New Citrus Disease a Killer

By Jane Morse, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County

Something new for Florida citrus growers to worry about: A deadly tree ailment known as citrus greening, Huanglongbing or yellow dragon disease that first showed up in Miami-Dade County in 2005 and is being spread by an invasive insect, Asian citrus psyllid. It destroys production, appearance and value of citrus trees, produces bitter, inedible, misshapen fruit and, worst of all, has no cure and is fatal to citrus trees.

Naturally, commercial citrus growers are extremely concerned. According to a recent study by the University of Florida, since 2006 citrus greening has cost the state approximately $3.63 billion in lost revenues and 6,611 jobs. It is now threatening the entire U.S. citrus market and the thousands of jobs it supports.

Unfortunately, backyard citrus trees are also subject to greening. Here’s what to look for and what to do:

The first symptoms of greening are vein yellowing and an asymmetrical yellowing referred to as “blotchy mottle.” The blotchy mottle is the most diagnostic symptom of the disease, especially on sweet orange trees.

Yellowing can appear on a single shoot or branch then spread throughout the tree over a year, especially on young trees. Affected trees may show twig dieback, causing the productivity to decline within a few years.

Trees with citrus greening usually don’t produce much fruit and if they do, they are often small, may be lopsided with a curved central core, fail to color properly and drop prematurely. A yellow stain may be present just beneath the stem on a cut fruit. Affected fruit often contains aborted seeds and have a salty or bitter taste.

Since other citrus problems, such as nutrient deficiencies, foot rot, citrus tristeza virus, citrus blight, leafminer tunnels or water logging, can be mistaken for greening, it’s important to know the greening symptoms. You can find helpful pictures of greening at this University of Florida website: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ch200.

Once greening is diagnosed, the tree should be removed immediately and the stump also treated with an herbicide to prevent any new shoots from forming. Infected trees act as a reservoir for the disease, helping to spread it. Once the Asian citrus psyllid is infected with the bacterium that causes the disease it carries it for the rest of its life and spreads it from tree to tree as it feeds.

Homeowners and consumers can play an important part in limiting the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid by:

- Planting only certified citrus trees which are known to be free of Citrus Greening Disease.
- Inspecting citrus trees monthly for Asian citrus psyllid adults, nymphs or eggs and removing those that are infected.
- Getting rid of orange jasmine and orange boxwood since both are hosts for the psyllid and the greening bacterium.

It is also important to eliminate the movement of citrus around the state or outside of the state as this could also spread the disease. While researchers are seeking a cure you may want to plant a different type of fruit tree. See this publication for a list of other tropical and subtropical fruit crops: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg373.
Andy’s Update

Now is the Best Time to Destroy the Terrible Brazilian Pepper

A continuing feature of Andy Wilson’s diagnostic update at the monthly Master Gardener meetings is the reappearance of specimens important to remember. This column provides an in-depth discussion of one of the “usual suspects” from the last update, Brazilian Pepper, using Andy’s comments and information from the articles that he has recommended: “Brazilian Pepper-tree Control” by Ken Gioeli and Ken Langeland at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa219 and “Brazilian pepper-tree” at http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/405.

By Ellen Mahany, MG

Brazilian Pepper (Schinus terebinthifolius) is among the worst of invasive plants threatening the natural Florida ecosystem, and September through November, when this plant is in flower, is the best time to remove it. The flowering plant is at its highest level of translocation, so systemic herbicide will work at its most effective level. The worst time would be December through February when the Brazilian Pepper’s red berries are easily spread during the removal process.

The Beautiful and the Bad: The close-up photo reveals the appeal of this plant while a wide-range view shows a colony of Brazilian Pepper trees crowding out native vegetation.

Photos by Vic Ramey, U of F

Andy Wilson says this “terribly invasive plant “is the “most commonly brought-in plant specimen for identification.” It routinely intrudes into well cultivated landscapes as well as natural ecosystems in Central and Southern Florida. It is important to know why this invasive plant so successfully endangers the natural environment, to identify it as an invasive plant and to dispose of it properly.
Why is Brazilian Pepper thriving in Central and South Florida’s ecosystems?

Brought from South America to Florida as an ornamental plant in the 1840’s, this invasive plant has had more than 160 years to establish itself. According to the article written by Gioeli and Langeland, “nearly all terrestrial ecosystems in central and southern Florida are being encroached upon by the Brazilian pepper-tree.” Effectively dispersed by birds and mammals, seeds have a high viability. Seedlings also have a high rate of survival and trees can live as long as 35 years. Finally, this menace has no known enemies, so there is no biological control.

Brazilian Pepper with and without Flowers: Compound leaves are shiny or glossy, often with finely-toothed margins. Credits: Jeff Hutchinson, Archibald Biological Station, Venus, FL.

How can we correctly identify Brazilian Pepper?

Identification is easy when the plant is in flower and when clusters of red berries deck the tangled branches. But the leaves themselves vary in appearance. Younger leaves are simple with a toothed margin. Older leaves are compound with leaflets alternately arranged, elliptical, finely-toothed and commonly about 1 to 2 inches long. Even so, some of the leaflets on my neighbor’s Brazilian Pepper bush are closer to three inches. Sometimes the mid-rib is red, but not always. Sometimes leaves are glossy, but not always. When crushed, leaves may smell peppery, but anyone with sensitive skin should be careful not to touch the leaves or the cambium (while destroying the plant). This invasive belongs to the Anacardiaceae family, along with poison ivy and poison oak, and can cause dermatitis.

How can we dispose of Brazilian Pepper? At this time more than 700,000 acres in Florida are infested with this dreaded invader. The trees form dense thickets, and seedlings easily enter any space in a natural ecosystem or home landscape. We cannot give up the battle.

For successful removal of this difficult plant, read the detailed instructions provided by Gioeli and Langeland.

For more Brazilian pepper information or to volunteer you may want to visit The Tampa Bay Estuary Program at: http://www.tbep.org/help/eyesonthebay/brazilianpeppers.html
The three moons of summer have set. We shift now to the three moon risings of the West whose Spirit Keeper is Mudjekweewis. The animal is the grizzly bear, the season is autumn, the time of day is sunset, and the colors are blue and black. The powers of the West are strength and introspection.

Sun Bear’s Medicine Wheel offers the following about persons born of this moon which equates with astrological Libra: “People born under this moon are the Raven people. Their plant is the Mullein, their color is Brown, their stone is the Jasper, and their elemental clan is the Butterfly Clan. Like the Raven, these people are group-oriented and concerned with the welfare of others. They have the ability to search out hidden things, but will withdraw at any sign of danger. They are cooperative, intelligent, adaptable and loyal. They must learn to take on more responsibility and to be less gullible.”

This Ducks Fly Moon and the next two autumn moons bring the time for introspection, the gathering of strength to look within and contemplate the growth and progress made in the preceding seasons. It is a time to prepare for the season of rest and renewal to come.

Jasper, the mineral totem of people under this moon, has many color variations but bloodstone, green with red spots, is the form most directly connected with them. Like their stone, Raven people vary at any given time depending on mood or balance. They are said to possess mystical and psychic powers. Their jasper stone attracts blessings and earth energy which grounds a tendency in their Butterfly Clan nature to be flighty.

I have discovered fascinating information about Mullein (Verbascum thapsus), plant totem of Raven people. Gardeners may be interested to know that, due to its soft, fuzzy leaves, it is commonly called “Cowboy Toilet Paper,” or more pointedly by Native Americans, “Butt Wipe plant.” (A caveat regarding the latter use: Go with the fuzz, not against it, as older plant leaves can cause discomfort to sensitive areas.) Included in almost 40 of its whimsical names are Velvet plant, Shepherd’s Staff, Adam’s Rod and Flannel.

Mullein’s 250 species are native to Europe, North Africa and Asia, but were introduced to the Americas and Australia. Biennial or perennial, Mullein prefers well-lit, disturbed soil, but can grow in sand, gravel, and rock piles and emerge phoenix-like from asphalt.

It is drought resistant and does not compete with other plants. Its dried stalks aerate compost and its good roots break up compacted soil, bringing minerals up from deep down. Mullein always builds and improves the worst soil and once it does, it leaves the area, like a healer whose weedy work is done.

A tall, narrow spike of this impressive flowering plant rises from a rosette of leaves at ground level and can reach a height of three yards. Its small, five-petaled flowers are most commonly yellow though various species bloom orange, purple, blue or white.

The fruit capsule contains numerous, minute, long-lived seeds. The seeds are generally too tiny for most birds to feed on, but Goldfinches eat them and Downy Woodpeckers forage the plant for insects. Bees and hoverflies visit. Some bees may use the hairs for nests. The plant hosts beneficial bugs as well as pests and diseases, but is not an agricultural problem because it is rarely aggressively invasive and is easily hand-removed.

Mullein not only heals the earth. Its leaves and flowers have varied applications for human health. Steeped in olive oil and garlic, the leaves help lung function and relieve coughs, sore throats and asthma. Leaves were smoked as an aid against pulmonary ailments, a tradition rapidly transmitted to Native Americans. Many alternative smoking blends contain active ingredients from the leaves. Flowers steeped similarly for two weeks, are considered the best anti-bacterial, anti-viral remedies, especially for ear infections. Oil from the flowers has been used as a topical emollient for skin problems, like warts, boils and hemorrhoids. (Watch out for that butt wipe leaf fuzz!)

Non-medical uses: Mullein’s yellow flowers have been used in hair dye; the long, dried stalks dipped in wax have served as torches; compounds in the seeds, which cause breathing difficulties for fish, have been utilized in fishing.

Most interesting, Mullein has a link to witches. It is said to ward off evil spirits and defeat curses. Placed under a sleeper’s pillow, it produces profound dreams. I wonder. Did sprigs of Mullein tucked under the pillows of our country’s forefathers provide some impetus for the Great American Dream? Contact Jude at 727-322-6211 or heyjudebagatti@msn.com
UNDERUSED PLANTS FOR YOUR FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

By Val Boyles, MG Volunteer

The plants in our landscapes are exposed to some pretty harsh environments. They have to be able to withstand constant heat, occasional flooding and high winds, drought, saline (reclaimed) irrigation water and in coastal areas the constant onslaught of salt spray. While we are already using a number of plants that thrive in such a harsh climate, there are still many more that are sadly underused in our landscapes. These are the plants I’d like to introduce you to and I hope that you are as excited as I am to find “new” plants for your yard.

One of the principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping is THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE. We spend hours pouring over books and online to find the best plant for the situations in our yards. But one of the areas that is most often sadly neglected or that we seem to have a difficult time with, is the area right underneath power lines. You certainly don’t want a large tree there, because sooner or later it will require some “creative “pruning to keep it from being too close to the electric wires. Why not start out with a plant that is right for this space?

So let me introduce you to the White Geiger Tree or Texas Olive. Its botanical name is Cordia boissieri, and is native to North America and Mexico. It is an evergreen tree with beautiful, showy white flowers throughout the year. The fruit looks like an olive and attracts birds. Texas Olive grows about 20’ tall and about 15’ wide, and it does that very slowly. It performs best in full sun but tolerates a partly sunny location as well. It is not picky about soil, as long as it is well-drained. After the tree is established, it is very drought tolerant and can exist on rainwater alone. As long as you don’t plant the Texas Olive right on the beach, it will even thrive in coastal locations with moderate salt tolerance. The tree’s roots do not become a problem for sidewalks or foundations and the tree does not have any serious pest or disease problems. The Texas Olive is an overall excellent tree for Pinellas County and in my opinion should be planted more often in our landscapes.

Another underused power line friendly tree is the Pineapple Guava, or Acca sellowiana (also known as Feijoa sellowiana) native to parts of South America. It is an evergreen, with gray-green foliage, showy red and white flowers in the spring and tasty fruit in late summer/early fall for which it requires a minimum of 200 chilling hours. The tree’s mature height and spread are 15’-20’. Pineapple Guavas love full sun, but also grow in a partly sunny location in any well-drained soil. They are very drought tolerant (after establishment) and also very salt tolerant – great for all coastal locations. Their root systems are not a problem for sidewalks or foundations, and they can even be grown as hedges instead of single-trunk trees. The Pineapple Guava is also very cold tolerant - it grew in my yard in North Florida, so you know it will thrive in the much milder winters here in Pinellas County. Its grey-green foliage provides a different color palette for your yard and is another highly recommended tree.

You probably won’t find the White Geiger or the Pineapple Guava in the Big Box Stores. Instead you will have to explore your local nurseries. It will be worth the effort, however, because both trees will add something new and exciting for your landscapes and if you choose these trees to plant underneath power lines, you can be assured you won’t create hazardous conditions during our summer storms or hurricanes.

Until next month, “The Transplanted Master Gardener “.

Visit the FBG and see and learn more about “power line friendly trees”. Have fun searching them out by looking for Progress Energy signs that identify the trees. Progress Energy donates $1,500 dollars each year toward defraying the cost of adding trees to the FBG.-Chuck
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update
By Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation Board meeting is October 10. You may attend a board meeting as a guest to get a better understanding of our organization and goals then hopefully you will choose to become a board member. Join us to help with some of the exciting projects planned for FY 2013 below:

- Plan 2 new Children’s Trail stations at the vinery and the south end of the Tropical Walk, as well as several enhancement to existing stations and web based electronic interface with educational institutions.
- Participate in public educational and not-for-profit garden development (Lighthouse for the Blind)
- “Wayfinding” garden area identification/gateway signage in partnership with the County.
- Develop and implement wet land boardwalk connecting the “Vinery Garden” along the path to wet land retention pond
- Add more physical art to the gardens and work with fine art institutions for their potential offerings
- Supplement and replace plants in the FBG
- Perform “Diggin’ the Arts” event scheduled for May 6, 2013

And don't forget, planning for the “Holiday Lights in the Garden” Nov.23, 2012 through Jan.1, 2013, every evening from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, continues and we will need many, many volunteers. FBG Foundation board members also plan two other special events that occur during the Lights. A Gift and Plant Sale is planned for Dec. 9 from 10:00am to 4:00pm; and a Dog Parade will be held on Dec. 30 at 2:00pm.

Pinellas County's Centennial Celebration and UF/IFAS Extension's celebration of 150 years of the Land Grant University partnered with Heritage Village and the grand opening of the Fishing Museum for two days of fun filled activities. Many visitors attended this gala celebration, so big thanks to all the volunteers that took part in making this a weekend of recognition for the organizations involved. Pictured at right are MG Volunteers Donna Zacharczyk and Natalie Oliver hugging? the Rays mascot.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, I am always happy to have a visit in the Volunteer Office or chat via email (cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us) or at 727-582-2117.

October means autumn and at Botanical Bounty, you’ll see fresh bronzes, purples and lilacs gracing our shelves. Fall is also another seasonal opportunity to plant more fresh vegetables in Florida. To assist you, we have James Stephens’ (of U of FL fame) classic book “Vegetable Gardening in Florida” in stock now. It’s especially helpful with information about which types of pests may be troublesome, as well as how to outsmart or even prevent them. He has harvesting tips and so much more to improve your veggie yield. Try some pole beans this fall, you’ll be delighted with how effortlessly they’ll perform for you!

Our Atlas garden gloves are a must for planting - the nitrile coating is soft and pliable yet durable for longer wear. Other retailers sell them for $10-$12 while our everyday price is only $7. Check out our Pretty Tools brand of household and garden tools, practical and pretty pruners, scissors, spades and more.

We have some unique new necklaces including some that feel feather-light. Our cool baubles won’t break your bank but they will help you freshen the look of your fall wardrobe.

Thank you for your support! Stop in to say “HI” and learn more about Holiday Lights in the Gardens. Would you like to volunteer this year?
Stacey Zidi, Gift Shop Manager
We're Tweeting Up a Storm

To see what our followers are saying, click on the Twitter icon and follow a couple of simple steps. It's fun, and a great way to keep up with FBG news between Green Leaves.

Maybe we can even get a botanical conversation going. Share gardening tips. Ask gardening questions. Tell us how wonderful the Gardens are looking. (All "attaboys" gratefully accepted.)

Facebook Fans Share Their Gorgeous Garden Photos

When you visit the Gardens and take fabulous photos of our trees, flowers, herbs, tropical fruits, butterflies, birds, and maybe even an alligator, please share them on our Facebook page. We’re getting more and more fans all the time. If you haven’t signed up, it’s easy to do. Use the link above and click on the f connect symbol. Become a fan today so that you can view visitor photos and comments. You can also share your experience at the gardens on the “Wall.”

Special Announcements

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival
10/13/2012 from 10AM to 4:PM
Annual Fall Plant Festival with the botanical gardens full of vendors selling and displaying diverse plants, cactus, succulents, fruit trees, begonias, butterfly plants, bromeliads, gesneriads and many more.
12210 USF Pine Dr. Tampa 33612
Admission: $5.00
Event is free to FBG Foundation Members and they can enter 1/2 hour early.

Florida West Coast Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show and Sale “ORCHID PARADISE”
Saturday and Sunday, October 6 & 7, 2012
Saturday :10:00am—5:00pm Sunday : 10:00am—4:00pm
The Minnreg Building
6340 126th Ave. N. - Largo
Located on 126th Ave. between US 19 and 66th Street N.
10 Vendors/Displays/Free Parking/Snacks & Drinks For Sale
Orchid Classes & Potting Booth Saturday and Sunday
For Information Contact: Bill Nunez 813-918-4546
Fall Wildflower Festival at Brooker Creek Preserve

Sat., Oct. 27, the Friends of Brooker Preserve along with Pinellas County are hosting the third annual Fall Wildflower Festival. This family-oriented event is free and promises to be a fun-filled, learning experience.

The Fall Wildflower Festival celebrates the multitudes of wildflowers in bloom at Brooker Creek Preserve. There will be a Butterfly Encounter - a walk-through tent with hundreds of butterflies and butterfly plants where participants can get up close and personal with the butterflies. Families can visit the honey beehive exhibit and try to find the queen amongst the thousands of honeybees in the hive. Presentations going on through the day include Wildflowers of Pinellas, Landscaping with Wildflowers, Edible Plants, Wildflower Pollinators and Wildflower Photography. For the adventurous, there will be a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt which takes place on the Preserve's beautiful hiking trails. Wildflowers will also be available for sale. Roving Naturalists will be on the trails to answer questions about flora and fauna found in the Preserve. The event runs from 9:00-4:00, rain or shine, and is located at 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL. For questions, please call 727-934-2680 or email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com. Presentation schedule: 9:30 and 1:15 Wildflowers of Pinellas County, 10:15 and 2:00 Landscaping with Wildflowers 11:00 and 2:45 Edible Plants – What You Can Eat, What to Avoid, 11:45 and 3:15 Bees, Bugs and Butterflies – The Amazing Wildflower Pollinators, 12:30 Wildflower Photography.
Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

- **Help Desk** - Please look at the VMS help desk calendar and see if there is a time that works for you. If you are a regular at the help desk please be sure you are signing up to avoid scheduling confusion.
- **MGs needed** - **MG Sally Ervin** is looking for help at Lowes: MGs that would like to volunteer at the Clearwater Lowe's outreach Extension table on Saturdays anytime from 10-2 (can be 1 hr to 4 hrs) should e-mail Sally at servin307@hotmail.com. Lowe's is located on Gulf to Bay near US19.
- **4H needs more MG's to work with the children at the Ochs Garden.** Gardening starts the first of September, 4H has an additional layer of screening for the children's safety, so its important to sign up now. You may also contact 4H Extension agent Jean Rogalsky at jrogalsk@pinellascounty.org.
- **The City of Largo is planning a big tree giveaway in January of 2013.** They are looking for a few MGs to help hand out trees and information to citizens who register for them. The event will take place on Jan. 11 -12 and 18 - 19th, from 9am-1pm. This event is now on the MG VMS calendar for you to sign up. There will be more details as the event takes shape.

Education

- **MG Update** - **Monday, Oct 8, 9am-noon.** The Future of the Master Gardener Program. Also includes Andy Help Desk Update This event is a potluck.
- **Yard Tour** - **Tuesday, Oct. 9, 10am to noon.** Melinda Vargas is opening her garden to us. Her address is 221 19 St. in Palm Harbor.
- **Optional lunch to follow.**
- **There will be no MG Update for November-Instead an opportunity for continuing education.**
- **Topic: "Palm Care, Maintenance and Diseases" Oct. 30, 1-3pm** Free for Master Gardeners, but registration is required- click on the following link to register: [http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4019462320/eorg](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4019462320/eorg)
- **Earn Continuing Education Credits** - Extension classes: Please register at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml) MGs can earn up to four continuing education credits. Modules at: [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml) One CEU can be earned by studying the plants and earning a passing score of 80% on the “Test Yourself” feature. Once a score of 80% has been reached, print the page and submit it to the volunteer office.
- **Palm Harbor Library MG Class Series** - Free classes every second Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:30pm and 6:15-7:45pm at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave. To register [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/) click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”
- **St Petersburg Community Library MG Class Series** - Free classes offered at the main branch of the St. Pete Library located at 3745 Ninth Avenue N. To register [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/) Click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”
- **“Planting Pinellas” visit blog [http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/](http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/)**
- **Extension Classes and Tours** - Visit Lawn & Garden - Pinellas County Extension on-line calendar for a list of classes where most are being offered free or at a discount to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members with a membership card. Also, sign up for a garden tour. Register on-line. [http://pce-lawndandgarden.eventbrite.com/](http://pce-lawndandgarden.eventbrite.com/)
- **Special discount offer for Rain Harvesting Workshop**
Laurel Wilt Update, Pinellas County Edition

Some of the leaves on trees in Pinellas County are changing colors, but it’s not so pretty. Unfortunately we are seeing an increase in the number of bay trees (*Persea* spp.) being hit by the deadly laurel wilt disease. Trees in the Lauraceae family including redbay and swamp bay are susceptible to laurel wilt. This is caused by an insect/disease complex and spread by the redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). This tiny little insect bores into the tree and farms a fungus (*Raffaelea* sp…) in the vascular tissue of the wood for its own feeding purposes. This fungal growth inhibits the circulation of water and nutrients in the tree and eventually leads to the death of the tree.

Laurel wilt was first detected in our county in John Chestnut Park about 1 year and a half ago and is now devastating the bay trees in that park as well as spreading to nearby Brooker Creek Preserve. Unfortunately it has also been found here at the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. Leaves on an affected tree wilt and take on a reddish/purple color, hanging on the branches sometimes up to a year after the tree has died. (This is not the fall color we all love to see on trees…) Sawdust tubes will often be observed on the trunk indicating where the beetles have bored into the wood.

There is nothing that can be done for an infected tree other than removing it. Burning of the affected wood is recommended (always check local authorities and get any permits necessary), but if that is not possible it can be chipped on site to reduce the breeding and dispersal of the beetle. Moving the affected wood offsite is not recommended, but covering the chipped material onsite is acceptable if burning is not an option. There are no effective fungicides for a tree that is already diseased, but there are treatment options available that are showing efficacy as a preventative measure. This is not practical or affordable on all of the susceptible trees, but may be warranted on a high-value or sentimental tree. Consult with a certified arborist if you are considering this type of treatment. It is carried out via trunk injection and would require regular maintenance indefinitely to afford any protection.

You should also know that (guacamole lovers may want to sit down) avocado trees (*Persea americana*) are also affected by laurel wilt and unfortunately there are no approved treatments for avocado. Do not despair though, much research is being done on laurel wilt and I think we should remain hopeful that a solution may be found. In the meantime, keep an eye on our trees and do not move firewood, tree trimmings, mulch, etc. outside the county. For more info on the disease and how you can help reduce/slow the spread please visit the following websites:

Laurel Wilt: A Threat to Redbay, Avocado and Related Trees in Urban and Rural Landscapes: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs391](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs391)

Division of Plant Industry: [http://savetheguac.com/](http://savetheguac.com/)

I have a request for help in the landscape here around the Extension building. I would like to appeal to all of you to ask for more ongoing help in the landscape around the Extension building. We have a never-ending list of things to do and no matter how many people we get– its never enough. Weeds keep growing, plants need pruning, irrigation needs repair- the list goes on and on. Basically we need more hands in the landscape- and we need your knowledge and skills along with those hands. Our Weed-n-Feed events are fantastic but we need to find a more regular way to accomplish this. If you can join us- please let me know in an email with your available day(s)/time(s) and if you have a particular interest or talent in the garden. We want to get everyone divided up into teams that can work on various days that will fit your schedules and provide more ongoing work in the landscape. Working here is a valuable learning opportunity while you earn your volunteer hours. Please consider joining us if you haven't already- thank you! For those of you already out there in the trenches- sometimes literally- thank you!!!

Theresa Badurek, 727-582-2109, tbadurek@pinellascounty.org
Thanks to Local Nurseries, FBGF Members and MGs Can Save $$ When Beautifying Yards

One of the benefits of Foundation membership and being a certified Master Gardener is getting a 10 percent discount at many local nurseries. Just present your FBGF membership or MG card. We will continue to contact nurseries in the area to secure additional participants. Support our friends at:

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<th>Country Club Nursery</th>
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<tr>
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<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo,</td>
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<td>727-397-4438</td>
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<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
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<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>Note:* (10% off all purchases)</td>
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<tr>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
<td>6260 Seminole Blvd, Seminole</td>
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<td>(10% off trees)</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
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<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
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<td>(10% off cash and carry)</td>
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<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
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<th>Summerwood Gardens, Inc.</th>
<th>Twigs and Leaves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1171 Tarpon Springs Rd, Odessa</td>
<td>2131 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>813-920-2153</td>
<td>727-822-5400</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Willow Tree Nursery</th>
<th>Wilcox Nursery</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
<td>727-595-2073</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazel’s Garden &amp; Nursery</th>
<th>Sunscape Plant &amp; Tree Nursery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5063 Dartmouth Ave, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>4730 CR 16 St. Petersburg, FL 33709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727-321-4599</td>
<td>727-347-2915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:* Only FBG Foundation membership applies
For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website:  http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6