Environmental Horticulture Issues Newsletter

Orange County/University of Florida
IFAS Extension Education Center

Fall 2009

Volume 18, Issue 3

New Legislation

In June, Florida Governor Charlie Crist signed into law SB2080 and SB494. These 2 new laws address water conservation, ordinances and application of fertilizer to urban landscapes and have been receiving a lot of media attention. They may affect your businesses.

SB 494 Highlights

- ◊ It mandates that beginning in January 2014, any person applying fertilizer to an urban landscape must obtain a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) license called the Limited Certification for Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer Application.
- ◊ The way to obtain the license is to successfully complete a mandatory Green Industries Best Management Practices training, or an approved equivalent (i.e. FNGLA's Certified Horticultural Professional program). GI- BMP certification involves taking the GI-BMP 6 hour course and passing the exam with a 75% or higher.
- ◊ The Florida Department or Environmental Protection (FDEP), in cooperation with University of Florida/IFAS, provides GI-BMP training and testing programs in English and Spanish and issues certificates demonstrating satisfactory completion of the training. There is a process where industry trainers can be approved as well. All scheduled training is listed on the GI-BMP website http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu under **"Professionals".** Online training is scheduled to be available on this site in 2010.
- ◊ After receiving a certificate of GI- BMP training completion, a person may apply to FDACS to receive a limited certification for urban landscape commercial fertilizer application. Individuals applying for the LCFAC certificate must provide a copy of the BMP training certificate; a completed DACS application form; and remit a $25 fee for the cost of the certificate. For more information contact the Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control at (850) 921-4177 or visit the web site at http://www.flaes.org/aes-ent/index.html
- ◊ A person possessing such a GI-BMP certification is not subject to any additional local testing.
- ◊ The limited certification expires 4 years after the date of issuance; the applicant must complete 4 classroom hours of acceptable continuing education for recertification of which at least 2 hours of fertilizer best management practices.
- ◊ Only those who apply fertilizers commercially, that is, for hire, to property not owned by themselves, their firm, or their employer, are required to have the FDACS Limited Certification for Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer Application. An employee of a stadium, school board, golf course or apartment complex would be exempt, but an employee of a landscape contractor hired to fertilize the property would be required to hold a valid FDACS certificate.

(Continued on Page 2)

In This Issue

New Legislation *(Continued from page 1)*

SB 2080 Highlights

- ◊ Requires water management districts to provide model Florida-Friendly Landscaping ordinances to local governments.
- ◊ Local governments must use the standards and guidelines when developing landscape irrigation and Florida-Friendly Landscaping ™ ordinances.
- ◊ Deletes references to "xeriscape"; changes it to Florida-Friendly Landscaping ™.
- ◊ Requires the use of GI-BMP training materials developed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), University of Florida/IFAS, and the Center for Landscape Conservation & Ecology/ Florida-Friendly Landscaping ™ Program.
- ◊ A deed restriction or covenant may not prohibit any property owner from implementing Florida Friendly Landscaping on his or her land.
- ◊ A local government ordinance may not prohibit any property owner from implementing Florida Friendly Landscaping on his or her land.
- ◊ Does not change any local fertilizer ordinances adopted prior to January 1, 2009 however, all ordinances adopted or amended after January 1, 2009 must substantively conform to the model fertilizer ordinance and the provisions of this law.

FAQs for SB494, SB 2080 and the Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate are available at http://www.flaes.org/

Check This Out!

Azalea Lace Bug

Study shows Encore Azalea varieties resistant to lace bugs. In a recent USDA study, 11 varieties of Encore Azalea were found to be resistant or moderately resistant to lace bugs, a major landscaping pest that can lead to loss of leaves and plant vigor as well as pesticide use. Research entomologist Grant Kirker reported, "Host plant resistance is an environmentally friendly, low-tech, low-cost method of control that reduces the need for pesticides to manage azalea lace bugs." The study, conducted at the USDA-ARS Thad Cochran Horticultural Research Laboratory in Poplarville, Miss., studied 19 varieties of Encore Azalea and 14 standard cultivars for host plant resistance to lace bugs. Encore Azalea cultivars found to be resistant included: Autumn Amethyst, Autumn Twist, Autumn Royalty, Autumn Sangria, Autumn Cheer and Autumn Rouge. Cultivars showing moderate resistance were Autumn Embers, Autumn Bravo, Autumn Starlite, Autumn Ruby and Autumn Princess. Azalea lace bugs are a major pest in both production nurseries and home landscapes. Adult bugs use their piercing mouthparts to suck the juices from the undersides of the leaves, leaving a yellowish stippling on the upper and lower leaf surface. Severe infestations can lead to reduced plant vigor and loss of leaves. Researchers are hopeful that this new knowledge will lead eventually to the breeding of pest-free cultivars. *From Garden Center Weekly E-News 8/16/2009*

FreezePruf. the new scientific breakthrough spray for plants from The Liquid Fence Company, won the "Best In Show" award at the 2009 Independent Garden Center Show in Chicago. Developed by botanists, FreezePruf™ helps a plant survive hard frost and sudden freeze, extending the growing season by at least one month for growers and gardeners. "We're thrilled that our revolutionary product, FreezePruf, has won this prestigious award," says Eddie Abraham, president of The Liquid Fence® Company. "We knew this product would be a home-run!" Dr. David Francko, botanist and dean at the University of Alabama, is understandably stunned by the news. "I'm just thrilled and gratified that FreezePruf is getting this recognition. It's not magic—just a product based on sound science that's going to help folks protect plants and crops and let people push their USDA Zone a bit more and gain an additional month in their growing season." More info at http://www.liquidfence.com/FreezePruf.html *From Garden Center Weekly E-News 8/25/09*

10 BEST Florida Plants of the Decade

This is the 10th anniversary of the Plants of the Year program administered by the Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (www.fngla.org) so the Association decided to have "a jury of distinguished horticulturists representing the different facets of the state's diverse nursery and landscape industry" select the "best" 10 plants among those named Florida Plants of the Year during the past decade:

Pineapple Guava

Acca sellowiana (pineapple guava): evergreen shrub or small tree; very cold-hardy, disease-resistant, and salt-tolerant; yields edible fruit; previously classified in the genus Feijoa.

Arachis glabrata (perennial peanut): evergreen, yellow-flowered, low-growing ground cover that can be mowed; best in well-drained soil.

Bismarckia nobilis silver form (Bismarck palm): large (to 50 feet high) with silver-blue fronds; very drought-tolerant after establishment.

Dryopteris erythrosora (autumn fern or Japanese shield fern): attractive clumping fern up to two feet high; best in well-drained soil and light shade; moderate irrigation needs but wilts and changes coloration when dry.

Perennial Peanut

Firebush

Hamelia patens (firebush): native evergreen semi-woody shrub or small tree (dwarf cultivars are available); flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and berries provide food for wildlife; drought-tolerant; best in full sun or partial shade.

Serenoa repens silver form (silver saw palmetto): slow-growing, clumping native palm with blue-green fronds; cold-hardy, salt-tolerant; berries provide food for wildlife.

Torenia fournieri Summer Wave® (wishbone pansy): annual in northern Florida, perennial in southern Florida; has various flower colors, ranging from blue to violet to white with purple throats; heat- and drought-resistant.

Ulmus alata (winged elm): upright native tree with dense round canopy and "winged" branches that are attractive in winter; recommended for street and residential landscapes; tolerant of diverse soil conditions and "some alternation between wet and dry conditions."

Walter's Viburnum

Viburnum obovatum compact forms (compact Walter's viburnum): native evergreen shrub with masses of small white flowers; wildlife eat fruit; tolerant of diverse soil conditions and drought-tolerant after establishment.

Zamioculcas zamiifolia (ZZ plant): very slow-growing succulent aroid; all parts are poisonous; requires little maintenance and is tolerant of shade; often used in interiorscapes.

Orange County/University of Florida
IFAS Extension Education Center

Celeste White
Orange County Commercial Horticulture
Landscape Maintenance
Pesticide Certification
6021 South Conway Road
Orlando, FL 32812
Phone: 407-254-9200
Fax: 407-850-5125
Email: ctwhite@ufl.edu

Visit us at:
http://landscape.ifas.ufl.edu

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Orange County Extension

ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FLORIDA

Weed Biology and Management in Turf Series

This series of 1-2 page illustrated fact sheets by J. Bryan Unruh, Darcy E. Partridge-Telenko, and Barry J. Brecke highlight key facts about each weed, and include herbicide options for each variety of Florida turfgrass. Published by the UF Department of Environmental Horticulture, June 2009.

- ENH1124/EP385 Yellow Woodsorrel (Oxalis) Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1125/EP386 Virginia Buttonweed Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1126/EP387 Torpedograss Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1127/EP388 Florida Betony Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1128/EP389 Pennywort (Dollarweed) Biology and Management
- ENH1131/EP392 Annual Bluegrass Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1132/EP393 Tropical Signalgrass Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1133/EP394 Goosegrass Biology and Management in Turf
- ENH1134/EP395 Crabgrass Biology and Management in Turf

More info at ;

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_SERIES_Weed_Biology_and_Management

Check This Out! *(Continued from page 2)*

Herbicide Drift Can Occur in Calm Weather. That's the title of a brief article by Bruce Schultz in the latest issue of Louisiana Agriculture, published by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. The article quotes Louisiana State University AgCenter weed specialist Eric Webster as saying that herbicide drift frequently happens when there is hardly any wind at ground level (especially in the morning and in areas with surrounding tall vegetation) due to stronger winds higher above ground level. According to Webster, such unanticipated drift can occur on a still morning up to a mile from the herbicide application site!

What to do if some of your plants suddenly develop unexpected symptoms (often like those due to nutrient deficiencies)? Webster says you should search for brown foliage on nearby trees for clues on the direction from which herbicide might have drifted. *Bruce Schultz, "Herbicide Drift Can Occur in Calm Weather," Louisiana Agriculture 52(1), Winter 2009, 4-5.*

TurfFiles Decision Aids for Diagnosis and Management of Turfgrass Diseases. The Disease Identification Program at www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/diseaseID/ provides data on more than two dozen turfgrass diseases that occur frequently in the Southeast, with specific guidance on diagnosis. The Disease Management Program at www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/diseasemgmt/ suggests registered pesticides for particular turfgrass diseases, with lots of information about each pesticide. *From HortIdeas July-August 2009*

A Ride-On Electric Lawn Mower. Push-type lawn mowers powered by electric motors rather than gasoline engines have been around for several years, but the Zeon, made by Hustler Turf Equipment, is the first electric ride-on mower we've seen. Yes, it has zero turning radius, with a 42" deck, and it is very quiet! Also, because it has no belts and pulleys, HTE claims that it will need only minimal maintenance. For details, visit the web site www.hustlerturf.com *From HortIdeas September-October 2009*

Insect Pest Management on Golf Courses. ENY-351, a 14-page illustrated fact sheet by Eileen A. Buss, describes the biology and management of the most important insect pests on golf courses in Florida. Published by the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology, June 2009. More info at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN410