

Columbia Green

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Scale Insects - Sucking the Life out of Cycads



More than 20 species of scale insects occur on cycads in Florida, the most damaging of

which is the cycadaulacaspis scale. (*Aulacaspis yasumatsui*)

Cycad aulacaspis scale is native to Thailand and currently found in several other Asian countries as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaiian Islands and Florida. In addition to the known distribution, cycad aulacaspis scale has also been reported in France in 2001 but has not become established there. This species was first found in Florida in 1996. Since this initial discovery in the Miami area, it has become widely distributed throughout Florida and recently has been reported in counties surrounding Columbia County. Homeowners and nurserymen alike have been struggling with control of this pest. Populations of this scale quickly reach high densities on their hosts, causing yellowing of fronds and eventually plant death.

The magnolia white scale (*Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli*) which may be confused with the cycad aulacaspis scale in the field, occurs on cycads and many other hosts but is not as difficult to control. It superficially resembles the cycad aulacaspis scale with the adult fe-

males having a silvery teardrop-shaped cover. Once the scale cover is flipped over, the cycad aulacaspis scale female is generally orange in color and has a plump shape and overall looks very compact. The magnolia white scale is long, narrow, and yellow in color. A 10X hand lens may be helpful for seeing these features.

Crawlers initially infest the trunk and base of the leaves, but will also infest the leaves, cones, seeds and roots. Chlorotic spots will first be seen on the leaves, which then turn brown and desiccate. Eventually plant death occurs. In various tests and observations researchers have found horticultural oils applied to foliage and trunks of infested cycads greatly reduce the scale insect populations. Management utilizing foliar oil treatments are effective, but control may not be achieved without several applications. Frequent oil treatments can result in an unsightly build-up of oil and dead scales. The appearance of the plant can be improved by occasionally hosing off old oil and scales. Oils can also be mixed with a contact insecticide, such as malathion or Sevin, rather than using oil alone. However, use of contact insecticides will also kill any beneficial insects that are devouring scale insects.



Adult Female, *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*
Chlorotic spots will appear on the infested leaves

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Hugh numbers of ants makes the ground look like it is



From Miami to Jacksonville to...

they're movin' on

Caribbean crazy ants are medium sized, reddish brown ants, and at first glance are often mistaken for fire ants. Caribbean crazy ants do not sting but will bite if the nest is disturbed. Infestations of Caribbean crazy ants are notorious for the vast numbers of ants present. Homeowners have reported that "the ground is moving".

When foraging an established food source, Caribbean crazy ants will form

dense trails several ants wide, but otherwise move about in a random, erratic, quick "crazy" manner. They do not form mounds in the landscape but will nest in leaf litter, debris, and under material such as potted plants, garbage cans and stones. Caribbean crazy ants quickly relocate when disturbed, and they are easily transported to other areas when nests are moved inadvertently by people.

Some points to remember:

- *100% eradication of this ant is not probable where the ant is established; however, population suppression is possible.
- *Expect the ants to reinvade.
- *There is a legal limit as to how often insecticide can be used, so multiple control tactics will be required.

De-cluttering is important in helping toward the control of this ant. Schedule regular trash pick-up and clean up yard debris. Read more about these ants in the publication at

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in889>

A serious threat to Florida's agriculture, natural areas, and landscapes

www.freshfromflorida.com



FDACS Identifies Population of Invaders

This September, Giant African land snails were detected in Miami-Dade. These invasive snails are considered to be one of the most damaging species of land snails--they feed on over 500 kinds of plants and are a serious threat to Florida's agriculture, natural areas, and landscapes.

Keep an eye out for these invasive snails, which can

grow up to 8 inches in length and more than 4 inches wide. Giant African snails feed on plants at night. They hide under plants, debris or soil during the day.

The last reported outbreak and eradication of the Giant African land snail in Florida occurred in 1966 when a boy smuggled three snails into Miami as pets. The boy's grandmother released the

snails into her garden and seven years later, more than 18,000 snails were found costing more than \$1 million and taking an additional 10 years to successfully eradicate this pest from Florida.

Anyone who believes they have seen a Giant African snail or signs should call the FDACS toll-free at 888-397-1517 to make a report.

OAK GALLS

Galls occur on a wide variety of plants. These growths may be the result of fungi, bacteria, nematodes or mites, but insects are the prime cause. People with concerns about their oak leaves are usually referring to some type of gall. 60 percent of all known insect galls occur in the oak family. These growths are called galls because they contain large

amounts of bitter tasting tannin. Long ago, they were known as "gallnuts" because of this bitterness.

Plant galls are abnormal growths of plant cells formed as a response to stimuli caused by insect egg laying, or larva or nymph feeding. The immature insect becomes enclosed by the gall and feeds inside on the gall tissue. After the adult insect emerges, a

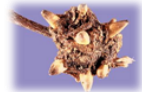
small hole will be present on the outside surface of the gall.

Galls are most commonly found on stems and leaves, but do occur on other plant parts. A range of unbelievable colors exists, as well as sizes, shapes and textures. Although these strange looking galls can cause quite a concern to the general public, they seldom can cause serious harm to the plant. They may

just look strange for awhile.

Insecticidal control is not practical because after formation, the pests are safely enclosed inside the gall. The unattractive leaves will eventually drop off, and trunk or stem galls may persist for several years. Fertilize, irrigate, prune and maintain sanitary conditions to keep plants healthy and less stressed.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in022>



Landscape maintenance professionals contend with many time consuming issues on a daily basis. Finding accurate information to solve client problems can be difficult and take a considerable amount of research time. Sometimes information found on the internet may not always be accurate or intended for your part of the state.

Within one web site you have access to a calendar of events for educating yourself and your employees. You also have access to hundreds of research-based horticulture publications. Offer these UF publications to your customers and they will lend the credibility of research to your company.

www.solusionsforyourlife.com

Your Florida Landscape - a Complete Guide to Planting and Maintenance

Black and Ruppert
With more than 30 faculty contributors, this complete resource covers trees, palms, shrubs, ground covers, and vines. Includes the latest research-based information on topics such as planting site evaluation, mulching, watering, fertilizing, pruning, common pests and beneficial insects. Over 240 color plates and 52 illustrations. 234 pp. To order, see the web site ifasbooks.ufl.edu or call toll free 1-800-226-1764.

Your Florida Guide to Shrubs

Ed Gilman and R. J. Black
Written for everyone - from the homeowner with limited gardening skills to the landscape professional and property manager. Guides the reader through selecting and maintaining healthy shrubs for all landscape uses. Discusses exotic and native plants and includes a hardiness-zone map and a color, illustrated shrub selection guide. 116 pp. To order, see the web site ifasbooks.ufl.edu or call toll free 1-800-226-1764.

Some must-have Informational Books from the University of Florida/IFAS Bookstore

Florida Lawn Handbook

K. C. Ruppert and R. J. Black
This popular guide features sections on selecting and maintaining lawn grasses; identifying and controlling weeds, diseases, and insects and other pests; and pesticide application and uses. Includes quick-reference tables, black-and-white photographs and illustrations; 212 color plates, 224 pp. To order, see the web site ifasbooks.ufl.edu or call toll free 1-800-226-1764.

More topics:
Ground covers
Palm Care
Pruning
Planting Trees
Pest Control



POISON Help 

When accidents happen with chemicals or medicine, call Poison Help. Get help right away from a nurse, pharmacist, or other poison expert.

If someone has trouble breathing, call 911.

1-800-222-1222

Credits: U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration
http://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/resources_campaign_info.htm

Remind your clients: Lawns may be watered only once per week during daylight savings time. This includes everyone, whether we have wells or municipal water. We all share alike.

**UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA/IFAS**

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or

**Get 6 CEUs to
renew a
Certification**

What is the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service?

Your UF/IFAS Extension provides research-based educational programs in response to local issues affecting Florida citizens.

Through the combined efforts of state and county UF faculty, staff and volunteers, response can be made to the needs of area residents and businesses. We assist in applying the benefits of research and university expertise to solve problems.

Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop

**Location: Columbia County Extension Service
164 SW Mary Ethel Lane
Lake City, FL 32056**

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

This class has required CEUs to obtain your LCLM Certification.

Earn up to **6 CEUs** to renew a license. Core, L&O, Structural, LCLM

8:30 – 9:00	Registration and Pretest
9:00-9:50	Pesticides and Environmental Concerns Jim DeValerio, Bradford County Extension Agent
9:50-10:00	Break
10:00-10:50	Pesticide Label and the Law Jacque Breman, Columbia County Extension Agent
10:50-11:40	Major Insect Groups and Feeding Jim DeValerio, Bradford County Extension Agent
11:40-12:15	Lunch
12:15-1:05	Herbicides and IPM Jacque Breman, Columbia County Extension Agent
1:05-1:55	Common Weed ID Nichelle Demorest, Columbia County Extension Agent
1:55-2:10	Break
2:10-3:00	LCLM Laws and Regulations Nichelle Demorest, Columbia County Extension Agent
3:00-3:15	Application Info, CEU Distribution, Posttest Nichelle Demorest, Columbia County Extension Agent

\$30 LCLM class includes Appropriate CEUs, Application Assistance, Lunch and Refreshments.

Name _____ Phone _____

Company _____ email _____

Make checks payable to Columbia County Extension 4-H. Return to Columbia County Extension address above or call 752-5384 to pre-register. (**Pre-registration is required.**)