



CONSULTING ARBORIST, INC.

P.O. BOX 541237

LAKE WORTH, FL 33454

PHONE: (561) 493-3310

FAX: (561) 969-7994

www.suttonconsultingarborist.com

Village of Key Biscayne
Attn: Mariana
88 W McIntyre Street
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
mdominguez@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Date: October 10th, 2012

Re: Gumbo Limbos on Ridgewood Drive

There are some Gumbo Limbo trees on Ridgewood Dr. that appear to be doing better, however the overall health of the worst-affected Gumbo Limbo trees as of today is fair to poor. The trees are in a weakened state due to continuous defoliation from whitefly damage, and from expending a great deal of energy on subsequent regeneration of foliage. During my visits since the last insecticide application performed by TruGreen on September 9th, 2012, I have not observed a reduction in whitefly populations to non-damaging levels. Trees are still losing leaves and have heavy white residue on leaves (along with whiteflies).

The development of canker (cracks in the bark and oozing of sap) that was first noted about 3 weeks ago is getting worse, and was found today on an additional tree at 250 Ridgewood Rd. I collected samples today to send for disease analysis, and will follow up when the results are received. It is critical that nothing be done at this time to create added stress on the affected Gumbo Limbo trees. I do NOT recommend treatment by injection into vascular tissue due to the additional damage and stress that would be incurred from drilling more holes. Furthermore, we don't want to create additional entry points for fungal spores or bacteria that may be causing the canker. If there is pathogen involvement, it is unlikely that fungicide applications will provide a cure for the canker, however because weakened trees are more susceptible to invasion of opportunistic organisms, a protective fungicidal application should be made.

Recommendations are as follows:

1. Systemic fungicide (Cleary 3336) along with Macron 20-20-20 with micronutrients (John Deere Landscapes, formerly Lesco) to give the trees a boost of nutrients for new growth.

2. Systemic insecticide dinotefuran (Safari), which is in the same chemical class (neonicotinoids) as imidacloprid (Merit), however it is more soluble and is taken up quicker. This could be more effective since the stressed trees are not likely performing uptake and upward translocation as well as they normally would. Since it is now October and growth is slowing in all plants, this product will have the best chance of providing protection quickly.
3. All products recommended should be applied at label rates for root drench applications and applied in a sufficient volume to wet the first few inches of soil under the area of tree canopies (as opposed to root injection method).