

Bryan-College Station Obstetrics & Gynecology Associates, P.A.
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Linda S. Dutton, C.N.P.

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Workers burn plants to halt citrus canker

United Press International

LAKELAND, Fla. — Workers uprooted thousands of seedlings and burned them Thursday, and agriculture experts checked millions of others for signs of the citrus canker disease they fear could cripple Florida's citrus industry.

Authorities said they would use volunteers from local jails to help in the destruction of seedlings exposed to the disease.

Wayne Baggett, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said the tree-burning could go on for months, and the search for canker-infected plants might last more than a year.

The canker, first diagnosed earlier this month at a nursery near Avon Park, has been detected at four other nurseries in the first outbreak of the disease in Florida in 50 years.

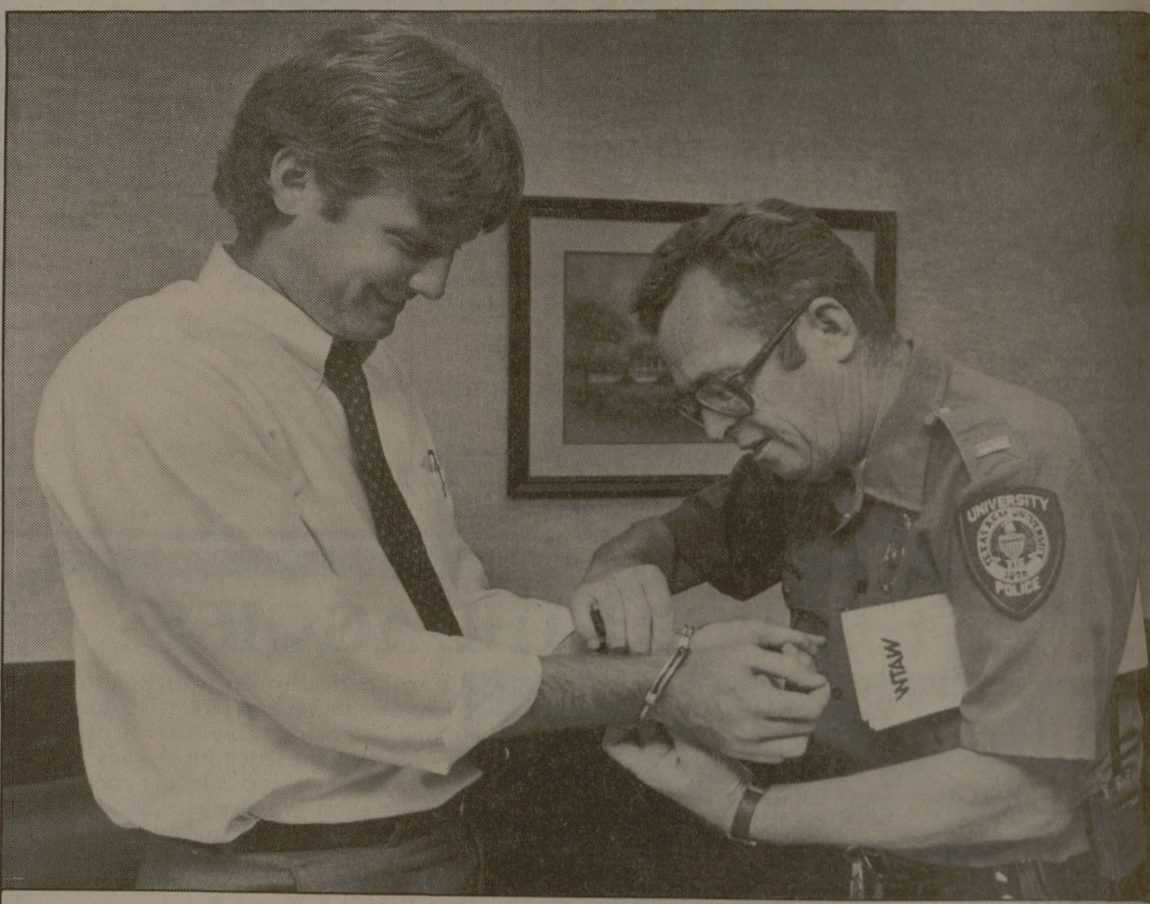
Burning continued Thursday at the first two nurseries where the disease was found — Ward's Nursery in Polk County and W.A. Williams Citrus Nursery in Highlands County — and is scheduled to begin today at Sweet's Citrus Nursery in Polk County.

The other two nurseries containing canker-infected plants — A. Duda & Sons Inc. in Hendry County and Glen Simpson Nursery in Collier County — will be burned next week, said Baggett.

Workers are yanking the two-and-a-half-foot seedlings from the ground by hand and dropping them in rows. Behind them trundles a tractor pulling a large metal box that is drawn over the seedlings, covering them completely. When it is in place, propane torches inside the box ignite, incinerating the seedlings.

Ward's Nursery, where the canker was first found, supplied plants to the other four infected nurseries. Officials have quarantined more than 50 other nurseries that received seedlings from Ward's and are scouring those for evidence of the canker.

Until this week, only trees in infected nurseries were being destroyed, but Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner on Wednesday ordered the incineration of all citrus trees planted in groves within 125 feet of stock from infected nurseries.



You're Busted

University police Lt. Bill Zikus slaps the cuffs on Matthew T. Nancarrow, a legal counsel for students, as part of the Brazos Valley Crimestoppers and WTAW Jail-athon. For a \$10 enforcement fee you can have someone arrested, and they must be bailed out of the "jail" at the Post Oak Mall. Both the fee and bail go to Crimestoppers.

Photo by PETER ROCHA

Visit ends Pope Paul: make sex education priority

United Press International

OTTAWA — Pope John Paul II, ending the longest foreign visit of his six-year papacy, told Canadian religious leaders Thursday they must make sex education a priority to combat sexual hedonism and the breakdown of family life.

The pope spoke to bishops before celebrating a "mass for peace and justice" on the banks of the Ottawa River — his last public event before flying back to Rome. Organizers had hoped 300,000 people would attend

the mass, but a drizzle threatened to reduce attendance.

Attacking abortion, divorce, cohabitation and birth control, the pope told the church hierarchy, "There is a generalized tendency to hedonism ... there is without a doubt an ignorance of the theology of the body."

"As heralds of faith we are necessarily a guide to conscience," the 64-year-old pontiff said in a meeting attended by about 90 of Canada's 127 bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

He admonished them to "avoid fracture" between Christian teaching and life.

"In reality, what kind of faith would it be that does not incarnate itself in daily conduct?" the pope asked. "And what credibility would have in a world that in some moments doubts the existence of God?"

John Paul said sex education, preparation of young people for marriage and support of family life "must have absolute priority" in the church.

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