



Educating with Extension

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UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension Services

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Preparing your Landscape for Hurricane Season

The 2005 hurricane season brought four hurricanes near the Florida Keys. Since then, there have been no significant hurricanes in our area. During the past year, our landscape trees and palms have been facing environmental stresses (drought conditions, improper pruning, lack of fertilization) and biological stresses (insect infestations and diseases). These problems weaken our landscape plants and make them more vulnerable to hurricane force winds and storm surges.



The question to ask yourself is: Can my landscape survive this year's hurricane season?

Now is the time to examine the trees and palms surrounding your home. Look at them from the crown to the root flare/root initiation zone.

- ⇒ Is the bark sloughing off from the trunk? Is the palm trunk size decreasing?
- ⇒ Are any trees or palms leaning towards your house?
- ⇒ Look up in the tree with binoculars: Do you notice any broken branches that have turned brown? If the tree has started to put out new leaves, closely examine if the branch tips are brown and the bark is separating from the wood.
- ⇒ Did the tree get uprooted in past hurricanes?
- ⇒ Are any plant nutritional problems present, such as yellow or brown leaves?
- ⇒ Are there signs of insect problems: sticky honeydew, sooty mold, ants, or the insects on the underside of leaves or on branches?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then it may be wise to identify and control nutritional and insect problems. Prune, stake, or remove your tree depending on its condition and possible targets the tree can hit.

For any tree branches above your head, or if you have to stand on a ladder to prune with a chainsaw, you should hire a professional certified arborist. Look for someone who is ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified, licensed, and insured as required by your city or Monroe County regulations. Check the local yellow pages or the ISA website (www.isa-arbor.com) for a listing of certified arborists in your area. Ask your friends and neighbors who they hire to do their tree work and how satisfied they are with the work performed. Get three bids, so you have a better understanding of the job's cost, the amount of tree work to be done, and how the debris will be removed from your property.

Remember that some communities in the Keys, such as the City of Key West, Marathon, Islamorada, and unincorporated Monroe County may have tree ordinances that mandate prior permission for tree removals or pruning, even those located on private property. Tree trimming

ordinances are designed to protect our trees from indiscriminate tree removals and improper pruning practices (hat racking) that can harm the tree and make it a target for landing on your personal property. Contact your local government office to determine if any tree removal or pruning regulations are in place.

If you have recently replanted your landscape, the question to ask is: Can my landscape stand up to this year's storms?

For the newly replanted landscape, things to keep in mind are in detail information at <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/summaryplanting.html>.

- Dig a shallow planting hole that is 2 to 3 times as wide as the original plant container and find the point where the top-most root emerges from the trunk, which is buried in the root ball, then remove enough soil so that the root is preferably of the ground surface or at least within the top two inches from the soil surface.
 - Use the native soil taken from the hole (remove the larger rocks) and mix no more than 40% with a moist peat moss, or professional potting mix.
 - Make sure the root ball is not kinked or girdled. If so, prune out the problem or return to the place of purchase for a replacement, if the tree is still under warranty.
 - Stake the tree with a tripod mesh, straps, or dowels. The key is to allow the tree to bend in the wind to develop taper, not be rigid and inflexible.
- See <http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/staking.shtml>.

For more information about trees and hurricanes, how to prepare for hurricane season, and what to do with your landscape plants after the storm has passed, log onto the following websites:



- ◆ <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes>
- ◆ <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody>
- ◆ Selecting Tropical and Subtropical Tree Species for Wind Resistance - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR175>
- ◆ Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees After a Hurricane
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP29100.pdf>
- ◆ Monroe County Extension Services web page
http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/families/families_hurricane_links.shtml

Potpourri

SUMMER PLANT CLINICS

Dates for the [Key Largo Plant Clinic](#) are June 1 & 15, at the Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Suite 244, MM 102, Bayside.

Dates for the [Key West Plant Clinic](#) are June 6 & 20, at the Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260.

To see the summer schedule, click on the links above or go to the Master Gardener page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn.shtml>.

31st Annual Florida Master Gardener Conference

This year's conference will be held at the Royal Plaza Hotel, located in the Walt Disney World Resort, at Lake Buena Vista, on October 24-26, 2011. For more information and details on the facility, go online to www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener.

KeysReuse.com announces new blog

[KeysReuse.com](#), the website that allows locals to donate unused or unneeded items to non-profit agencies in the Keys, has launched a new blog that lets people know about new needs listed on the site, enables people to notify non-profits about items they would like to donate, and announces events sponsored by non-profit organizations.

The blog keeps users current and adds more possibilities for interaction. Subscribe to the blog by logging onto the site and clicking on one of the buttons in the upper left-hand side of the home page. Subscribers can receive the blog either by e-mail or RSS.

KeysReuse.com now includes 24 non-profits and over 200 items they need. As the site says, "Don't throw it away, give it away!"



Media Recap

Recipients of the 2011 Green Living Awards, selected by the GLEE Board of Directors

- ◆ Individual Award: Annalise Mannix
- ◆ Student Award: Poinciana Elementary School Recycling Rangers
- ◆ Business Award: First State Bank of the Florida Keys
- ◆ Agency/Organization Award: Florida Keys Electric Cooperative
- ◆ Local Government Award: Monroe County

Recipients of the 2011 Green Ambassador Awards

- ◆ Individual Award: Adriana Sanchez-Gomez
- ◆ Student Award: Reade Lawson
- ◆ Business Award: The Hammocks at Marathon
- ◆ Agency/Organization Award: Florida Keys Electric Cooperative
- ◆ Local Government Award: Tie between the City of Marathon and Monroe County

For more information and in-depth descriptions about the awardees, log onto www.keysglee.com.



From left to right are Monroe County Mayor Heather Carruthers, GLEE Chairman Steve Grasley, Award Recipient Reade Lawson, and GLEE Executive Director Alison Higgins

Doug Gregory spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine," WGMX's "Morning Mix," and KONK 1500 AM about public hearings on grouper and annual catch limits, spiny lobster fishing regulations being considered, and the June fishery council meetings at the Marriott Beachside in Key West.

Kim Gabel spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about preparing the landscape for hurricane season.

Alicia Betancourt spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and on WGMX's "Morning Mix" about new protections for air passengers to begin in August, and two new consumer safety recall websites.

Here a fly, there a fly, everywhere a Rugose Spiraling Whitefly

We have received hundreds of phone calls from the public about a new pest in the Keys: the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly, also known as the Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly.

Thousands of these little flies are leaving a sticky, white residue on trees, plants, cars, porches, railings, on just about everything, everywhere.

So what can be done to control these pesky pests? You can find out by attending a [workshop](#) on Monday, June 13, at the Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, in the BOCC meeting room on the second floor, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. You can also find useful information on the main page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Adult Rugose Spiraling Whitefly

Spiral Egg Pattern





**Family, Youth,
and Community
Sciences News**
Alicia Betancourt

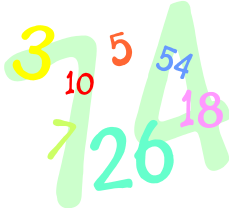


**Marine &
Green News**
Doug Gregory



**Horticulture
News**
Kim Gabel

Alicia worked with the High School Financial Literacy classes, all of which have completed nine units. She met with teaches to coordinate classes for the next school year. Because of an interest in developing material for the 7th and 8th grade curriculum, information for the High School Financial Literacy Program was presented to school administrators, teachers, and parents of Plantation Key Middle School.



Alicia coordinated the May meeting of the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee, where the bylaws were adopted and a work plan was set in place with advisory assignments by subject area.

She attended the Sea Level Rise Adaptation in the Florida Keys workshop for local, state, and national managers and educators. The workshop outlined potential effects of sea level rise in the Keys with an emphasis on development of adaptive measures.

Alicia worked with the new sustainability coordinator on using grant reporting spreadsheets and grant administration including review of the grant process.

She is collaborating with staff and municipal partners to coordinate development of the educational and greenhouse gas activities as part of the EECBG grant funding.

Alicia worked on energy grant activities including coordination of reporting requirements and timelines for accomplishments. She helped the City of Marathon and City of Key West with coordination of match funding under grant activities and collaborated with staff on energy strategy contract compliance.



Doug taught a two-hour course on solar technologies to 25 Florida Extension Agents as part of a University of Florida in-service training on “Emerging Energy Issues for Florida.”

He testified at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Council’s Annual Catch Limits public hearing in Marathon.

Doug attended the Green Living & Energy Education (GLEE) 4th Annual Green Living Awards ceremony where Monroe County received the annual Green Government Award.

He participated in a four-person UF/IFAS Extension Review Team to evaluate the Collier County Extension Office. Agents, staff, stakeholders, and county officials were interviewed over a three-day period.

Doug attended a Gulf of Mexico Fishery Council meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Advisory Committee in Tampa to review and make recommendations on the NOAA SEDAR 22 yellowedge and golden tilefish assessments, cobia and Spanish mackerel quotas, and updated harvest projections for red snapper and red grouper.

He presented a summary of the Monroe County Community Listening Session, held in April, to UF/IFAS Extension Deans and leaders for incorporation into the statewide planning process.

Doug completed the final report on the yellowedge grouper and golden tilefish population assessment for the NOAA SEDAR 22 Assessment.



Kim and 25 Master Gardeners helped Keys Energy Services with their 16th Annual Tree Giveaway.

She set up a vermiculture booth at the Keys Expo for Young Scientists (K.E.Y.S. Expo) at Stanley Switlik Elementary School. Four Master Gardeners and Interns assisted in educating 162 youth and 10 teachers. Topics discussed were the importance of composting and how to compost using worms.



Kim listened to an online webinar titled “Green Infrastructure in Your Backyard: Southern Edition.”

She attended the “Community Involvement to Break the Cycle of Dengue” workshop at the Harvey Government Center in Key West.

Kim organized two Islamorada workshops, “Whitefly Management in the Landscape,” with Dr. Catharine Mannion, Ornamental Entomologist, TREC, as guest speaker. The morning workshop was for landscapers and pest control operators (22 attendees); the afternoon session was for Master Gardeners and homeowners (28 attendees).

She inspected and passed the Florida-Friendly Landscape qualification checklist process for a new Key West apartment complex, Poinciana Royale.

Kim attended North Carolina State University’s 11th Annual Vermiculture Conference in Las Vegas to learn more about composting with worms.

She made 25 site visits throughout the Keys, mostly to identify the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly.

Kim and 12 Master Gardeners held four plant clinics, assisting 22 clientele with plant and/or insect problems.

UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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This newsletter can be accessed online at the following link
<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

Douglas R. Gregory, Jr. CED: Douglas R. Gregory, Jr.



We're on the Web at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>



<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

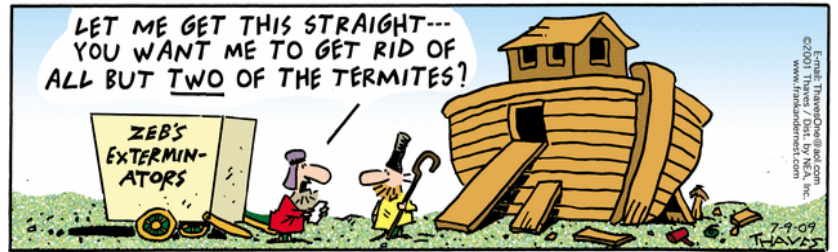
Extension programs and activities are open to all persons and do not discriminate with regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations.



Recipients of GLEE's 4th Annual Green Living Awards

Community Input Survey

If you haven't done so yet, you only have until August 19 to submit an anonymous electronic [survey](#) regarding your opinion on certain issues that pertain to you and your community, i.e., environmental matters, quality of life issues, and economic & community development needs. Please take 5 minutes of your time to let us know what's on your mind! Results will be forthcoming. Your opinion is very important. Thanks so much!



Disaster Planning Tips for Older Adults

Disaster can strike without warning. An important part of planning for a disaster is to have a plan for what you will do if you have to leave your home. Pick a place to meet family members or a close friend in the event that you have to evacuate.

Communications often are down early in a disaster, so knowing where to meet loved ones or friends ahead of time is helpful. Use the special tips in this 4-page fact sheet to plan and prepare for any emergency. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy620>

Attracting Backyard Birds: Bird Feeder Selection

Today, more than 50 million Americans put out a billion pounds of bird food each year. Bird feeders can be used to supplement the food provided by native plantings. They also provide a way to observe birds at close range. This 8-page fact sheet suggests useful guidelines for selecting feeders, food, feeder location, cleaning feeders, and managing for cats and squirrels. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw192>

Catch-and-Release: Things You Can Do to Help Saltwater Fish Survive

This 2-page guide offers tips on how you can properly handle and release saltwater fish. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/sq096>

Rain, Rain, DON'T go away!

Now that the rainy season is upon us, it's a great time to [make your own rainbarrel](#). To find out how, click on the link above, or go to our website, <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>, and type "rain barrel" in the Google search box.



As the Worm Turns

You can also make your own composter using worms, which is a process called "vermicomposting" that you can look up on our website, where there is a plethora of information about [composting](#), such as "[Worms Eat My Garbage](#)" and "[Compost Happens.](#)"



UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Phone calls	314	385	463	1162
Office visitors	21	38	39	98
Visits to clients	14	19	46	79
Group teachings	16	10	11	37
Participants	302	379	545	1226
Media submissions	7	7	7	21
Publications distributed	392	384	364	1140
TOTAL contacts	1066	1222	1475	3763