



**UMass
Extension**

Agriculture and Landscape Program

Employee Training for Garden Retailers Green, Organic and Sustainable Solutions

March 23, 2010, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Publick House, Route 131, Sturbridge, MA

University of Massachusetts Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program

For garden center employees, horticulture retailers and others interested in helping their customers with questions about products that provide green, organic and sustainable solutions. Learn about products for home gardens and lawns to better assist customers to make proper choices for pest management. This training will prepare participants to better deal with questions from customers and help them make good pest management decisions.

9:00 – 9:30

Registration and Coffee

9:30 – 10:30

Organic Products for Insects, Mites, Slugs and Snails

Bob Childs, Extension Entomologist, University of Massachusetts

You have limited time to educate your customers and help them make the right choices for managing pests. Bob will share details on a variety of organic and non-chemical products available for insects and mites for home gardens, trees and shrubs, how they work and how effective they are.

10:30 – 10:40

Break

10:40 – 11:30

Organic Fertilizers for Home Vegetable and Flower Gardens

Doug Cox, Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts

There are a lot of organic fertilizers on the market for home gardeners. Some are combination fertilizers and some individual nutrients. Let Doug help you to sort through the maize of organic fertilizers, how they work and how to best advise customers to use them.

11:30 – 12:20

Organic Weed Control for Lawns

Randy Prostack, Extension Weed Specialist, University of Massachusetts.

What can customers do and use if they don't want to use chemical herbicides to manage their lawn weeds. What works and what doesn't for organic lawn care.

12:20 – 1:15

Lunch on your own

1:15 – 2:15

Organic Fertilizers for Lawns

Mary Owen, Extension Turf Specialist, University of Massachusetts

More and more organic lawn fertilizers are becoming available to consumers. Garden center employees need information to help them answer customers' questions about how to best use these products. Attendees will learn how to decipher a lawn fertilizer label, the differences and similarities between organic and synthetic fertilizer materials, and how organic lawn fertilizers can be used successfully over the growing season.

2:15 – 3:15

Organic Pest Control for Lawns

Pat Vittum, Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts

Milky spore, nematodes, beauveria bassiana - Learn about the pros and cons of products for home lawn pest control.

3 pesticide recertification credits categories 36, 29, 37, 00

Options for Lunch: Bring your own, fast food restaurants within short drive or have lunch at the Publick House restaurant.

For information contact UMass Extension at 413-545-0895, eweeks@umext.umass.edu.

Registration

All Names _____

Firm _____

Address _____

Telephone and email address _____

Make checks payable to UMass. Cost is \$50 per person; \$45 per person for three or more registrations from the same company (10% discount). Morning coffee and handouts included in registration. Send to: Garden Retailer Training, UMass Extension French Hall, 230 Stockbridge Rd., Amherst, MA 01003. On-line registration is available at www.UMassGreenInfo.org

Total Enclosed = _____

QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK AND HAVE ANSWERED!

Directions to Publick House, 277 Main Street - Route 131, Sturbridge, MA

From Hartford:

Take exit 2 off I-84 East follow to right second stop sign take a left at E&J Candy at the set of lights take right onto Route 131 Publick House is on the right

From Boston & Springfield:

Take exit 9 off the Mass Pike Route 90 to I-84 take exit 3-b off I-84 to Route 20 West at the lights take a left onto Route 131 Publick House is 1/2 mile down on the right

From Rhode Island:

Take Route 146 to Mass Pike West *Then same directions as FROM BOSTON

Parking is located in the back of the building – drive is on the right side of the building. Go through the bakery door in the back. The conference room is located upstairs.