



USGA FLORIDA REGION UPDATE

## Wetting Agents Effective in Battling Drought Stress

Water on many Florida golf courses is becoming scarce, and superintendents are forced to prioritize the water being applied.

Localized dry spots are worsening with the drought and are becoming more apparent on many of our Turf Advisory Service visits.

These brown spots range in size from one to two feet on greens, and up to 10 or more feet on tees, fairways, and roughs. Decreasing the amount of water at each irrigation cycle exacerbates the problem and reestablishing adequate soil moisture becomes difficult.

Wetting agents are effective tools during these dry times and preventive applications are much better than curative. Fertiligation units can efficiently apply preventive treatments. However, granular wetting agents also are successful.

It is very important to keep an eye on the winter overseeding during this dry period. The overseeding has been transitioning over the past few weeks, but some courses (central to north Florida) still contain 50 percent to 60 percent overseeding.

Several courses experienced rapid transitioning as the ryegrass/bluegrass became too dry during a recent warm spell. The overseeding burned out before the bermudagrass was actively growing, and this created thin spots on several putting greens. Ample water and fertility should continue on putting surfaces to allow for a smoother transition and to encourage sustained bermudagrass growth.

Although forecasts are not optimistic, we're all hoping and praying for a normal rainy season this summer.

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Credit: USGA Links On Line

## 2001 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 3

**Editors Note:** The Florida Plants of the Year program was launched in 1998 and has been beneficial to both consumers and growers. Purchasers are introduced to under-utilized but proven Florida plant material. This program is sponsored by the Woody Division of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (FNGA). This group of plants deserves consideration for their drought and stress tolerances and wildlife attraction.

### COMMON NAME: Indigo Spires

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Salvia 'Indigo Spires'*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 7-10

**MATURE HEIGHT AND SPREAD:** 3'- 4' x 3'- 4'

**CLASSIFICATION:** Herbaceous perennial

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Long lasting color in perennial border or accent plant

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This herbaceous perennial does well in sun or light shade. It is a butterfly and hummingbird plant that blooms for a long period of time. The vigorous plant has cuttable flower spikes of deep blue with gray-green foliage and responds well to pruning.



### COMMON NAME: Miniature West Indian or Singapore Holly

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Malpighia coccigera*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 10-11

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 2.5' x 3'

**CLASSIFICATION:** Evergreen shrub

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Low hedge or groundcover

**CHARACTERISTICS:** The spreading branches with shiny dark, holly-like leaves are a backdrop for 1" white flowers in spring followed by orange edible berries. Sun or part shade are best, and the plants have a tolerate high pH and some salt exposure.



### COMMON NAME: Varigated Dwarf or Asiatic Jasmine

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Trachelospermum asiaticum 'Tricolor'*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 7-10

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 6'-12' tall and 5'-6' wide

**CLASSIFICATION:** Groundcover

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Groundcover for sun or shade

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This is a rapidly spreading evergreen viney ground cover. It has varigated white, green and red foliage and rarely blooms. Good for partial shade or full sun, this plant grows in places where other can not. As in all Dwarf Jasmines—the first year it sleeps, second year it creeps and the third year it leaps.



### COMMON NAME: 'Summer Wave' Torenia

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Torenia fournieri 'Summer Wave'*

**HARDINESS:** Zones 8-11, sensitive to frost

**MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD:** 12" x 12"

**CLASSIFICATION:** Perennial

**LANDSCAPE USE:** Bedding plant for partial shade, containers and hanging baskets

**CHARACTERISTICS:** This perennial spreads quickly and can tolerate sun and partial shade. Deep blue color is hard to find in heat tolerant plants. will be available in other colors soon—deep purple and pink.

