We Need Your Ticks!

If you have access to 5 to 10 blood-fed, live female brown dog ticks, please call us! Send them in a container that will not be crushed in the mail with location (city) and control history, if available. Thank you for helping our research program! Faith

Attn: Dr. Phillip Kaufman
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PMU Focus - Fall Weed Control

By Chris Marble, Assistant Professor, Apopka MREC

(Chris is a weed scientist and one of the main instructors of PMU’s L&O series. He joked that just about every picture we took had him holding a weed. See our Training Opportunities section.)

As temperatures begin to drop during the fall months, we will begin to see less of our warm-season weeds such as spurge, crabgrass, or gripeweed and more cool-season weeds like chickweed (Figure 1), black medic (Figure 2), and Asiatic hawksbeard. Cool season annual weeds typically begin to germinate in the fall and may continue throughout the winter. They flower and produce seeds in the late winter or early spring and then die in late spring or early summer when temperatures begin to increase.
Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) is a common cool-season annual broadleaf weed in Florida landscapes.

Annual weeds reproduce by seeds, so if weeds have been an issue in an area is the past, preemergence herbicides could be used. For cool-season weeds, a general rule of thumb is to apply preemergence herbicides when nighttime temperatures drop to 55 to 60°F for several consecutive days, usually early October for North Florida, and late October to early November for Central and South Florida. If preemergence herbicides are used, it is important that the area treated receives somewhere between 0.25 and 0.5 inches of water (depending upon label instructions) from rainfall or irrigation after application to “activate” the herbicide. If the herbicide is not watered in within the specified window of time, poor weed control may result. To know how much water is needed and how long you have to activate the herbicide, check specific herbicide labels as this varies from herbicide to herbicide. Several herbicides including isoxaben, dimethenamid-p, pendimethalin, dithiopyr, and metolachlor can be used in most types of established warm-season turfgrass and also in landscape planting beds. However, always be sure to check product labels for precautions before making any pesticide application.
Figure 2. Black medic (*Medicago lupulina*) is a common cool-season weed. It is often confused with oxalis or clover. Black medic differs from oxalis because its leaves are not heart-shaped and can be distinguished from clover by its yellow flowers and small “points” on the tip of each leaflet.

Once the weeds have already begun to germinate, preemergence herbicides will no longer be effective and so postemergence herbicides (or hand-weeding) will be needed. Postemergence herbicides will always be more effective when weeds are small and actively growing. Other factors that can influence the effectiveness of postemergence herbicide applications include temperature and environmental conditions, quality of water used in spray tanks, and how “rainfast” a herbicide is, which how long the herbicide needs to dry on the weeds before rainfall or irrigation is applied. By reading herbicide labels and following all guidelines and precautions, you will be able to get better results from your herbicide applications and reduce the chances of non-target injury and negative environmental impacts.

**Now Hiring:**

Looking for a pest control/ termite technician, experience great, if not we will train. Contact: Geiger’s Pest Services, PH: 727-323-9595.

**Upcoming Training Opportunities:**

The first of PMU’s 2016 courses are open! Register early and ensure your spot!
**December Offerings:**

**Master of Lawn and Ornamentals Pest Management**

**Date:** Dec 2-4, 2015; W-F  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Registration fee:** $375

- Advanced training in diagnosing complex problems in lawns and landscapes, including nutritional deficiencies and the importance of pH in developing integrated pest management (IPM) treatment plans
- More in-depth information on the biology and life cycle of diseases, insects, and weeds, how to manage resistant populations, chemical modes of action and the importance of chemical rotation
- Learn about practices that can impact plant health and water quality

[Register here](#)

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**Date:** Dec 2-4, 2015; W-F  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Registration fee:** $375

The Expert of General Household Pest Management is the fourth in the GHP series of PMU offerings. Learn advanced concepts in product selection biology of pests in and around structures. Must advance through GHP Foundations and Masters in order to qualify for GHP Expert.

- Review of major pests covered in GHP Foundations and Masters
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Click on “Register here” for course descriptions or go to http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses for more information

Learn more from IFAS

- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each of Florida’s sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers (RECs) and Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs).

- If you need help a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find an office near you please visit: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/