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Local Area Under Drought Response Level 1

If dry conditions persist, Georgia is in for a very hot summer according to UGA climatologist David Stooksbury. If the drought intensifies, temperatures across the mountains could reach into the middle to upper 90s while the piedmont bakes in the low 100s. Across the coastal plain temperatures in the 104 to 106 range may not be out of the question, says Stooksbury. After improvements in drought conditions across north Georgia during the winter and spring, conditions are expected to worsen over the next several months. The latest information from the GA Department of Natural Resources indicates that a Level 4 drought response continues for most of north Georgia while 60 central Georgia counties are at Level 2. The good news is that 44 middle and south Georgia counties are at drought Level

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One, which includes Chatham, Bryan and Effingham. To review the rules, under a Drought Response Level One:

- outdoor water use may occur on scheduled days within the hours of 12 midnight to 10 am and from 4 pm to 12 midnight
- scheduled days for odd-numbered addressees are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays
- scheduled days for even numbered addresses and gold course fairways are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays
- use of hydrants for any purpose other than

See *Level One Drought* on page 3

All-America Selections Announces 2009 Winners

The AAS selections for 2009 include one flower and three vegetable varieties. The Cool Season Bedding Plant award winner is Viola 'Rain Blue and Purple' whose flowers change from purple and white to purple and blue as they mature. This results in a drift of cool blue shades. The plant spreads 10–14 inches and exhibits heat and cold tolerance in trials. Eggplant 'Gretel' is one of the three Vegetable Award Winners. 'Gretel' is the earliest white eggplant. It's glossy, pure-white fruits are produced in clusters and can be harvested in 55 days. The mature plant reaches 3

feet tall and wide. The second Vegetable Award Winner is Melon 'Lambkin' which was bred as a gourmet breakfast or desert melon. Its distinctive visual feature is the smooth yellow skin with green mottling. The oval shaped melon matures in 67–75 days. The third Vegetable Award Winner is Squash 'Honey Bear'. This is a compact bushy plant that is tolerant of powdery mildew. A winter squash, 'Honey Bear' can be grown in smaller spaces and still give high yields. To order AAS winners, contact

See *2009 AAS Winners* on page 4

Stops Along the Way

Chatham County Garden Center and Botanical Garden

This ten-acre garden opened in 1997 as a botanic garden and education center. The gardens center on an historic 1840's farmhouse that was once scheduled for demolition. It was saved and moved to the Botanic Garden where it serves as the headquarters and education center. The gardens include a beautiful rose garden and a fine daylily collection. Perennials, vegetables and shrubs create a series of garden spaces as you move toward a pond and a series of nature trails at the back of the property. In the front of the farmhouse, adjacent to the parking lot along the road, is a shade garden under native trees.



View toward rear of 1840's farmhouse.

Just at the rear of the farmhouse are a children's garden, a vegetable garden, and a perennial garden. Volunteers from local garden clubs do most of the work here. 1388 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah, GA. (912) 355-3883. There is no admission charge but donations are accepted. &

Programs of Interest for Green Industry Professionals

2nd Annual Bamboo Festival

*July 12 and 13, The North Carolina Arboretum
Asheville, NC*

The Southeast Chapter of the American Bamboo Society will again sponsor a festival in celebration of all things bamboo. Last year's event attracted over 1250 attendees. Don't miss the booths, vendors, lectures, demonstrations and musicians. There will also be a plant auction. The North Carolina Arboretum is located just minutes off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville, NC.
www.sec-bamboo.org/index.htm

Southern Nursery Association Trade Show

*August 7 - 9, World Congress Center,
Atlanta, GA*

Join the SNA in Atlanta for their annual Green Industry Nursery and Landscape Trade Show. With 800 booths of plants and hardgoods and 8000 attendees expected, this show remains the largest green industry trade show in the Southeast in the largest green industry market in the southeast. Register online at www.sna.org.

Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association Landscape Show

September 25 - 27, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL

The Landscape Show is recognized as one of the premier green industry shows in the county. In addition to the trade show - more than 600 industry exhibitors - many education events are available during the FNATS Short Course. To register, visit the website www.fn gla.org/fnats/registration.asp

Please see *Programs of Interest* on page 5



Mark your calendar so you'll remember these educational opportunities.


Level One Drought from page 1

firefighting, public health, safety or flushing is prohibited.

There are a number of exemptions to the rule which include for newly installed landscapes in place less than thirty days; (1) irrigation is allowed any day of the week but only during the allowed hours and (2) for new landscapes installed by certified or licensed professionals, Commercial Exemptions apply. The following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this rule: (a) professionally certified or licensed landscapers, golf course contractors, and sport turf landscapers who may irrigate during installation and 30 days following installation only. Professional landscapers must be certified or licensed for commercial exemptions to apply; (b) irrigation contractors during installation and as needed for proper maintenance and adjustments; (c) sod producers, (d) ornamental producers (e) fruit and vegetable growers (f) retail

garden centers (g) hydro-seeding (h) power-washing (i) construction sites (j) producers of food and fiber (k) car washes (l) other activities essential to daily business (m) watering-in of pesticides and herbicides in turf.

Enforcement

Under current state law, all water utilities must comply with Environmental Protection Division's Outdoor Water Use Rules. This means that the rules and regulations are, in fact, state laws and local counties are charged with enforcing the law. County officials typically issue a warning citation at the first offense. At the second offense, fines may be incurred. For current drought information, go the Web site www.georgiadrought.org. Weather information is available at the UGA automated weather station network Web site www.georgiaweather.net. 

Landscape Tips from *Ornamental Outlook* Magazine

When to Water Bougainvilleas

Bougainvilleas are drought-tolerant plants that require very little water once established. Before watering, the soil should look and feel dry. In fact, slight wilting, or flagging, is the best indicator that water is needed. However, you can let your Bougainvillea get *too* dry which may cause the bracts and foliage to drop. When it is time to water, do it thoroughly. Put on enough water to completely saturate the soil and – if you are growing it in a container – to drip from the drainage holes. Avoid constant, light and frequent watering. If the Bougainvillea is in a container indoors, do not let water accumulate in the drainage dish under the container – they hate wet feet!

Palm Fertilization Tips

1. Fertilize with a controlled-release 8-12-12 + 4% Magnesium fertilizer (Palm Special.)
2. Apply fertilizer by broadcasting evenly under the canopy.
3. Apply fertilizer at the rate of up to 15 lbs per 1000 square feet every 3 months.
4. Do not use turf fertilizer within 50 feet of a palm tree. Instead, use your palm fertilizer on turf and ornamentals in mixed beds.
5. Palms are prone to potassium deficiency which can result in yellow fronds. Correct the deficiency by using the correct fertilizer. It can take from 6 months to 2 years to correct the problem.

<http://www.ornamentaloutlook.com> 

2009 AAS Winners from page one

your favorite seed or plug suppliers. Look for these varieties to be in Garden Centers in late 2008 and early 2009. The purpose of the All–America Selections is to promote new garden seed varieties with superior garden performance judged in impartial trials in North America. AAS Trials have been conducted every since 1932. The idea originated with W. Ray Hastings, president of the Southern Seedsmen’s Exchange Association of Atlanta, who proposed the idea of All–America

Selections as a way for home gardeners to learn which new varieties are truly improved. AAS continues as the oldest, most established international testing organizing in North America. [↗](#)

New Pest of Amaryllis, Crinum, Spider Lilies Found in GA

UGA Agriculture Extension Agent Jacob G. Price of Lowndes County has reported the discovery of on a new pest attacking Amaryllis in Georgia. First reported in Florida in 1989, the unknown weevil was found attacking amaryllis in the Tampa Bay area. Adults feed on the foliage of amaryllis, especially the base of the leaves, but adult feeding damage is not as severe as that caused by the larvae which can hollow out bulbs, killing the plant. In Florida it has been recorded on *Amaryllis belladonna*, *Amaryllis* sp, *Crinum americanum*, *Crinum* sp., *Eucharis x grandiflora*, *Hippeastrum* sp., *Hymenocallis*, sp. and *Hymenocallis latifolia*. The weevil was first documented by Price in Lowndes County in 2006. The weevil adults may live up to two years, are

shiny black and measure 4 mm in length by 2 mm in width. The females lay eggs on the leaves which hatch and tunnel their way towards the bulb. With severe infestations the larvae will hollow out and destroy the bulbs. Larvae are believed to pupate in the surrounding soil and emerge as adults. Adult weevils are believe to be weak flyers and are most likely spread from the transport of bulbs. Use caution when introducing new plants to your garden. The insecticide Imidacloprid may help control infestations. Always follow pesticide label directions exactly. For more information on control, contact your local UGA Extension agent by calling 1–800–ASK–UGA1. [↗](#)

“Adults feed on foliage . . . but adult feeding damage is not as severe as that caused by the larvae which can hollow out bulbs, killing the plant.”



Adult Amaryllis Weevil

Photo by Jake Price

Programs of Interest from page 2

ISA Certified Arborist Recertification Course

July 19, Athens, GA

For more information contact Steve. D. Pettis at (706) 208-1582. (CA - 6.00 hrs, TW - 2.00 hrs, M - 4.00 hrs, Bs/Bm - 2.5 hrs, Bp - 1 hr)

International Plant Propagators Society Combined Annual Meeting, Eastern and Western Regions

September 14 - 17, Denver Marriott Center, Denver, CO


Join the IPPS for a program that explores all phases of propagation and plant production, with special emphasis on the Rocky Mountain region. The banquet speaker will be Panayoti Kelaidis, a world-famous authority on alpine plants, who works his magic at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Take part in tours to outstanding nurseries and botanic gardens of the Front Range area. "Seek and Share" with

propagators from across the USA and Canada. Find the perfect plant at the extensive silent auction. www.ipps.org/EasternNA/meeting.htm

Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License School

August 18 and August 25

Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens, Savannah, GA

These workshops / study sessions are being offered to any interested individual and will review material that is covered in the Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License exam. Cost for each workshop is \$20 per person. You can pay at the door but **you must pre-register!** Call 912-921-5460 to register. Study guides are **not** provided so you **must obtain the study guides before coming to class.** Order study guides from Agricultural Business Office, Room 215 Conner Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. To place a credit card order, call 706-542-8999. 

Turf and Ornamental Pesticide School at BFCG in August

If you are planning to take the Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License exam in 2008 or 2009, then you may wish to attend one or both of the workshops being offered to help you prepare for the exam. These workshops are being offered to any interested individual and will be held at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens in Savannah. The study sessions review material that will be covered in the Commercial Pesticide Applicator's License exam. That exam is given in two parts: the General Standards Exam and a specialization exam for Category 24, Ornamentals and Turfgrass. Cost for each workshop is \$20 per person. You can pay at the door but **you must pre-register!** Call Jeff at 912-921-5460 to register. Refreshments will be provided but lunch is on your own. Study guides are **not** provided so you **must obtain the study guides before coming to class.**


Monday, August 18 from 9 a.m - 3 p.m.

This workshop will review the manual for the general standards portion of the test, *Applying Pesticides Correctly*. You must obtain the study guide before coming to class. The book costs \$15.

Monday, August 25 from 9 a.m - 3 p.m.

This workshop will review *Ornamentals and Turfgrass Pest Control*, the study guide for the Category 24 specialization portion of the exam. You must obtain the study guide before coming to class. The book costs \$25.

Order study guides from

Agricultural Business Office/Room 215 Conner Hall University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. To place a credit card order, call 706-542-8999. 

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Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens Calendar

Blackberries are ripe for picking now. Pick-your-own for \$3 per pound, Monday through Friday 9 - 4 and Saturday 9 - 2

Upcoming Events

15th Annual Fall Festival - October 25 / 9 - 4
Fun, food, education and entertainment for the entire family



Dragonfruit research and demonstration