



The Green Machine

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for future generations through education.

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Extension Stories: What is this orange stuff on my pear tree?

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Your Bradford County Extension Staff:

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- * Wendy Burton: Livestock and Natural Resources Agent
- * Jim DeValerio: Agricultural and CRD Agent
- * Kimberly Paul: Administrative Assistant
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I have had this question asked several times this spring. If the fruit on your pear tree is covered with orange hairy looking stuff then your tree is infected with a fungal disease called quince rust. When the first samples came into the office I knew they had a rust disease but I did not have the local resources to specifically identify the problem. I sent digital photos to Richard Cullen who manages the UF/IFAS/Plant Pathology Department, Plant Disease Clinic. He quickly diagnosed the problem.



The name of the fungus that causes this disease is

Gymnosporangium clavipes. It is common to find this rust at this time of year. Unfortunately, if your tree has those symptoms there is nothing that can be

done to save the fruit this year. A study of the disease life cycle reveals a management strategy for years to come. This fungus requires cedar trees to complete its life cycle. Spores from infected galls on cedar trees mature and are blown to emerging buds on Rosa-

ceous plants (including pear and mayhaw) in the early spring. These spores infect the immature pear tree fruit which then produce spores that are blown back to the cedar tree.

If you want more information on the pear pest check out the web page listed below.

http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/diseases/cedar_quince_rust.pdf

Call your Bradford County Extension Office to discuss management options for this disease.

Thanks to Elissa Biggs for sending nice photos of her Flowering Date Palm which are posted on the Bradford County Web Page.

A Note From Your Agricultural Extension Agent,

I have been working as your agricultural agent for three months and I enjoy my new job.

Although I have worked in agriculture for a long time, many questions that people have asked are new to me. So, I have had to do a lot of learning myself before giving out advice.

I am looking for ways to

learn what the agricultural and horticultural needs are in Bradford County. Please fill out and return the questionnaire in this newsletter. This information will help me serve you better.

We are changing! The number of calls the extension office gets regarding horticultural and environ-

mental related topics is increasing.

Don't forget to fill out the questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Jim DeValerio
 Agricultural and CRD Agent

Green Living

It was no accident that I decided to call the news letter “**The Green Machine**”. That name may conjure up memories of a Bradford County softball team that existed in days gone by. This news letter has no link to that team and I hope that none of the team’s former players object to my choosing “**The Green Machine**” as the name of my news letter. I do hope we win as many games for the green team as the softball team won!

It is just that the name “**The Green Machine**” really fit the need in this season as far as a news letter name is concerned. Bradford County is facing some significant growth challenges right now and will continue to from now on. Just sit in traffic on US 301 for a few minutes, and you’ll get my point!

What to do with all this growth potential? The best thing to do is to plan now so that we can have a quality of life 20 or even 50 years from now. The University of Florida has a lot of expertise in the area of planned urban development and is more than willing to assist individuals, developers and local governments in making decisions that are best for the long haul.

The important thing to remember is that every little bit counts. For example, if every homeowner uses a landscape that requires low irrigation, the collective water savings will be significant. Unfortunately the numbers can work against us the same way. We can all benefit by conserving our natural resources.

In the next few months I will make the case on topics relating to green living. I will relate material based on research done at the University of Florida. Some will focus on green friendly alternative industries like small farm opportunities, eco-tourism or bio-based fuels. Other topics will go into more detail on how to plan communities so that the growth we experience will have the lightest footprint on our environment.

Master Gardeners

Do you want to learn more about growing plants in northeast Florida? Do you want answers to your lawn, landscape, or vegetable questions? Do you have spare time that could be spent teaching others to grow plants and solve plant problems? If you answered yes to these questions, you may want to become a master gardener.

The Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are offering a Master Gardener class this fall. The program is designed to train selected individuals in horticulture.

Master Gardener is a title given to individuals who receive this in-depth horticultural training from County Extension Agents and in return, agree to give 50 hours of volunteer service helping their local county extension office. Master Gardener training will be held on Wednesdays beginning August 30 and ending November 8. Training sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday. The cost to attend the program is \$75.00.

Training will include topics such as basic plant science, entomology (insects), plant pathology (diseases), nematology, vegetable gardening, fruit culture, annuals/perennials, woody ornamentals, turf management, plant propagation, animal pest control, Florida friendly landscaping, irrigation design and maintenance, and use of common landscape plants.

Master gardeners give their volunteer hours to county extension offices in many ways. The actual program varies and is determined by the county extension office. Master Gardeners help residents by answering telephone calls about plants in the extension office. In addition they trouble-shoot plant problems brought into the office, conduct plant clinics, teach 4-H youth about plants, plant and maintain demonstration gardens, teach groups about landscape techniques to protect the environment, work with school garden projects, and assist with city beautification projects.

After completing the training, Master Gardeners have one of the best gardening reference books available for Florida. It is a compilation of Extension Service fact sheets and bulletins that apply specifically to our unique Florida climate.

For more information about the Master Gardener program in your county, contact the Bradford County Extension Office and request an application form. Application deadline is July 7th. Master Gardeners are a valuable resource in their community.

Important Date:

Master Gardener Volunteers are on duty at the Bradford Extension Office on Tuesdays from 9 and 11 am. Call our Master Gardener hot-line @ (904) 966-6176

Commercial Corner: Marketing Small Farm Products

Congratulations and thanks to all our strawberry producers in Bradford County. Thanks to a mild, dry spring we continue to enjoy a great crop of strawberries. It sure is rough having to eat fresh, locally grown sweet strawberries!

We do not have a state farmers market but we do have a lot of roadside stands where local growers market either their own produce or produce that is fresh from other nearby growers. Although there are less farms in Bradford County than there used to be, our local farmers still make significant contributions to our local economy. They produce a variety of vegetable products besides strawberries like squash, peppers, sugarcane, tomatoes, and sweet corn to name a few.

The University of Florida has hired Linda Landrum, whose duties are to help small farms with identifying and marketing new products in the NE Florida area. Soon we will have local meetings with Linda designed to assist producers and entrepreneurs in identifying potential commodities and shaping your business plan. There are lots of possible markets that a person who wants to start a business may consider. The University of Florida has a new small farms website that discusses some of these options. They include prospects like ornamentals, vegetable production, Eco-tourism and green industries.

One major need right now is the problem of finding growers to supply a growing number of farmers markets between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Linda Landrum has more details on this topic.

You may have ideas of your own for a business. Looking at other business plans will give you information that you will want to consider when making your personalized plan. Check out the small farms website .

If you want individual assistance or have questions about your small farm please call the Bradford County Extension office.

The small farms website :

<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/>

BUZZ BUSTERS

Do you know that there are over seventy five species of mosquitoes in Florida? And do you know that about one third of them have been found in Bradford County?

If mosquitoes get INTO YOUR SKIN, then maybe you should join the **BUZZ BUSTERS**.

The **BUZZ BUSTERS** are a group of volunteers that work on monitoring mosquito populations in Bradford County. This service helps in many facets of mosquito control. One thing the group does is to identify where mosquitoes are breeding. This is good because it is sometimes easier to kill mosquito populations while they are in the larval stage because they are more concentrated. Another advantage to treating them in the larval stage is that the insecticides used to kill the larvae are less dangerous to non-target organisms.

Sometimes spraying the adults is the only option. When you have a lot of rain, even very shallow breeding sites stay filled with water long enough for the mosquito to reproduce. This makes it impossible to treat all the breeding sites to kill the larvae. Mosquito populations can get so high that you have to resort to more aerial spraying on insecticides.

If you want to get involved, contact your extension office and ask for the **BUZZ BUSTERS**. Mosquito population sampling happens Monday through Wednesday weekly.

Be sure to check for and empty containers that have recently filled up with rain water. Mosquitoes breed in them! Dump the water and kill the larvae.

What's the buzz? Tell me what's a happening?

If you like bright vibrant colors make a trip down to Lake Placid Florida for the annual **Caladium Festival**. The organic soils in that region are perfect for growing caladiums. If you go you will see large fields of colorful caladiums. Aside from presentations and tours sponsored by the Caladium growers the City of Lake Placid is also going to have other activities including a car show, art exhibits, food and live entertainment. The dates for the festival are August 25, 26 & 27, 2006. Stop by the office to pick up a brochure if you want more information.

The Duval County Extension Office has a cannery that is now open for public use. If you have fresh produce you want to can you may want to call the **Agriculture Center Canning Department at 904-387-8860**.

Best Management Practices (BMPs). What are they? They are a set of standard practices that are recommended to use for a particular agricultural commodity. At first glance these guidelines may appear to be just one more bit of ding dang government intervention. BUT, if you look closer you'll realize that a lot of sensible effort went into arriving at these recommendations. One of the main reasons BMPs came about is because of the environmental pollution caused by excess nutrient runoff. Following BMPs will help you save money by not wasting fertilizer and will protect the environment too. In order to comply with nutrient run off standards a grower will have to closely monitor the amount of nutrients used. This requires a little more work, but the hardest part is having to do things differently. The forest industry has followed BMPs for over 20 years. It is a good policy and one that, if practiced, will reward everyone.

Special considerations for preparations for a pandemic flu outbreak (cited from Cole- Parmer Technical Library):

An important point to note is that pandemics are very different from other natural or man-made disasters. In most disasters, the event is localized - with a pandemic the event is systemic, and local communities will not be able to count on aid from surrounding communities. The second major difference lies in the duration of the event. Hurricanes, explosions, and other more common events typically last no more than a few days, with effects lingering a few weeks or a few months. In a pandemic outbreak, large portions of the population will be infected or caring for infected persons over a period of 12-18 months.

This makes planning for a pandemic outbreak a very real challenge. Last fall, the federal government unveiled The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, which provides guidance to government, the private sector, and the community at large. One key factor in this preparedness is the ability of businesses and communities to protect their members while sustaining operations. Businesses need to employ strategies to keep the economy and society in general running during this very prolonged outbreak period. Both the public and private sector need to examine contingency plans that would allow them to continue to function even when half of their employees are either sick or caring for loved ones.

Go to the US government website listed below or call your extension office to help you make plans.

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab4.html>

Keystone Heights Farmers Market Town Hall Meeting

June 23 at Keystone Heights City Hall

Call 904-284-6355 for information.

Flowering Date Palm Pictures



Unopened Shoot



Newly Opened Flower



Mature Flower

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

Public Interests and Needs Questionnaire

I am trying to learn how to spend my time so that I can help the most people. I have had calls from people asking questions on all kinds of things like vegetable gardening, ornamental landscapes, fish ponds and lawn maintenance to name a few. If there is enough interest in any one subject then I will use it a topic in a news article or even schedule a workshop on it. There are professors from the University of Florida who can come and share their expertise with us when workshops are organized. In order to learn what your interests are please fill out this questionnaire so that I can decide what subjects to teach and when to teach them.

I would like to have news letters emailed to me. Yes or No

If Yes, my email address is:

I am interested in attending a 2-4 hour workshop on: CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY

Topic	Will attend 2 to 4 hour workshop	Preferred Workshop Time	News Article OK
landscapes	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
vegetable gardening	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
insects and pests problems on ornamentals	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
pond maintenance & fish production	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
landscape fertilizers and watering	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
bio-energy alternative fuels	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
sugar cane syrup	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
organic vegetable gardening	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
marketing my produce	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
small farm marketing techniques and business plans	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
bees and honey production	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
forestry	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
hurricane preparedness	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
citrus production	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
energy efficient housing	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
wildlife	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
ecology	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
other 1	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no
other 2	2 or 4	morning afternoon evening	yes / no