



**LANDSCAPE NEWS**  
**BY LINDA B. LANDRUM**  
**MAY – JUNE 2004**



**Become a  
JUNIOR MASTER  
GARDENER**

Do you know a child who would like to  
learn how to plan a garden ...  
how to start new plants ...  
how to tell a good bug from a bad bug?

Are they completing 3rd or  
4th grade this year?

Then our one-week camp is  
for them!

June 14-18, 2004  
Monday-Friday  
8:30am - 4:00pm  
\$40.00 registration fee

For more information contact:  
Volusia County Extension Service  
DeLand 386-822-5778  
Daytona Beach 386-257-6012  
New Smyrna Beach 386-423-3368

Programs are open to all regardless of race, color, sex, handicap,  
religion or national origin. Persons in need of special  
accommodations should call a week in advance of the program.  
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**Common Sense  
Pest Control  
Garden Programs**

Ormond Beach Library  
1<sup>st</sup> Wed., 1-2 p.m.  
  
NSB Library  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 1-2 p.m.  
  
DeLand Library  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
  
Port Orange Library  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., 10:30-11:30a.m.  
  
DeBary Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
  
Deltona Library  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

## **GREENBUG ATTACKS** **SEASHORE PASPALUM**

Thanks to Celeste White  
Orange County Extension Service

The aphid, Schizaphis graminum, commonly known as the greenbug, was discovered feeding and causing damage to Paspalum vaginatum (seashore paspalum cv SeaDwarf) grown outdoors in flats at the Everglades Research and Education Center, Belle Glade, Florida in 2003. This may be the first record of greenbug causing damage to this grass. While this aphid is known from other Paspalum species, a literature search failed to find citations of this insect feeding on P. vaginatum. The Division of Plant Industry also has no previous record of greenbug feeding on seashore paspalum in Florida.

Greenbugs on this grass are small, elongate oval-shaped with head and first part of thorax straw to pale green with light to medium green abdomen. A darker green stripe down the middle of the top surface of the abdomen is most visible on last instar nymphs and adults. Winged aphids are produced as crowding and damage symptoms increase.

The aphid feeds and reproduces on leaves and stems, but prefers locations along the midrib of the upper leaf surface. Feeding results first in a small yellow chlorotic spot surrounded within 24 hr. by a ring of water soaked tissue. The spots enlarge, become brighter yellow and coalesce with other feeding spots within a few days. The midrib becomes necrotic as the spots cover the majority of the leaf surface. Feeding near the ends of leaves results in characteristic brown necrotic leaf tips bordered below by bright yellow bands. These damaged tips present an obvious contrast to the rich green color of 'Sea Dwarf'. Aphids vacate heavily damaged leaves in favor of green leaves. Turfgrass damage progresses as the colony expands outward with loss of acceptable foliage. Heavily damaged patches of turfgrass appear thin or sparsely planted with little green tissue.

More information is available at the UF/IFAS Pest Alert WWW site

<http://extlab7.entnem.ufl.edu/PestAlert/>

## **AROMATHERAPY....** **FOR WATERMELONS, TOMATOES** **AND STRAWBERRIES?**

Thanks to Tim Lockette UF/IFAS

University of Florida research showed that essential oils – those strong-smelling liquids beloved by people seeking relief from stress – could be the basis of a new generation of environmentally friendly defenses against a variety of plant diseases.

Dr. Tim Momol and a team of UF scientists have done several studies that show that essential oils are effective against a number of common plant pathogens.

The researchers are among hundreds of scientists around the country searching for an alternative to methyl bromide, a pest-control agent that is commonly used as a soil fumigant on high-value crops such as strawberries and tomatoes.

The findings may be particularly noteworthy in light of a multinational agreement reached this week that would ban the use of prized pest control agent methyl bromide in the United States in less than two years.

Essential oil plant extracts that can fill a room with an odor in a matter of seconds, aren't typically regarded as pesticides, but the UF researchers saw an important similarity between the oils and most soil fumigants. They produce a powerful smell as they are highly volatile –vaporizing quickly even at room temperature. Fumigants are also volatile, a property that allows them to permeate soil, kill pests and quickly evaporate, leaving no residue.

The researchers began applying essential oils to the soil in potted greenhouse plants with some promising results. They found that the oils from thyme and palmarosa – both often recommended by aromatherapists as a treatment for bacterial infections –can kill Ralstonia solanacearum, a bacterium that causes wilt or rot in a wide range of plants. It was also found the oils were effective in controlling some soil-borne fungi known to damage plants. The team discovered that both oils contain naturally occurring chemicals already used in some pest-control products. They are particularly interested in thymol, the active substance in thyme oil, which is known to repel insects and kill some kinds of mold.

At low doses, thymol is safe for human consumption – so safe the U.S. Food and Drug Administration allows its use as a food additive. At high concentrations, the chemical is known to cause skin and lung irritations in humans, but the UF researchers say thymol can be applied in a way that would keep the user from receiving a strong dose of the chemical.

While applying thyme or palmarosa oil to crops on a large scale wouldn't be cost-effective, thymol can be produced at low cost.

Chemicals from other oils could be used along with thymol to create a fumigant that controls many or most of the pathogens killed by methyl bromide, without depleting the ozone layer.

**The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses** is designed for existing and open facilities to help golf courses protect the environment and enhance and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf. The program enhances wildlife habitats, encourages conservation programs, educates managers and recognizes golf courses with good track records. For more information call (518) 767-9051 or go to the web at <http://www.audubonintl.org>

## Looking Good From Your Front Windows to the Back!



Get the biggest bang for your bucks with your window display by deciding on an overall philosophy on what you want to convey and then how this will be done. Do this by....

- ?? Using a minimum of product to convey an upscale image or a cross-section of merchandise to give a sense of what's inside.
- ?? Displaying price particularly for specials or sale items or not, to lure customers into your business.
- ?? Using movement such as a turn-table or other animated devices.
- ?? Possibly hiring a professional full-time window decorator, a person moonlighting who works for a large department store or

students (perhaps for free) from a local school of design or community college art program. Perhaps someone in your organization has a knack for this and just needs encouragement and extra training.

- ?? Making the windows work for you by:
- o Telling what's going on in the store.
  - o Displaying products in an ingenious or unusual manner.
  - o Using movement to catch the eye.
  - o Changing the display frequently.
  - o Developing a daily feature.
  - o Keeping your windows clean.

*Third in a series based on the book "1,001 Ideas to Create Retail Excitement" By Edgar A. Falk.*

## PUBLICATIONS



**"Consumer Purchasing Habits of FL Environmental Horticulture Products"** – Satterthwaite & Haydu FE 473 March 2004

**"Coreopsis leavenworthii"** - Gilman, Norcini & Howe FPS 142 Nov. 2003

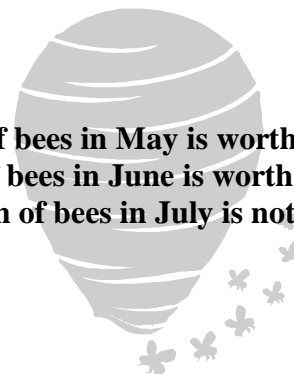
**"Blueberry Bud Mite, Acalitus vaccinii (Keifer) (Arachnida: Acarina; Eriophyidae)"** - Cromroy & Kuitert EENY-186 Jan. 2001

**"Identification of Poison Ivy , Poison Oak & Poison Sumac in Florida"** – Grace and Lowe ENH 886 April 2003

**"Sudden Oak Death"**-Harmon & Harmon PP 197 March 2004

**"Sycamore Lace Bug, Corythucha ciliata (Say) (Insecta: Hemiptera: Tingidae)"** - Halbert & Meeker EENY-190 Feb. 2001

**A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.  
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon.  
As swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly.**





UNIVERSITY OF  
**FLORIDA**

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Volusia County Extension  
3100 E. New York Avenue  
DeLand, FL 32724

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## Dates To Remember



- May 8&9** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchid Show & Sale Volusia County Fairgrounds, Call (386)228-3286
- May 10-12** Nat'l Hardware Show with Lawn & Garden World – Las Vegas NV Call Rob Capiello at (203) 840-5493 [www.nationalhardwareshow.com](http://www.nationalhardwareshow.com)
- May 19-20** UF Floricultural Field Day/Seminar Gainesville Call LBL for details
- June 14-16** National Lawn & Garden Show Denver, CO [www.nigshow.com](http://www.nigshow.com)
- June 17** CEU Day Apopka – CEU's available, Call (352)343-4101
- June 14-18** Jr. Master Gardener Camp Ag. Center, DeLand. (See front page)
- June 23-26** SE Greenhouse Conference Greenville, SC Call (877)927-2775 or [www.sgcts.org](http://www.sgcts.org)
- June 27-30** Garden Centers of America Specialty Tour Williamsburg, VA Call (888) 648-6463  
[www.gardencentersofamerica.org](http://www.gardencentersofamerica.org)

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, disability, religion, or national origin.

Sincerely,

Extension Agent IV - Horticulture