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**Check your fencerow for cherry trees**

This spring has been cooler than most and many areas just now have grass that is coming along. It is this time of year that cows will seek out tender green foliage while browsing.

Cherry trees are prolific fruit producers that serve as a food source for many native birds. After consuming the fruit and the pit, these birds will commonly roost on fences wires. Due to these events, cherry trees are one of the most common woody plants I see growing on pasture boarders.

Though cherry trees can be great for ornamental planting, the leaves are highly toxic to cattle. Cherry leaves contain the toxin prunasin that is stored in the leaves and is non-toxic. However, when the leaves are damaged, the plant quickly metabolizes prunasin into cyanide as a defense mechanism. As a rule, the older the leaf – the more toxin it contains. Additionally, wilted leaves have a dramatically high level of cyanide that fresh tissue. So if a limb is ever broken off in a storm and consumed by cattle, the likelihood of survival is slim.

Identification of cherry is fairly easy. The first step is to look at the leaf. Though the leaf as a similar shape and size as persimmon, cherry leaves have serrations along the edge while persimmon is smooth (Picture 1). Secondly, cherry has white markings on the stem, which are absent in many other trees (Picture 2).

It is important to rid your fences of cherry trees to protect curious cattle. The safest way to accomplish this is to cut the trees and remove them from the area. Remember, access to wilted leaves is far more dangerous to cattle than fresh leaves, so leaving them in the field is a bad idea. After cutting additional action must be taken as the stump will quickly resprout if not treated. Therefore, spraying the freshly cut surface with a 25% solution of triclopyr ester (Remedy Ultra, others) will prohibit new shoots.

Removing these troublesome trees will be a cumbersome task, but can pay huge dividends if the herd is protected.
Pearl millet—a summer annual option

Pearl millet is a high quality, warm-season grass adapted to well drained areas typical of Florida’s deep sandy soils. It grows well at pH 6.0 and slightly basic (7.0). This summer annual requires warm temperatures to start production.

- Because of the high nutritive value, this grass is used for growing or lactating animals. In many instances it can be an emergency crop to meet the nutritional needs of the herd.

- Recommended cultivars for grazing include Tifleaf II and Tifleaf III.

- Unlike sorghum, pearl millet is safe for horses. It is also excellent for grazing sheep.

- Some of the pests include fall armyworm and foliar diseases such as rust or leaf spot.

For additional information on Pearl Millet check EDIS publication titled: Pearl Millet (Pennisetum glaucum): Overview and Management http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AG/AG34700.pdf

Or check the UF IFAS website Forages of Florida … just Google “Forages of Florida”
Losing another herbicide for goosegrass control in turfgrass

Grass weed control in turfgrass is always a challenge. It is very difficult to find the necessary herbicide selectivity so grass weeds are controlled while the turf does not show injury. Thus, when there is an herbicide that shows that selectivity, it becomes a great tool for weed management in turfgrass. Illoxan® (diclofop-methyl) is a postemergence (POST) systemic herbicide that belongs to the group of the acetyl-CoA carboxylase inhibitors.

This herbicide has the advantage that can selectively control goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*; one of the most important summer grass weed species) in bermudagrass. With the banning of MSMA for use in turfgrass in Florida, during the last two years, POST goosegrass control has been considerably more difficult. Illoxan® was an excellent alternative to control emerged goosegrass plants. Additionally, with the concern that excessive use of sulfonylurea herbicides from the acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitors group for POST goosegrass control could favor resistance to those herbicides, Illoxan® was a practical and effective alternative for herbicide rotation. Unfortunately, Bayer CropScience announced they will no longer sell or manufacture Illoxan®, so turfgrass professionals will lose another key tool for summer grass weed control. Bayer CropScience is recommending to use the ALS-inhibitors Revolver® (foramsulfuron) or Tribute Total® (combination of thiencarbazone-methyl, foramsulfuron and halosulfuron-methyl) instead of Illoxan® for goosegrass control.

The loss of Illoxan® from our tool box will have implications for goosegrass control the management of herbicide resistance in this weed species, especially in golf courses and athletic fields. First, most of the POST herbicides available for goosegrass control will not provide adequate control when plants have more than 1-3 tillers.

Therefore, turfgrass professionals will likely have to do more intensive monitoring to identify and spray goosegrass plants before they reach the 1-tiller stage in order to reduce the need for multiple sequential applications. Additionally, because most POST herbicide alternatives are ALS-inhibitors and weeds can evolve resistance to this herbicide group relatively quickly, herbicide rotation will be less likely to be implemented after goosegrass has emerged. For this reason, a more aggressive preemergence (PRE) program might be beneficial. Choosing PRE herbicides with enough residual effect and timing PRE herbicide applications to ensure good control when goosegrass is emerging will greatly reduce the need for POST control actions.

The IFAS/FTGA Great CEU Roundup – July 9

In cooperation with the Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA), the UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office has scheduled the Great CEU Roundup for Wednesday, July 9 (9:00 EDT – 4:00). For information on CEU opportunities, host sites, and the agenda, visit the FTGA Website at [http://www.ftga.org/](http://www.ftga.org/). Registration is handled by the FTGA by email ([Heather@FTGA.org](mailto:Heather@FTGA.org)), fax (863-688-9610), or mail (411 E. Orange Street, Ste. 205 | LAKE-LAND, FL 33801).
Calendar of Events

To follow the link, press “Ctrl” and put cursor over link, and “click.”

June 15-21  Florida Cattlemen Association Annual Convention. Marco Island, FL
http://www.floridacattlemen.org

July 9      IFAS CEU Round-up.
http://www.ftga.org/

July 13-16  2014 Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting. Savannah, GA
http://www.apms.org

Aug 1-2     2014 FL Small Farms and Alt Enterprises Conference. Kissimee, FL
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/

Oct 28-29   Southern Agricultural Cover Crops Workshop. Jonesboro, AR