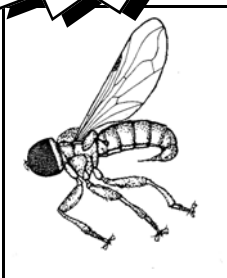




Who am I? Answer
on page 7



Commercial Clippings

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREEN INDUSTRY
Including Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns

Professional DEVELOPMENT

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

DATE	PROGRAM
Apr 5 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Landscape Maintenance series—Fertilization Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave. To make reservations for class or phone 387-8850 and give class title and name to receptionist.
Apr 25 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM	Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Work- shop , Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave. Register at 904-387-8850, Becky (by Apr 18)
May 2-4	Southeast Pest Management Conference, University of Florida, Gainesville For details go to: http://sepmc.ifas.ufl.edu/ To download and print the registration form go to: http://sepmc.ifas.ufl.edu/registration.htm
May 11	Sports Turf Managers Association , Metropolitan Park and the Baseball grounds of Jacksonville Spring workshop to feature the latest in equipment from all your local vendors See May Commercial Clippings issue for details
May 12 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Landscape Maintenance series—Turfgrass Basics Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave. To make reservations for class or phone 387-8850 and give class title and name to receptionist.

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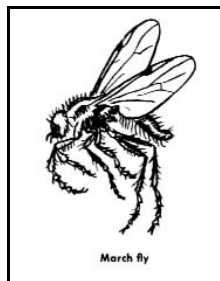
information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, Florida A. & M. UNIVERSITY COOP-
ERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

TIP OF THE MONTH– Identifying Insects

by Raymond Zerba

From time to time you probably collect an insect that you have not seen before. While Extension offices often receive such insects for ID, depending on an agent's experience in the field (and from past submissions), he/she may or may not be able to provide an ID and give only a "guess" as



to the insect's name. If you want something in writing, or want the specimen identified down to species, our back up and yours is to send the sample to the University of Florida Insect Identification Lab. While this is not a free service (it costs \$8.00 per sample), it does insure accurate identifica-

tion of the insect you're dealing with and of course with that comes a chance to better understand its life cycle and how best to deal with it. For that ID to happen however, the University of Florida asks that a proper sample be submitted. Too often they are provided with insect parts, an insect glued to tape laid out in an unnatural pose, or an insect so small, they can't even find it in the bottom of the envelop.

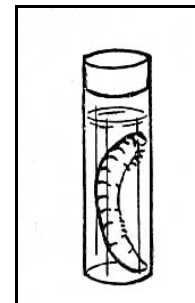
If you are paying the bucks, you want a good answer from the lab, but to get that, they need a good sample. Here are some of the things asked of you:

Catch the insect intact (don't squash it). A butterfly net is ideal for catching flying insects – they are not expensive to have. Collect small insects with a Q-tip or camel hair brush wetted with rubbing alcohol.

Place the specimen in a jar or vial ½ filled with rubbing alcohol (as soon as you can, so it does not become brittle) but don't force it in so that the lab must break it apart trying to remove it from the bottle. Rubbing alcohol is also the fastest way to kill an insect without damaging it. You might be surprised to find how important looking for hairs on a wing might be to identification to species.

If it is a larvae (especially white grubs and caterpillars), the lab asks that, if

you can, drop the larvae in boiling water to kill it and preserve color – depending again on how important it is to ID to the species level. Leave it in the water until it cools. After that, pat the specimen dry and drop it in the alcohol containing



bottle. If you don't do this, by the time the caterpillar/grub arrives to the lab, the fluid is a "tea-colored" and the larva has been "bleached" almost grey. With caterpillars in particular, this may only allow for it to be identified as to genus and not species. If the plant it was on is listed however, they often are able to go on and suggest identification based upon "guilt by association" but this would be unnecessary if they could see true color. Another option in such cases would be to include a colored picture of the larva (printed perhaps from a digital camera). All depends on how necessary it is for you to have the insect identified down to species.

Some insects, like Asian cockroaches and moths, can be identified by dry specimens. Kill them by freezing. Carefully place moths or butterflies within a layer of wax paper to protect their wings as you freeze them.

If possible, always provide more than one of the same insect. You will not be charged extra for multiple specimens of the same insect.

To prevent damage in mailing, the UF ID Lab asks that you use a mailing tube. You can pick one up at Extension Offices. It comes as a mailing kit provided with submission forms and a vial that you could transfer your specimen to when you bring it in. This might also give you a chance to have the specimen identified at no charge, if you have called ahead to make sure the Horticulture Agent will be in the office when you arrive. Out of courtesy, make an appointment. The mailing tubes/kits are numbered, so Extension offices will not

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

give you a supply of them, but they can give you a supply of the submission forms if you wish, so you can send specimens from your place of business in your own mailing tubes/small boxes.

Information for this article comes directly from the University of Florida's Insect Identification form.

PEST OF THE MONTH — Cycad Aulacaspis Scale

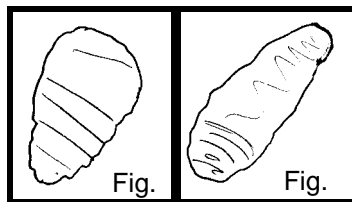
By Pamela Mattis

Cycad aulacaspis scale was the Pest of the Month in November 2003 and still remains a major problem in Sago palms, so we have decided to repeat the article with some additional control measures.

Since the first Sago samples were brought into our office in Duval County with cycad aulacaspis scale (*Aulacaspis yasumatsui*) more and more Pest Control and Landscape Maintenance companies are describing major infestations in their accounts.

The damage to fronds is first seen as yellowing spots on top of the frond with necrosis (browning) following soon after. Feeding by the insect is on the underside of the fronds and can be easily missed in early stages, while populations build quickly. The average time from egg hatch to adult is less than a month, 28 days. In addition, the average female lays 100 eggs in her 75 day life span. This causes multiple layers of scale to accumulate and the underside of the frond looks to be covered in a white substance.

To identify the female scale look for a silvery white tear drop shaped scale, it resembles the magnolia white scale. To distinguish between the two, you need to remove the scale cover. Underneath is the soft body of the scale. The cycad aulacaspis scale will be orange in color and have one end of the body wider than the other (fig. 1.) The magnolia white scale body is more elongated (fig. 2.) Another



way these two scales differ is in their feeding sites. The cycad scale will be on the underside of the fronds and will also move into the root area of an infested plant which makes it even more difficult to

control.

To date the best chemical controls for above ground plant parts is spraying the fronds and trunk with horticulture oil and/or insecticide. Several applications are needed about 10 days to 3 weeks apart. Foliar insecticides labeled for landscape include pyriproxyfen (Distance), acephate (Orthene), and dinotefuran (Safari).

To control infestations in the roots requires a root drench for landscape plants or field grown stock with a 2% horticultural oil that penetrates the root zone. For containerized plants dip the roots in the 2% horticultural oil solution. Safari can also be used as a soil drench for targeting the roots.

Biological control with a predaceous beetle and a parasitic wasp have been effective for control during certain periods but not 100% of the time.

PREDATOR OF THE MONTH — Australian Pyralid Moth

by Raymond Zerba

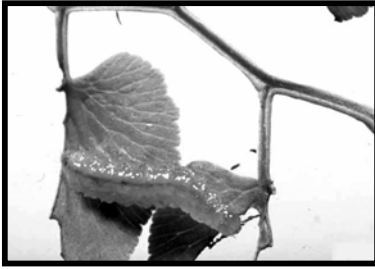
In the past I have done an article in this newsletter with respect to the Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) and the fact that it has become a major pest problem in parts of the Florida. It is very difficult to control because it is invading our wild areas and becoming established where there is no one to take an active role in its



destruction nor funds to do so. The situation looked grim to say the least, because not only did this very vigorous fern completely envelop trees, shrubs, and even grasses as it grew, but it provided a natural "ladder" for ground fires to race up and turn into the more serious "crown fires" that firefighters most fear. Now word comes that Florida may have a "friend" among us!"

The Australian Pyralid Moth was released recently in Florida to see if it might naturalize and its caterpillar could become a major pest on this species of fern. It was selected because of its very narrow food preferences – it eats virtually nothing but this fern and a closely related one. When the moth lays her eggs on this fern, the

(Continued on page 4)



young caterpillars that hatch immediately begin devouring the new shoots of an Old World Climbing Fern, seriously depressing its growth rate and ability to

propagate. The food's here, the climate's good, and it has no more major predators on it than any other moth, so maybe the Australian Pyralid Moth will quickly adopt our state as its new home – scientists hope so and we hope that a similar natural predator can be found and released for the Japanese Climbing Fern, which is more cold hardy than its close cousin and therefore holds the greater threat for becoming a serious Northeast Florida pest.

Key to Successful Landscapes

by Pat Grace

The Advantages of Dwarf Plants

After many years of pruning the ligustrum, arborvitae and spreading juniper from the front door welcome mat, designers and homeowners have come to realize and appreciate the advantages of dwarf plants.

In search of re-placements for the overly large doorway plants, breeders have introduced many new, exciting and very useful dwarfs . . . and dwarfs they are . . . compared to our larger, more common shrub plantings which commonly reach six and eight feet high and wide.

The good designer should consider the mature height and spread of a plant to allow ample growing room, eliminate constant pruning and promote good air circulation around the plant. In the nursery trade a dwarf plant is one that is three feet or less in ultimate height.

Dwarf plants are best used in small, detailed areas where they will be observed at close range, such as patio and entrance areas. The small sizes are not significant in back borders or distant plantings or without close observation.



Popular dwarfs are in demand along walk areas, beneath low windows, in close conjunction with detailed gardens and in planter box plantings.

The wide versatility and adaptability of dwarf plants add to their popularity. There are dwarfs adaptable to fully-shaded areas, open sun, pot and tub plantings, clipped borders, ground-covers, and for formal and informal plantings. Because of their size, they mix well in groups or mass plantings or in combination with other plants. The dwarf plant, too, can be used as a single specimen or accent plant.

Many of the larger standards now come in "dwarf models." One can grow dwarf junipers, nandina, pyracantha, bamboo, pittosporum, gardenia, barberry, sasanqua, crape myrtle, pomegranate, yucca and holly.

There are dwarfs which prefer dense shade, such as holly fern, fatsia, aucuba, dwarf azalea, mahonia, holly malpighia and vinca. Others prefer a sunny exposure, such as junipers, hollies, barberry, pomegranate, crape myrtle, pyracantha, and dwarf natal-plum. Still, there are some dwarfs which are not particular at all and will grow in sun or partial shade. These include the popular dwarf yaupon holly, many hollies, nandina, Japanese black pine, Indian hawthorn, boxwood, pittosporum, coontie and dwarf sasanqua.



For that special accent or specimen planting, there are dwarfs which make excellent tub or pot plants for entrance, poolside, and patio areas. Those which are most adaptable include: holly fern, fatsia, dwarf yaupon, dwarf nandina, aucuba, Japanese black pine, dwarf yucca, and dwarf bamboo. The advantage of the hardy dwarfs in pots and tubs is that they will tolerate winter conditions out of doors and do not require shifting or lifting to protected areas come winter.

Some dwarfs which reward the grower with seasonal blooms include: dwarf azalea, cuphea, dwarf sasanqua, dwarf gardenia, dwarf crape myrtle, pomegranate, lantana, Mexican Flame Vine and Indian hawthorn. Others produce attractive fruit or berries, such as some of the dwarf hollies, mahonia and pyracantha. Many of those which do

(Continued from page 4)

not flower or fruit display rich colorful foliage such as aucuba, dwarf nandina, and some of the dwarf junipers.

The next time you are designing a landscape or selecting plants to replace overgrown or damaged plants, consider using a dwarf. They have many advantages which often make them the "right plant" for a particular location.



SEASONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE LANDSCAPE

With replies for the professional

Q. Why do they call some trees and shrubs evergreen (like Magnolias) when we know they loose some of their leaves so they can't be "evergreen"? TB

R. The term evergreen is a loosely used term by the general public, which generally means a tree retains its leaves year-round. Deciduous refers to those trees that drop all or most of their leaves when the temperatures drop and the amount of sunlight exposure diminishes. It is interesting that you chose magnolias because this family has some trees that are deciduous; some are evergreen and even a semi-evergreen. However, it is important to note that even if a tree is classified as "evergreen", it does not mean it never loses its leaves. It simply means they do not lose all of their leaves at the same time or season. Pines are considered evergreen but obviously they loose their leaves occasionally because we collect



Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'
University of Georgia Extension

them and use them as mulch. Even the Southern Magnolia, which is considered evergreen, loses some of its leaves throughout the year. 'Little

Gem' and 'St. Mary' are two of the more familiar cultivars of Southern magnolia. Sweetbay Magnolia is the member of the magnolia family that is classified as semi-evergreen.

Many of the magnolia trees are classified as deciduous and one such tree is the Cucumber Magnolia which produces pale yellow flowers. Another large group of deciduous magnolias growing in this area include the cultivars 'Alexandrina', 'Brozzonii', 'Deep Purple Dreams', and 'Grace McDade'. Star Magnolia is another group of deciduous magnolias which produce small white flowers and can reach a mature growth height of about 20 feet. The Gresham hybrids are the tallest and produce the largest flowers of all the other groups. Many of the Gresham hybrids are well suited for Florida such as 'Jon Jon', 'Pink Goblet', 'Royal Crown', and 'Winelight'.

I suppose this is more information than you wanted but I think is it important to note that although a family of plants may contain similar traits they may differ on one or more specific characteristics. I was somewhat surprised myself at the large number of magnolia cultivars that are deciduous. **RJ**

PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Pamela Mattis

Mexican Sago or Virgin Palm (*Dioon edule*)


With the spread of the Cycad scale among Sago palms there is a growing need for other plants resistant to the insect pest to fill the void in urban landscapes. Among several other cycads there is one that appears to fit the bill for North and Central Florida landscapes, *Dioon edule* or the Mexican Sago (one of many common names). It is one of the plants listed in the March 2005 issue of Ornamental Outlook.

Mexican Sago is described as medium size, drought tolerant and able to grow in both full sun and partial shade. It is extremely slow growing which may present a problem for the average property owner. As with Sago palms the site should be well drained with room for the mature size. Do not

(Continued on page 7)

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR THE MONTH—APRIL

(Northeast Florida)

Topic	Turfgrass	Ornamentals
Irrigation	Water as needed or 3/4 inch every 3-4 days if there is no rain.	Ornamentals are only watered if it's been more than 2 weeks since the last rainfall.
Fertilization	Do not fertilize this month. Let plants continue to use up what was applied in March. With rainfall low this is a "Florida-Friendly Practice."	No fertilizer this month, unless you missed last month.
Weed Control	Spot treat weedy areas with post-emergent herbicide.	Spot treat weedy areas in plant beds with post-emergent herbicide, being careful not to contact herbicide sensitive plants.
Pest Concerns 	Fungus in lawns. Chinch bug feeding can cause damage this month if the temperatures rise and there is no rainfall. Mole crickets will be out and looking for mates. Egg laying can begin at the end of the month.	<p>A landscape "in balance" will have few pests that need addressing this month.</p> <p>Inspect Sago's for the cycad aulacaspis scale, remove and destroy heavily infested fronds. Apply insecticides to both remaining fronds and the roots. For details go to http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/aulacaspis.html</p>
Mowing/Pruning Activity	Mow frequently enough so not more than 1/3 grass blade length is removed with each cut. Cut grass at highest recommended height for a healthy lawn	Prune spring flowering shrubs after they finish flowering. Prune back cold damaged plants to where the new growth has started to come out.
Other	Continue to replant turf areas lost during the winter. Do test run on irrigation systems monthly to make sure all sprinkler heads are working properly and are not obstructed.	Ornamental beds can be mulched for weed control.





**WEBSITES
for the Green Industries**

University of Florida IFAS calendar of events Web site.

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

There is a new Secure Pesticide Storage series put out by the Pesticide Information Office, which can be found at:

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

[TOPIC SERIES Secure Pesticide Storage](#)

Pending Governing Board Approval -- Notice of Proposed Rule for Water Conservation Landscape Irrigation can be reviewed at the following site:

<http://sjr.state.fl.us/programs/outreach/conservation/restrictions/index.html>

Public comments should be sent to Norma Messer at

NMesser@STRWMD.COM

plant this shrub close to side walks or places where people may bump into the fronds. The fronds are stiff and sharply pointed growing as a rosette of leaves atop the rounded, unbranched trunk.

There are both female and male plants with cones produced once a year. Male cones are slender, while the female cones are broader. Both are covered with coarse matted hairs and the seeds are cream to light brown in color.

The only pests listed are scale, mealybug and an occasional caterpillar at leaf emergence. A brief search of the internet located several seed sources and the FNGLA locator list Boynton Botanicals as a possible source in Florida.

For more information this plant is listed in "Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates" by Bijan Dehgan.

Answer to the cover : This diminutive fly is called a **Big-headed Fly (*Pipunculus fonsceai*)** from February 2004 issue.

REFERENCES for Articles in this Issue

PEST OF THE MONTH—Cycad Aulacaspis Scale

The following websites contain additional information:

Ben-Dov, Y., Dr. R. Miller and G.A.P.

Gibson. 2003. Scalenet, distribution query.

<http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/scalenet.lifehist.htm>

Hodges, G., F. W. Howard, and E. A.

Buss. 2003. Update on management methods for cycad aulacaspis scale. <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/enpp/ento/aulacaspis.html>

Weissling, T, J., F. W. Howard and A. B.

Hamon. 1999. Cycad aulacaspis scale, Aulacaspis yasumatsui Takagi (Insecta: Homoptera: Sternorrhyncha: Diaspididae). **EENY-096.**

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

PREDATOR OF THE MONTH– Australian Pyralid Moth

My information came from an article written by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service at

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/050214.htm?pf-1>

SEASONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE LANDSCAPE

Check out Dr. Gary Knox's publication titled, "Magnolias" for a more complete list of deciduous and evergreen magnolias. This publication can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG270>

Next ID Cardholder Training

TOPIC	DATES
Pesticide Labeling, Ch. 5E-14 review & Biorational Pesticides as Part of an IPM Program	06/15/05

Training for ID cardholders as prescribed under Chapter 482 will be offered quarterly. Session will be 4 hours with topics that meet both new and recurring training requirements. Sign up can be for either 2 or 4 hours.

Local EXTENSION Offices

Clay County
 2463 SR 16 West
 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
 (904) 284-6355
<http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Duval County
 1010 N. McDuff Avenue
 Jacksonville FL 32254
 (904) 387-8850
 FAX 387-8902
<http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Nassau County
 543350 US Highway 1
 Callahan, FL 32011-6486
 (904) 879-1019
<http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Putnam County
 111 Yelvington Rd., Ste. 1
 East Palatka, FL 32131-2114
 (386) 329-0318
<http://putnam.ifas.ufl.edu/>

St. Johns County
 3125 Agriculture Center Drive
 St. Augustine, FL 32092
 (904) 824-4564
<http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Newsletter Team

Pamela Mattis, Duval County
 Raymond Zerba, Jr., Clay County
 Rebecca L. Jordi, Nassau County
 Patricia E. Grace, Putnam County


**MONTHLY
 Landscape Maintenance Series
 Schedule
 2005**

Topic	Time	Date
Fertilizer Basics	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Apr. 5, 2005
Turf Basics	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	May 12, 2005
Plant ID— Blooming Plants	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Jun 2, 2005
Insects of Orna- mentals	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Jul 6, 2005
Diseases of Or- namentals	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Aug 2, 2005
Irrigation Basics	08:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Sep 7, 2005

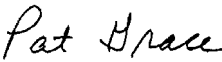
This is your newsletter, so please, let us know what you want to read about each month. Pamela Mattis can be reached at (904) 387-8850 or pmattis@coj.net. Ray Zerba can be reached at (904) 284-6355 or rhz@mail.ifas.ufl.edu. Rebecca Jordi can be reached at (904)879-1019 or rjordi@mail.ifas.ufl.edu. For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904/387-8850) within a minimum of 5 working days of the program. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, when contacting our office, please use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Your comments and input are necessary for this to be a useful tool for all of us.

This newsletter, past newsletters, links and registration forms for Commercial Horticulture activities can be found at the Duval County Extension website <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/>


 Pamela R. Mattis
 Extension Agent-Commercial Horticulture


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 Patricia E. Grace
 Extension Agent III, Horticulture

The Duval County Extension Service, through the University of Florida Extension Service offers educational programs and activities to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, or national origin. This publication is jointly sponsored by the University of Florida, Florida Extension Service, Larry Arrington, Dean; City of Jacksonville, John Peyton, Mayor; and the Duval County Extension Service, Richard E. Godke, Extension Director.