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The Georgia Certified Landscape Professional (GCLP) Program Goes Public

Todd Hurt

Education Coordinator

Center for Urban Agriculture

How do your clients find out who is the best in the business? How do they know you are a certified landscape professional? The Center for Urban Agriculture has just created a web site which provides easy access to GCLP graduates: [GCLP for Hire](#). The public can search for a professional by county or services offered. Additionally GCLP graduates will soon have the tools needed to promote their certification. The Center for Urban Agriculture has developed a web page with GCLP name badges, logos, decals, and apparel that bears the GCLP seal. The Urban Ag. Team is also currently working on a customizable flyer for graduates that promotes the benefits of hiring a GCLP certified professional. All 157 county Extension offices in Georgia will soon have a poster promoting the GCLP program.

You are the best in the business.... . Take the GCLP challenge. [Georgia Certified Landscape Professional Exam](#)

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Spider Mite Alert!

Gretchen Pettis,

Extension Entomologist-IPM Program

Add heat and drought together and you get a recipe for two-spotted spider mite infestations in the landscape and nurseries. Since no respite in the weather is in sight, now is the time to begin scouting for these pests. You may avoid serious plant damage by inspecting now and treating infestations before they become serious.

Two-spotted spider mite is one of the more economically important of the spider mites, attacking over 200 plant species. The most common woody ornamental plants attacked are: azalea, camellia, hollies, viburnum, rose, and pyracantha. Ornamental trees like maple, elm and redbud are particularly susceptible. Watch these commonly infested plants to prevent mite population explosions.

The white paper test is an effective and simple way to scout for spider mites. Hold a piece of white paper 4" - 6" below a shrub or tree branch and vigorously tap the branch 3-5 times. Spider mites, if present will be visible on the white paper. They will be small (like the period at the end of this sentence) and orange in color and move very slowly. If you have a large number of relatively fast moving orangish 'specks', chances are good that you have a healthy population of beneficial predatory mites. You may consider holding off on a pesticide application in this case and continue scouting at weekly intervals. You may also send a sample to your local Extension agent for identification if you are unsure.

Overuse of broad spectrum insecticides early in the season, including pyrethroids, can make summer infestations of spider mites worse. Pesticide applications may be necessary for heavy mite populations. Miticides are not effective against the egg stages and mite generations can overlap. Therefore, miticides may need to be applied at 5 day intervals during the summer. Mite populations are often localized so spot treatments should be effective with good scouting. Oils can be effective, but caution must be used to avoid burning plant leaves. Consult the [Georgia Pest Management Handbook](#) for other chemical recommendations and, as always, read and follow all label instructions.

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Diseases of Turfgrass: Management for the Summer

Alfredo Martinez

Plant Pathology Department-UGA

Brown Patch on Tall Fescue

Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) is one of the most popular grasses in the mountains and upper Piedmont areas of Georgia. This area extends as far south as Atlanta. Tall fescue adapts to a wide range of soil types but grows best on fertile, well drained soil with a soil pH of 5.5 to 6.5. In Georgia, Tall fescue grows best in the spring and fall, but it is stressed and weak during the summer months. Brown Patch caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* is the most common and damaging disease of tall fescue in Georgia. Brown patch is most severe during extended periods of hot, humid weather. The disease can begin to develop when nighttime temperature exceed 60°F, but is most severe when low temperatures exceed 70°F and high temperatures are 90°F or above. Brown patch occurs in areas that experience more than 10 - 12 hours a day of foliar wetness for several days. Brown patch infestation is more severe when Tall fescue is cut too short. Poor soil drainage, lack of air movement, shade, cloudy weather, heavy dew, over-watering, and watering in late afternoon favor prolonged leaf wetness and increase disease severity. Brown patch is particularly severe in turf that has been fertilized with excessive nitrogen and inadequate levels of phosphorus and potassium.

Management Tips:

- Use low to moderate amounts of nitrogen, moderate amounts of phosphorous and moderate to high amounts of potash.
- Tall fescue should not be fertilized with nitrogen in the summer.
- Increase the height of cut.
- Increase the air circulation. Minimize the amount of shade.
- Irrigate turf early in the day. It is best to irrigate every 5 to 6 days to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. The timing of irrigation is critical. It is best to irrigate early in the morning, just before sunrise.
- Improve the drainage of the area and reduce thatch by core-aerating and de-thatching.
- Apply lime if soil pH is less than 6.5
- Chemical control. Fungicides are available for brown patch control, and can be applied on a preventative or curative basis. Consult the current [Georgia Pest Management Handbook](#) -- commercial version or the [2006 Turfgrass Pest Control: recommendations for professionals](#) for details.

Core-aerating to Prevent Turfgrass Diseases

Turfgrass areas exposed to heavy traffic require aeration at least once a year during the growing season. Core aerating improves drainage and air exchange, allows root systems to expand, and increases beneficial microbial activity in the soil. These factors encourage turfgrass health by decomposing the thatch layer, increasing root growth, relieving compaction, and reducing diseases. Diseases such as brown patch and large patch (*Rhizoctonia*), take all patch (*Gaeumannomyces*), anthracnose (*Colletotrichum*), and Pythium root rot or blight (*Pythium* spp) can be diminished and/or prevented by core aerating. This is a valuable service for your clients.

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Enfermedades del Césped: Manejo para el Verano

María Eugenia Abreu – UGA Cooperative Extension, Gwinnett County

Mancha parda de la Festuca alta.

La Festuca alta (*Festuca Arundinacea*) es uno de los céspedes más populares de las montañas y las partes altas del área de Piedmont en Georgia. Esta área se extiende hasta el sur de Atlanta. La Festuca alta se adapta a un rango amplio de suelos, pero crece mejor en suelos fértiles y bien drenados con un pH entre 5.5 y 6.5. En Georgia, la Festuca alta crece mejor en la primavera y el otoño, pero se estresa y es débil durante los meses de verano. Por consiguiente, las enfermedades más severas de la Festuca alta ocurren en verano, cuando este pasto está estresado debido a las altas temperaturas y sequía. *Rhizoctonia solani* es la más común y dañina de las enfermedades de la Festuca alta en Georgia y el sureste de Estados Unidos. La mancha parda es más severa durante períodos largos de calor y humedad. La enfermedad puede comenzar a desarrollarse cuando la temperatura de la noche excede los 60°F, pero es más severa cuando las temperaturas bajas y altas se encuentran por encima de los 70 y 90°F, respectivamente. La mancha parda ocurre en áreas que experimentan más de 10 -12 horas al día de humedad foliar durante varios días. La infección causada por la mancha parda es más severa cuando la Festuca alta se corta a una altura menor al óptimo. Un mal drenaje del suelo, la falta de movimiento de aire, la sombra, nubosidad, un rocío abundante, un riego excesivo o regar por la tarde favorecen una humedad prolongada en las hojas y aumenta la severidad de la enfermedad. La mancha parda es particularmente severa en céspedes que han sido fertilizados en exceso con nitrógeno y tienen niveles inadecuados de fósforo y potasio.

Consejos prácticos de manejo:

- Use cantidades bajas o moderadas de nitrógeno, cantidades moderadas de fósforo y cantidades moderadas a altas de potasio.
- La Festuca alta no se debe fertilizar con nitrógeno durante el verano.
- Aumente la altura de corte.
- Aumente la circulación del aire. Minimice la cantidad de sombra.
- Riegue temprano durante el día. Es mejor regar cada 5 o 6 días a una profundidad de 4 a 6 pulgadas. El tiempo de riego es crítico; es mejor regar temprano en la mañana hasta inmediatamente antes de la salida del sol.
- Mejore el drenaje del área y reduzca la paja por medio de aireación
- Aplique cal si el pH del suelo es menos de 6.5.

- Control químico. Existen una serie de fungicidas para el control de la mancha parda que pueden ser aplicados en forma preventiva o curativa. Consulte la versión comercial del “Manual de manejo de plagas de Georgia” o por detalles el “Control de plagas del césped 2006: recomendaciones para profesionales”.

La aereación previene enfermedades del césped

La aereación mejora el drenaje y el intercambio de aire, permite que el sistema radicular se expanda así como incrementa la actividad microbiana benéfica en el suelo. Estos factores ayudan en el sentido de que descomponen la capa de paja, estimulan el crecimiento radicular, alivian la compactación y previenen las enfermedades del césped. Las áreas expuestas a un tráfico pesado usualmente requieren aereación, por lo menos una vez al año durante la estación de crecimiento. Una estrategia de manejo para un manejo adecuado de enfermedades de césped es la aereación. Por consiguiente, para el cuidado del césped, las compañías de jardinería o manejo de céspedes deberían incorporar esta práctica como parte de los servicios básicos que ofrecen a sus clientes. Las enfermedades como la mancha parda y la mancha larga causadas por *Rhizoctonia*, la pudrición radicular “toma todo” causada por *Gaeumannomyces*, antracnosis causada por *Colletotrichum*, la podredumbre de raíz o quemazón foliar causada por *Phytium spp*, entre otras enfermedades, pueden ser disminuidas o prevenidas a través de la aereación.

New Erosion and Sediment Control Certification Requirements for Georgia Green Industries – Frequently Asked Question.

Rose Mary Seymour

Extension Specialist, UGA – Griffin Campus

-What law established the new erosion and sediment control certification requirements?

The Official Code sections 12-7-1 to 12-7-21 provide the rules for changes to the original Georgia Erosion and Sediment Act (GESA) that define the new erosion and sediment control certification requirements along with several other changes to the GESA (http://www.legis.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/gl_codes_detail.pl?code=1-1-1). Other changes in the new rules have to do with:

- Requirements for local governments to become local issuing authorities
- Enforcement of the E&SC certification rules
- Requirements for construction permits and notice of intent
- Establishment of the Erosion and Sediment Control Overview Council to provide guidance on acceptable BMPs for erosion and sediment controls
- Enforcement and penalties
- Exemptions to rules
- Instructor qualifications for the certification courses
- Establishment of the Stakeholder Advisory Group that approved the training materials and the training program of the GSWCC.

- How will these rules be enforced?

The Georgia DNR Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is the state enforcement authority for erosion and sediment control. However, a local government can be certified by EPD to be a local issuing authority (LIA) if they have the correct ordinances in place that will establish how the local government will enforce the rules of the GESA. If there is an LIA in the local municipality, they can enforce the ordinance. However, if the Director of EPD determines that a LIA has failed to secure compliance, then EPD may step in and enforce the rules. The GSWCC website (<http://gaswcc.georgia.gov>) has a listing of each jurisdiction in Georgia with who is responsible for enforcement of the GESA.

-What level training do I need?

There are 3 certification levels.

Level 1A is for on-site personnel such as contractors, superintendents, heavy equipment operators, and general workers who may be responsible for E&SC on-site and for those who will carry out the on-site monitoring. The seminar course for Level 1A certification is a one day workshop.

Level 1B is for the people who will be inspecting sites for E&SC compliance. The seminar course for Level 1B certification is a two day workshop.

Level 2 is for designers who must create erosion and sediment control plans that are required for land disturbing activities. The seminar course for Level 2 certification is a two day workshop.

You can get more information on Erosion and Sediment Control training dates, locations etc. by going to <http://apps.caes.uga.edu/urbanag/indexFS.cfm?pg=ecttraining>

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Events:

July 27, Aug. 19, and Sept. 28

Erosion & Sediment Control Certification

The University of Georgia is offering erosion and sediment control courses monthly. Classes are planned for Perry and Griffin. Call: 770 229-3477 for more information or to register. Information is also available online at [Http://gaurbanag.org](http://gaurbanag.org) and select Water Resources.

July 20, 2006 8-4 - Gwinnett Tech., Lawrenceville

Risk Assessment for Urban Trees: Initial Inspection Through Removal Seminar

The speakers will include Mark Adams- Downey Trees, Inc., Pat Mawhinney-Prestige Shrub and Tree, Inc., and Steve Pettis- Complete Horticultural Consulting, LLC. Please visit www.thetreeinspector.com for more details and to register. Sponsored by: Gwinnett Technical Institute; Gwinnett County Extension; Prestige Shrub and Tree, Inc.; Downey Trees, Inc. and Complete Horticultural Consulting, LLC www.thetreeinspector.com

Contact: [Steve Pettis](mailto:Steve.Pettis@thetreeinspector.com)

www.thetreeinspector.com

August 9-12th, 2006

Southern Nursery Association Research Conference and Trade Show

With more than 600 exhibitors attracting 12,000 attendees, SNA... The World's Showcase of Horticulture® is the most important industry event of the year! Located in the largest growing region of the U.S., this premier marketplace represents over 45% of the nation's horticultural production and features 10 acres of plants and related products. You'll find the finest quality of woody ornamentals, worlds of color, equipment, foliage, retail sales and water gardening products available. Information at [Http://SNA.org](http://SNA.org)

August 11, 2006

GCLP Written Exams offered at SNA. Contact Susan Thornhill at 770-233-6107 to register.

August 15, 2006 8:00 am - UGA - Griffin Campus

UGA Turf Field Day

Bi-annual event (even years) is designed for all individuals interested in turfgrass management including people involved in golf course management; park and recreation departments; school grounds maintenance; professional lawn care; landscape architecture; garden centers; and institutional grounds management.

[Map and Directions to the Griffin Campus](#)

Contact: [Clint Waltz](mailto:Clint.Waltz@uga.edu)

<http://www.georgiaturf.com>

Certified Arborist Training – Bamboo Farm & Costal Gardens

Time: 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Study Sessions: **August 31**

September 7
September 14
September 21

Test Date: **September 28,**

Cost for Study Sessions - \$50.00 (price does not include study book or CEU's)

Your first step in becoming a Certified Arborist is that you must have been working with trees for at least 3 years. Next, go to the ISA website <http://www.isa-arbor.com/home.aspx>

Download the registration paper and send it in. Once accepted by ISA, Contact David Linvill (912)-652-7981 dlinvill@uga.edu or David Moulder (912) 653-2231 dmoulder@uga.edu for further details.

September 1, 2006 9:00-Noon, Bamboo Farm & Costal Gardens, Registration 8:30-9:00

Hazardous Tree Assessment Seminar

Dr. Kim Coder, internationally recognized Community Forester and Arboriculture Professor from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA will be teaching Hazardous Tree Assessment.

1.5 ISA credits will be given. Contact David Linvill (912)652-7981 dlinvill@uga.edu or David Moulder (912)653-2231 dmoulder@uga.edu with questions.

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