

— Attention — SUPERINTENDENTS!

The Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) has a Superintendent Affairs Advisory Group! Let your voice be heard! Already information between the FGCSA and FTGA is being exchanged more freely. We encourage your participation. Any time you have questions or ideas, we want to know about them. Contact your local external vice president or any member of our advisory group. Any of these people will carry your message to the Superintendent Advisory Group Meetings.

Your state President and Secretary Treasurer have already been participating in our Research Development Council and recent Board of Directors' meetings.

We will keep *The Green Sheet* and *The Florida Green* informed on our actions affecting the superintendents.

There is something you can do now. Promote our Association membership to the FTGA non-members in your local chapter. They can benefit from the information we have to offer. Tell them we will contact them by mail soon. With the additional staff we have planned and well defined guidelines for our funding we can help you even more.

We are indebted to the superintendents for their work and contributions to FTGA! Mole Cricket research is currently underway by your efforts. \$20,000 has just been paid toward an ongoing University of Florida research project by Dr. G.C. Smart. The project is for an evaluation of natural enemies of mole crickets as biological control agents, including additional wasp species and parasitic nematodes. Total amount of money required to complete this two year project is \$80,000.

Superintendent Advisory Committee: Chairman Larry Livingston, Jeff Hayden, Mark Jarrell, John Luper, FGCSA External Vice Presidents. ■

Research on Biological Control is Goal of Cooperative Agreement with Brazil

By Julie Graddy

GAINESVILLE — The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has signed a five-year memorandum of understanding with the Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) for scientific and technical cooperation in biological control and related fields.

Dr. Ormuz Rivaldo, President of EMBRAPA, received a copy of the memorandum, in Gainesville recently (4/6). EMBRAPA is the equivalent of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Stations.

WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR NATURAL ENEMIES IN THE BRAZILIAN HOMELAND TO CONTROL PESTS IN FLORIDA.

The memorandum is an umbrella agreement that enables IFAS researchers to work in EMBRAPA facilities throughout Brazil on any agricultural pest, according to Dr. James Davidson, IFAS Dean of Research. The agreement permits exploration for biological control agents in both countries and provides for the exchange of parasites, predators and pathogens of agriculturally important pests, he adds.

"Florida and Brazil are very similar in climate and crops they produce," says Davidson. "Because of that commonality, both countries also share many pests, some of which have been introduced accidentally. We'll be looking for natural enemies in the Brazilian homeland to control the pests."

The imported fire ant, which is believed to have been accidentally imported from Brazil, is the largest of ongoing biological control research here and in Brazil. Both countries also share other agricultural pests, including several soybean pests, the mole cricket, and a weed called Brazilian pepper. ■



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