

# RPG Times

Fall 2000



A Publication of the Roots Plus Field-Growers Association of Florida

## Florida ISA Registered Tree Grader Program

A cooperative effort between the Florida Chapter ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) and the Florida Division of Plant Industry was recently initiated that could dramatically improve the quality of urban trees. The Florida Chapter ISA took the lead to establish a Certified Nursery Tree Grading program that aids implementation of the Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Trees and Palms. This program trains consultants and others to provide certification that nursery stock meets a specified grade. It is the first initiative of its kind in Florida and the nation.

In June, the work of the Certified Nursery Tree Grading Program committee professionals



came to fruition when 32 were trained as Registered Nursery Tree Graders. During the 12-month pilot program, a Florida ISA Registered Nursery Tree Grader is the only professional qualified to provide a

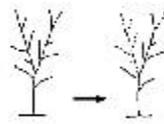
Florida ISA Certified Tree Tag (above).

These tags were designed to identify those trees and palms that have been graded by a Florida ISA Registered Nursery Tree Grader as being a Florida Fancy, Florida 1, Florida 2 or Cull quality grade. The tags are to be placed on trees and palms to clearly identify the quality grade of the item for a three-month time frame.

The benefits to consumers of this unique tagging program are twofold. One is to insure that the quality of the plants meets the standard prior to delivery. This will help improve consumer confidence for trees and palms being sold in both the wholesale (landscape architects, arborists, landscapers) and retail (homeowners) markets of the Green Industry. The other benefit is that the purchaser will know that the grade of the tree or palm was determined by a trained professional. This should nearly eliminate the need for the consumer to rely on their own judgment to verify the grade.

*Nursery Tree grading continued page 2*

## Mark your Calendar! RPG Field Day



### Tree Production Pruning

an all day hands-on workshop for growers of quality trees

December 7, 2000

Stewart's Tree Service Brooksville, FL

*More information and registration form inside*

## Great Southern Tree Conference to Convene Fall 2001

There is a recognized need in the southeastern US for an annual conference for tree growers, landscape contractors, architects, arborists and others to learn new technologies and practices in a demonstration-type atmosphere. The University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department and the green industry have been looking for a mechanism for this to happen for many years. The mechanism to implement this program is developing as a partnership between the University of Florida, the FNGA (Florida Nursemen and Growers Association) and the green industry. The venue will be a two-day conference designed around a 30-acre, outdoor demonstration site at the University of Florida.

By providing funding to help continue existing projects and develop new ones, the industry is able to support the role of the University in leading Environmental Horticulture in Florida. The projects selected for the outdoor demonstration site will help teach new technologies, principles, and best management practices in nursery and landscape management. Projects will cover a variety of current issues including container and field production technology, water and fertilizer management, transplanting, quality nursery stock, arboriculture, and more. What better way to help guide the industry forward than for the green industry to partner with the educational leaders in the state.

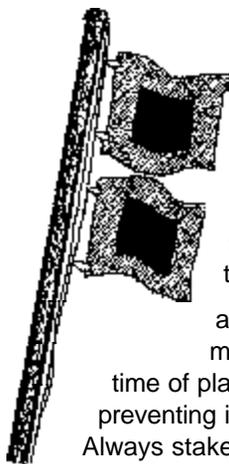
The Great Southern Tree Conference (GSTC) committee has formed to help guide development of this new effort.

*Great Southern continued page 2*

---

---

## Preventing Storm Damage



There is no way, except for complete enclosure, to protect trees from all storm damage. Trees are not adapted to worst-case storms only to our average wind climate. Listed are several things to minimize the main types of storm damage:

- a. Let trees adjust to the wind environment. Tight staking and guying from the time of planting holds a tree in place while preventing internal adjustment to wind loading. Always stake and tie the tree loosely where the stem can move and bend in the wind. Keep ties in place for a few growing seasons to insure a well-established root system.
- b. Practice proper pruning techniques by cutting branches before they become larger than one inch in diameter. The branch collar should not be damaged (Figure 1). The branch collar is part of the stem and, if damaged by poor pruning, provides an avenue of attack into the main stem for pests. Proper pruning minimizes a number of structural problems that occur in association with new wood growth around a pruned branch.
- c. Eliminate codominant branches. Prune forked branches and branches that arise opposite each other on the stem early. Cut one side off now to prevent losing the whole tree later if it splits in a storm. In trees with opposite branching patterns, such as ash or maple, proper branch training is essential for a long-lived, storm resistant tree.
- d. Keep trees as healthy as possible with timely watering and proper fertilization. Healthy, vigorous trees adjust more quickly to changes in the environment, are more wind firm, and react more effectively to damage.

- e. Do not over fertilize the tree with nitrogen or over water the soil. This can increase the crown surface area and/or decrease the rooting area. This type of biological change makes the tree susceptible to storm damage.

- f. Eliminate lopsided crowns. Prune branches to produce a reasonably symmetrical crown. If more than 70 percent of the crown is on one side of a mature tree, consider tree removal & replacement. Guying & bracing branches are last-ditch efforts when a tree has to be saved in spite of itself.

- g. Remove or treat pest problems, like branch cankers, to minimize potential damage. Do not over-treat tree hollows. Do not remove decayed wood from hollows unless it falls away in your hands. Cleaning hollows can lead to further internal damage. Cover the opening to hollows to allow the tree to grow over the opening, prevent animals from expanding it, & to keep water from running in.

- h. Keep the tree growing upright with one main stem. Prune away branches that compete in height with the main stem. Eliminate branches with tight or narrow crotches.

- i. Install lightning protection systems on historic, rare, specimen or recreational area trees. Consult a qualified arborist or urban forester to insure adequate design.

Continue to promote wind firmness by not overcrowding trees and by proper guying and bracing. A tree must always be able to move in the wind. Do not keep a tree tied into position with tight cables. In a stand of trees, slowly remove trees over a number of years to allow wind firmness to develop in the remaining trees.

*By Dr. Kim D. Coder, Professor Silvics /Ecology, Warnell School of Forest Resources, The University of Georgia. online at [www.uga.edu](http://www.uga.edu)*

---

### *Nursery Tree grading con't.*

Trees and palms can become a liability to property owners if they are not good quality and are not well maintained. There are cases of injury and death associated with poor quality trees, and poorly maintained trees, across America. How many of you have been faced with cases where a poor quality tree or palm required replacement in 1 to 5 years because it died or was too costly for the owner to maintain? Just as tree maintenance problems can be minimized when consumers choose ISA certified arborists, nursery tree quality problems can be reduced or eliminated when consumers request Florida ISA certified trees and palms. These plants can only be tagged by a Florida ISA Registered Nursery Tree Grader.

For more information about Florida ISA Registered Nursery Tree Graders and about Florida ISA Certified Trees and tagging, call the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture office at (352) 379-3808 or visit

---

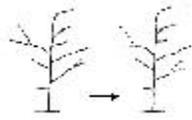
[www.floridaisa.org](http://www.floridaisa.org). A list of Florida ISA Registered Nursery Tree Graders is available on the website.

---

### *Great Southern, continued*

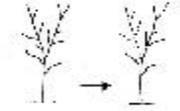
Members from the green industry as well as UF faculty sit in this committee. To date, a location for the demonstration site has been chosen (Gainesville), a conference date for 2001 selected (Oct 19-20), sponsorship levels determined and published (up to \$10,000), a list of potential projects developed, and a goal for fund raising determined (\$75,000 annually for 3 years). This will allow for hiring of a technician and part-time help to maintain projects, supplies for project implementation, and operating capital.

To date, more than \$50,000 for each of three years has been raised. Efforts by industry and faculty continue to move us closer to our goal by the fall 2000. For more information, contact Heather Nedley at 1-800-375-FNGA.



# Tree Production Pruning

an all-day, hands-on outdoor workshop  
for growers of quality trees



## If you grow quality trees, you won't want to miss this one!

This special engagement seminar is designed specifically for those growers and others in Florida's green industry who would like to increase their efficiency while producing quality trees. Are you tired of attempting to grow Florida grades and standards trees with little success? Do you think it costs too much? Come learn the easy way from the masters of Florida tree production pruning including Brent Reeves, Mike Marshall, Jimmy Stewart, Dr. Ed Gilman, and others.

New technology and techniques, and a brand new (for 2001) grades and standards certification program will be introduced to the industry for the first time. Be among the first to use this certification program.

You are sure to come away from this workshop with a new understanding of quality trees and how to grow them quickly and efficiently. Learn how to teach these simply pruning steps to your crews so they will never forget. This could be the best time you ever spend in training your employees.

Since this session will emphasize hands-on training, please bring your own pruning tools.

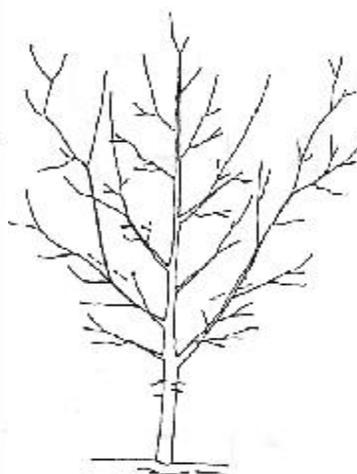
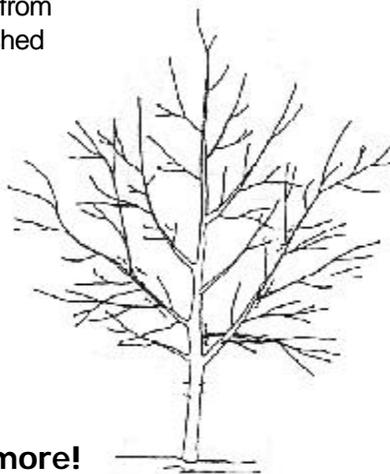
This session is also designed to benefit anyone in the green industry who works with trees, including arborists, urban foresters, landscape contractors, landscape architects and others.

## Program Agenda

<b>7:45-8:30</b>	Registration
<b>8:45-9:00</b>	Introduction to workshop
<b>9:00-11:30</b>	Planting, and pruning from liner to 2-inch caliper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximizing growth rate</li> <li>• Efficient planting</li> <li>• Using temporary branches</li> </ul>
<b>11:30-1:00</b>	Lunch followed by open discussion
<b>1:00-1:15</b>	ISA certificated grades and standards program
<b>1:15-3:30</b>	Pruning and shearing 2-inch to 4-inch caliper trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pruning cultivars</li> <li>• Spacing branches</li> <li>• Efficient pruning protocol</li> </ul>
<b>3:30-4:30</b>	Grading the final product, pruning large caliper trees
<b>4:30</b>	Workshop ends

## Here's what you will learn:

- Leader pruning from seedling to finished product
- How to grow the highest quality trees
- New ISA grades and standards certification program
- Grading trees



...and much more!

## Program Presenters

Michael Marshall  
Marshall Tree Farm

Brent Reeves  
Shadowlawn Nursery

Jimmy Stewart  
Stewart's Tree Service

Dr. Ed Gilman  
University of Florida

## Registration Form

\$90 for ISA or RPG members/\$120 for nonmembers includes lunch and materials if you register before November 29. Add \$25 for late registration and at the door.

**Enclose:** Check made payable to Florida Chapter ISA in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ member/nonmember enrollment(s).

ISA member number \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Please postmark or fax registration by November 29, or register at the door.

**Mail to:** Florida Chapter ISA  
PO Box 13016  
Gainesville, FL 32604-1016

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
FAX

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation/Firm

### TO USE YOUR CREDIT CARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
name as it appears on card

\_\_\_\_\_  
VISA/MasterCard No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp.Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorizing Signature

**This workshop is sponsored by:**



FLORIDA CHAPTER  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF ARBORICULTURE



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA  
EXTENSION  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## Tree Production Pruning

**December 7, 2000**

**Brooksville, FL**

- To register by check: mail completed registration and check payable to Florida Chapter ISA, PO Box 13016, Gainesville, FL, 32604-1016. Postmark by November 29 or register at the door.

- To register using VISA or MasterCard: fax completed registration to 352-379-2921 or call 352-379-3808 before November 29.

- To register with a purchase order: fax completed form and purchase order to 352-379-2921 before November 29.

## Location

**Stewart's Tree Service  
Brooksville, FL**

From I-75 exit at Hwy 50 (exit 61). Take Hwy 50 west into Brooksville. In Brooksville turn right onto US 41 North. Go several miles on US 41 and Croom Road will be on your right. Go east on Croom 2.7 miles and Stewart's will be on your left.

From US 19 South go east on Hwy 50 (turn is near Weeki Wachee Springs) into Brooksville. In Brooksville, follow signs to US 41 North. Go several miles on US 41 and Croom Road will be on your right. Go east on Croom 2.7 miles and Stewart's will be on your left.

From US 19 North go south on US 98 into Brooksville. Follow directions above once in Brooksville.

## For Further Information:

**Phone:** call 352-379-3808

**E-mail:** [floridaisa@aol.com](mailto:floridaisa@aol.com)

**Online:** [www.floridaisa.org](http://www.floridaisa.org)

# RPG TIMESline



## Tree Production Pruning

An all-day, hands-on outdoor workshop for growers of quality trees

December 7, 2000  
Brooksville, FL

**sponsored by:**

Roots Plus Growers  
Florida Chapter ISA  
University of Florida Extension

### October 28-30th

2000 ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO  
St. Louis, MO for more information, call 202-898-2444

### December 7th

Tree Production Pruning: an all day hands-on outdoor workshop for growers of quality trees  
Stewart's Tree Service, Brooksville, FL  
for more information, call the Florida Chapter ISA at 352-379-3808

### January 18-20th

Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
for more information contact the FNGA at 1-800-375-FNGA

### January 26-27th

Gulf States Horticultural Expo  
Mobile, AL  
contact the Gulf States Horticultural Association

### February 23-24th

Tampa Spring Expo  
Tampa, FL  
contact the Tampa Wholesale Growers Association

## RPG Information

If you would like more information about the Roots Plus Field-Growers Association of Florida please complete the following and return it to:

Roots Plus Growers  
17350 SE 65th Street  
Morrison, FL 32668

Please add me to your mailing list

Please send me information on the following:

Tree Transplanting Research

Tree Transplanting Tips

RPG Membership

Other \_\_\_\_\_

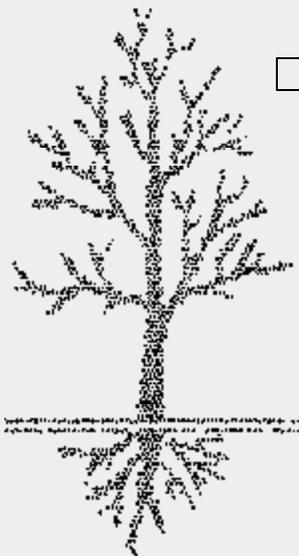
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_



---

---

# RPG Members

*Arborgate Farms*  
813-920-8325  
Odessa

*Be-Mac Tree Farms*  
813-920-2247  
Odessa

*Champion Tree Farm*  
352-375-6001  
Gainesville

*Fort Drum Growers*  
904-776-2727  
McAlpin

*Keystone Farms*  
813-926-3006  
Odessa

*Marshall Tree Farm*  
800-786-1422  
Morrison

*Southern Pride Tree Farm*  
904-935-3636  
Bell

*Skinner Nurseries*  
800-741-2020  
Bunnell

*Stewart's Tree Service*  
352-796-3426  
Brooksville

*Tiger Lake Nursery*  
863-692-1009  
Lake Wales

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Arbor Greene Land Development  
Braun Horticulture  
Cady Bag and Nursery Supply  
Caretree Systems

Graco Fertilizer Company  
Rainbow Landscaping  
Schickedanz Brothers, West  
Jack Siebenthaler

Seaworld  
Sunrise Landscape  
The Willows Nursery  
Treemart



17350 SE 65th Street  
Morrison, FL 32668