



TIDINGS FROM THE TC

Field Days Bring the Whole Turf Team Together

BY JOHN CISAR

University of Florida Turf Coordinator

ITEM: Turfgrass Field Day and South Florida Expo set for March 16 in Ft. Lauderdale. Overseed Field Day set for March 23 in Gainesville.

It's south Florida's turn to host the annual turf field day. This year the University of Florida Turfgrass Field Day will be held in conjunction with the South Florida Expo at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

The Field Day brings the entire turf team together. Presentations from state-wide faculty, field tours, equipment and supplier demonstrations, CEUs, and a great lunch will be featured. It's a great opportunity to see what is happening in turfgrass research in Florida and to meet the faculty of the University's turf team

The South Florida Expo is the major annual fundraising effort by the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association to support the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the FLREC. Each year, the superintendents — with the generous support of vendors and suppliers — raise a large portion of the money needed to fund the technical support staff on the Green.

This year the event is headed by Jimmy Walker, SFGCSA president. Come on out to the Field Day and Expo on Thursday March 16, and show your support for the efforts of the University, the South Florida GCS Chapter and turfgrass industry.

For further information about registration, or for supplier and manufacturer booth sponsorship, contact Marie Roberts, FGCSA or me at (954) 475-8990.

Another event of great interest to superintendents is the Overseed Field Day. The event is scheduled for March 23 in Gainesville. Al Dudeck and the entire turf program do a terrific job in putting on the Overseed Field Day each year. The overseed Field Day includes research tours at the

2000 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 1

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. The plants are chosen each year by a committee of horticulturists, nurserymen, educators, landscape architects and others representing Central, North and South Florida..

Common Name: White Geiger

Botanical Name: *Cordia boissieri*

Hardiness: Zones 9-11

Mature Height X Spread: 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide

Classification: Landscape tree or large shrub

Landscape Use: Specimen tree, small tree for street planting

Characteristics: White, papery flowers give their main display in spring but may form all through the warm months

Small evergreen tree that gets up to 15 feet tall in full sun and is hardy to cold weather in South Florida and blooms heavily in the early summer. It continues to bloom sporadically through the remainder of the growing season. *Cordia* makes an excellent street tree that is deciduous in Central Florida. The small tree is often seen grown as a large branching shrub.



Common Name: Silver Saw Palmetto

Botanical Name: *Sereoa repens* (silver form)

Hardiness: Zones 8-11

Mature Height X Spread: 6' tall x 6' wide

Classification: Landscape palm

Landscape Use: Mass planting, background

Characteristics: Silvery leaves are beautiful in their own right and provide a background for brighter colors

Slow growing clumps form multiple trunks with blue-green palmate leaves. Flower stalks produce black berries that are used as a cancer medicine. This Florida native is cold hardy in all parts of Florida and tolerant of salt.



Common Name: Pineapple Guava

Botanical Name: *Acca sellowiana* (formerly known as *Feijoa sellowiana*)

Hardiness: Zones 7-10

Mature Height X Spread: 8-12' tall and wide, can be kept lower with regular pruning.

Classification: Evergreen landscape shrub

Interior /Landscape Use: Background, hedge or specimen shrub for full sun to partial shade

Characteristics: Grey-green foliage is handsome all year

Acca is a large salt tolerant evergreen shrub with waxy edible petals in the spring, white on the outside and dark red inside with showy red stamens. *Acca* produces and edible grey-green, oblong (2-4 inches) guava-like fruit in some areas of Florida. it can be used as a hedge plant, foundation plant or specimen.





Envirotron and Envirogreen and lunch. Mark your calendars and contact Al Dudeck at (352) 292-7938 for further information.

Charles Young takes the helm at UF.

With the resignation of President John Lombardi, Charles Young, former longterm chancellor of UCLA, has stepped in as an interim president. Dr. Young comes to Florida with tremendous credentials for leading the university during the transition in leadership. We offer our gratitude for his many years of service to Dr. Lombardi and extend a warm welcome to Dr. Young.

Recently, Provost Elizabeth Capaldi, resigned and returned to the University faculty. Dr. Capaldi is perhaps most well known for developing the University of Florida Bank. The Bank accrued financial reserves obtained through improved efficiency in the University of Florida system. These funds were used for innovative project enhancements. These funds were

also used to provide 15 percent raises to exceptional University of Florida faculty. We wish Dr. Capaldi well in her new role.

Turf pros rewarded

I am very pleased to announce that three of our turf team faculty received special 15 percent pay increases mentioned in the previous item. Drs. Bryan Unruh, Grady Miller, and John Haydu were three out of a total of 15 IFAS faculty recognized for outstanding efforts. These scientists are all well-deserving and I am happy that turf faculty are getting this type of recognition.

Grants and project updates

I announced at the fall 1999 FGCSA board meeting that Florida turf did not receive any USGA grants this year for the first time in recent memory. We put in a lot of grant proposals but so did the rest of nation (well over 100) and with only 12 grants given out, our chances were slim even though the Florida proposals were excellent. We'll keep trying to increase the

odds in our favor by increased advocacy of UF proposals with the USGA.

I am aware of three proposals submitted to the GCSAA this year for Chapter Cooperative funding. I put in a proposal sponsored by the Palm Beach Chapter for support of the new ultradwarf management trial at the FLREC.

Dr. George Snyder and I also put in a proposal to investigate the role of gypsum to alleviate sodium effects on bermudagrass turf. This project was supported by the South Florida Chapter.

The FGCSA sponsored Dr. Monica Elliott's proposal to investigate the effect of added soil microbes in turf. Potentially, the GCSAA funding program could generate significant dollars for research in this state. We are very grateful to the Florida superintendents for their sponsorship of our projects. If we are successful this year, I envision even more of these types of partnerships in the future.

The ultradwarf management trial is underway at the FLREC. Three ultradwarfs



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are in the test: Champion, Flora Dwarf, and TiffEagle. In the first year, management practices such as verticutting, topdressing and N:K ratios will be addressed.

Milestones.

Many changes have come to our program. Dr. **Bob Dunn**, Extension nematologist, retired after many years with IFAS. We thank Bob and wish him and his family the best in retirement. Dr. **Cathy Neal**, multi-county turf Extension Agent in Central Florida, recently left Florida for a faculty position at the University of New Hampshire. We thank Cathy for all her efforts in Central Florida and wish her the best.

TAWG members, Dr. **George Agrios**, chair of Plant Pathology, and Dr. **Randy Brown**, chair of the Soil and Water Sciences Department, both announced their resignations as department chairs. We thank Drs. Agrios and Brown for their guidance and wish them well in their new roles. Drs. **Tito French**, Agronomy and **Alan Smjastrala**, Ag Engineering recently passed away. Both faculty made contributions to turf during their tenure at UF. We miss them and send our deepest regards to both Tito's and Alan's families.

Welcome aboard to Dr. **Carol Stiles**, turf plant pathology. Dr. Stiles is the newest member of our turf team. She has been on board since the new year. Candidates were interviewed for the soils position at the Everglades Research and Education Center in October 1999. The turf entomologist position closed in October 1999. There were 18 candidates for the position which will be housed at the FLREC.

FTGA UPDATE

FTGA Regional Seminar Series Debuts Jan. 11

The FTGA's Regional Seminar Series debuts in Lake Worth Jan. 11 and zig-zags to Ft. Myers, Tampa, Sanford, Jacksonville and ends up in Milton on Feb. 3. Nearly 2,000 members and their employees will participate in this educational effort. Restricted Pesticide User License CEUs and GCSAA untested PDUs will be available for those needing the credits.

FTGA Returns to UF Campus

The FTGA's Y2K Conference and Show will return to Gainesville on Aug. 14-17. The Conference and Show committees are busy planning the calendar of events and scheduling educational sessions and events to provide attendees with several options to maximize their conference experience and minimize time away from work. This year there will be an afternoon/evening Trade Show reception and grand opening on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Now that remodeling and construction on the O'Connell Center is complete, all of the classrooms are being clustered in and around the O'Connell Center to eliminate long walks or drives to satellite classrooms like last year. This year it will be Park 'n' Learn.

The FGCSA plans to offer one GCSAA/Etonic Leadership seminar for CEU credit as well as special golf course presentations. There will also be IFAS workshops and concurrent sessions on turf research and general turf management topics.

Get Well Wishes

FTGA Office Manager Cheryl Stocklin is recuperating from a broken shoulder injury. She could use some cheer and support.

Send your get well wishes to Cheryl care of the FTGA Office at:

5850 T.G. Lee Blvd, Suite 110, Orlando, FL 32822-4408.

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