bears a responsibility to protect the watershed from sediment and nutrient contamination. Plan for grass waterways and field edge buffer strips to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- ?? Drip irrigation is a good investment to reduce plant loss and maintain growth of field stock. Drip irrigation places water at the root system, improving root concentration in harvested plants. Drip irrigation reduces weed germination and the need for tilling, saving time and expenses for weed control.
- ?? Conduct soil tests to determine soil fertility requirements. Take at least one soil test for each change in field texture, color, and drainage characteristics. Base nitrogen rates on the number of plants rather than the acreage to be fertilized. Per plant applications save money and provide equivalent amounts of fertilizer for fields planted with variable number of plants per acre.
- ?? Most soils benefit from the addition of organic matter. Organic amendments improve soil structure, water retention, drainage and aeration. Field nursery growers lose soil due to the nature of the business because soil is removed when trees are harvested and sold. Preventing further loss of soil and rebuilding soil in fields is very important.
- ?? Establishing cover crops is an important conservation management tool. Excessive tilling for weed control increases formation of gullies, soil compaction and reduces water infiltration and soil microbial activity.

- ?? Growers can anticipate pest problems by knowing the crop history of a field. For example, if a field has been in sod, expect grubs. Sample new fields for nematode populations. If nematodes are present at levels that can cause damage, select resistant crops or consider fumigation.
- ?? Perennial weeds should be controlled prior to planting.
- ?? Wide spacing is encouraged if the marketing strategy is uncertain, as it allows more opportunity for finding a market before the trees become overgrown.

DOWN CITRUS LANE



Citrus Legislative Successes

Several legislative successes were made for citrus growers through the efforts of Florida Citrus Mutual, the Florida Department of Citrus and other industry groups and individuals.

\$10 million in general revenue was appropriated to fully fund the canker eradication program \$2 million in reoccurring state funds was appropriated for important citrus research such as mechanical harvesting. IFAS will receive \$20 million for research over the next 10 years.

Thanks to all the Senators and Representative who backed these and other import legislative initiatives critically important to Florida's citrus industry: Thanks to Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Charles H. Bronson and all growers who contacted their legislators.

GREEN TURF



SAPPHIRE™ St. Augustine is a new patented release of Sod Solutions, Inc. and will be available for purchase by early summer through Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC) members. Sapphire™ will be available as sod or plug trays.

According to Sod Solutions and some Florida Growers of the new sod, Sapphire is heat tolerant and handles drought and stresses well. The turf is a beautiful deep blue-green and soft textured. It is suitable for home lawn and commercial applications.

HAMMOCK™ Centipedegrass is an easy-care improved centipede variety. Hammock™ centipedegrass is slow-growing and great for residential, common areas and roadways. Hammock is bred for

Florida heat and requires mowing only about 6 times a year or less. Fertilization requirements are less than many other lawn grasses and has a finer texture than St. Augustine grasses. Hammock also has a darker green color than many existing centipede varieties.

SEASHORE PASPALUM is now available in a number of varieties. Seashore paspalum is tolerant to saline or recycled water and requires low fertility and pesticide inputs. However, there are problems such as greater sensitivity to herbicides and increased thatch production when over-fertilized and over-irrigated. The following are the two varieties that tested well on University of Florida tests.

ALOHA seashore paspalum is a new selection with a slightly coarser texture than greens-height paspalums. Aloha is available from Environmental Turf, Inc. This variety did very well on recent University of Florida tests.

SEADWARF is a dwarf paspalum which seldom exceeds two inches in height even when unmown. Improved winter color and salinity tolerance over SeaGreen. This variety did very well on recent University of Florida Tests. SeaDwarf is an excellent tee to green grass. The grass costs less to maintain, is beautiful and performs better than bermudagrass. Hammock Bay in Naples, FL, Parkland Country Club in Parkland, FL, and Old Palm in Palm Beach Gardens, FL are tee to green SeaDwarf and are receiving great reviews from members and superintendents. You may want to arrange a visit and take a look at these golf courses (and perhaps play a round or two)!

NOW THE TIME TO TREAT FOR MOLE CRICKETS

Adapted from Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses by Bryan Unruh and Monica L. Elliot, University of Florida

Mole crickets (order Orthoptera, family Gryllotalpidae) are Florida's most serious turfgrass pests. They are 1 to 1.5 inches long when mature and possess spade-like front legs that are well adapted for tunneling through the soil. Bermuda-grass, bahiagrass and centipede-grass are most severely damaged by them.

Two species of pest mole crickets are wide-spread in Florida, the southern mole cricket, *Scapteriscus borellii*, and the tawny mole cricket, *Scapteriscus vicinus*. The color patterns of the two species usually are distinct; the tawny mole cricket is a lighter creamy brown, while the southern mole cricket is grayish to dark brown and usually has four distinct light spots on its prothorax. The two species also can be distinguished by the dactyls (digging claws). The southern mole cricket has a U-shaped space between their dactyls while the tawny has a V-shaped space.

Mole crickets damage turf in several ways. Tawny and short-winged mole crickets are herbivorous and consume all parts of the grass plant. The southern mole cricket is a predator and a scavenger. All three species tunnel through the surface layer of the soil, causing considerable mechanical damage to the grass roots. The tunnelings also loosens the soil so that the grass often is uprooted, resulting in desiccation.

In north and central Florida, oviposition (egg laying) begins in late March with a peak in May. Eggs hatch in 20 to 25 days. Hatching is complete by mid-June. Nymphs feed and mature throughout the summer, molting five to eight times. Adults begin to appear in the fall. Tawny mole crickets overwinter mostly as adults, southern mole crickets mostly overwinter as large nymphs. There is only one generation per year in north and central Florida.

Most mole cricket tunneling occurs at night, with the highest activity occurring both a few hours after dark and again just before dawn. They are especially active after rain showers or after irrigation in warm weather. Nymphs and adults tunnel in the top inch of soil and come to the surface to feed when soil is moist. Their feeding and tunneling are greatly reduced during cold weather or when soil is dry.

If you are considering using a pesticide, you need to know whether the numbers of mole crickets in your turf justify its use. For optimal timing of applications, you also need to know what mole cricket species is (or are, if there are more than one) present, and what is their developmental stage. To do this, first make sure that the soil is moist. If it is not moist, irrigate it and then use a soap flush. Mix 3 tablespoons of liquid dishwashing detergent in 2 gallons of water. Apply the soap mixture over a 2-by-2-foot area of infested turf. Flushing late in the afternoon or early in the morning will yield best results.

Turf should be moist before insecticide treatments are made, and it is important to apply the pesticide as late in the day as possible, dusk being the optimum time. **Follow label directions explicitly regarding safety, dosage, application and irrigation information.**

In north and central Florida most turf damage occurs in late summer and fall when the numphs are reaching maturity. Tunneling damage also occurs in late winter and spring from overwintering adult crickets. Damage subsides in May after eggs are deposited and most of the adults have died. It usually is mid-July before nymphs reach sufficient size to again cause noticeable turf damage. Most eggs are laid during late April and May and hatch early June. **Mid to late June (When all, or nearly all, the numphs have hatched) is the best time to apply a chemical pesticide to obtain maximal efficiency.**

Volusia County Extension
3100 E. New York Avenue
DeLand, FL 32724

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 20** **Native Wildflower Seed Production (See front for details)**
June 30- **FNGLA Convention** Gaylord Palms, Orlando 406-295-7994
July 3
Aug. 16 **Risk Management and Financial Analysis (See front for details)**
Aug. 31 **Private Applicator and Ornamental & Turf Pesticide Training & Testing** Seminole County
Extension Auditorium Call Richard Tyson at 407-665-5554 or e-mail rvt@ifas.ufl.edu
Sept. 11-14 **Florida Turfgrass Association Annual Meeting** Bonita Springs. For more information call
800-882-6721 or 407-291-9415 or the web at www.ftga.org
Sept. 29-
Oct. 1 **FNATS Exposition** Orange County Convention Center. Call Sabrina with FNGLA 1-800-375-
3642 for exhibitor information.
Oct. 14 **Limited Pesticide Training** Volusia County Extension Auditorium 8:00 a.m. Call Dana
Venrick or Jeanne Blanchard for more information.
Oct. 18 **Foliage Forum** Pierson Lions Club 9-11:30 a.m Call Dana Venrick

If you would like more information on upcoming programs or want to receive publications please call, fax, or e-mail me. All Extension Service programs and information are free and open to the public regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin.

Sincerely,


Dana Venrick

Extension Agent II – Commercial Horticulture