



# YOUR NORTH FLORIDA YARD & GARDEN

Flagler County Extension Service & UF/IFAS Florida  
Master Gardeners

ISSUE XXXIII

April - June, 2011

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## From the MG Desk...

*David Tibbetts, Newsletter Editor*



Another winter, and another lesson in what shouldn't be grown in my garden. There really is something to this climate zone thing! Ours is 9A, by the way.

The cold weather seems to have a direct effect on the colors we see in late Winter and early Spring. So, it IS good for something. The camellias, in particular, have had a great run in my neighborhood. On the other hand, the banana trees, various honeysuckles, and hibiscus, among others, have had a dire time of it. More evidence, if any was needed, that Florida natives are the way to go.

This issue includes some Florida natives, as well as some Florida-friendly plants that can add color to your garden and yard. Happy gardening!

**Q**• My lawn has (a) brown spots, (b) is being invaded by Bermudagrass, (c) should be watered when, (d) is Zoysiagrass/St. Augustinegrass and should be fertilized how?

**A:** This is not really one question, but many. Every year, there is consternation at the lack of immediate progress on the lawn front once the weather warms up for awhile. And, it is a common topic for Master Gardener training, like it was at the March monthly meeting. So, it behooves us to re-review what the precepts for good lawn care are on

*(Continued on page 16)*

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FLAGLER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE &  
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[WWW.FLAGLERCOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.FLAGLERCOUNTY.ORG)

OR

[WWW.SOLUTIONSFORYOURLIFE.COM](http://WWW.SOLUTIONSFORYOURLIFE.COM)

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Flagler County Fair & Youth Show. Wednesday April 13** - 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm Gate Admission \$5.00 per car load. Ride bands \$15.00 with coupon or \$20.00 without.

**Thursday April 14th** - 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm Gate Admission \$5.00 age 12 and over, children under 12, are **FREE** Ride bands \$15.00 with coupon or \$20.00 without.

**Friday April 15th** - 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm Gate Admission \$5.00 age 12 and over, children under 12 are **FREE** Ride bands \$20.00 No Coupons

**Saturday - April 16th** 12:00 pm to 11:00 pm \$5.00 age 12 and over children under 12 are **FREE**, Ride bands \$15.00 with coupon or \$20.00 without. Ride bands are good from 12:00 to 5:00 No Ride Band Coupons after 5:00.

**Sunday - April 17th** - 12:00 to 5:00 Gate Admission Free Ride bands \$15.00 with coupon or \$20.00 without. Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 prizes

**Fresh Fruit Culinary Workshop.** The UF IFAS Hastings Partnership is once again partnering with the First Coast Technical College & Chef David Bearl to conduct a "**Fresh Fruit Culinary Workshop**". The workshop will feature locally grown strawberries, blueberries and peaches. Workshop participants will learn "hands on" how to make preserves, jellies, jams, sauces, quick breads, and even ice cream. Participants will receive take home products. The workshop will be held May 5, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Coast Technical College in St. Augustine Cost of the workshop is \$36.00. To register for the workshop call the UF Partnership office at 904-692-4944. **Registration deadline is April 26, 2011.** Please call early as space is limited.

**Earth Day Celebration at Washington Oaks State Park** Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm and Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm Special Park Admission fees for EARTH DAY will be \$10 per car for up to 8 people per car. Part of the ticket will include an entry into the Door Prize drawing for an ASUS Netbook Computer provided by the Friends of Washington Oaks. For more information contact Melissa Kafel, Park Service Specialist at 386-446-6783 or email [melissa.kafel@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:melissa.kafel@dep.state.fl.us)

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# The Good...

By David Tibbetts, UF/IFAS Master Gardener

## Butterfly Gardening in Flagler County

A butterfly garden can be a great addition to your yard. In addition to drawing one or more of the numerous butterfly species that reside in Flagler County, such a garden may also attract hummingbirds, as well as many other beneficial insects. Furthermore, such a garden does not need to take up much of your yard, and, in fact, could be confined to a single container.

There are many species of butterfly that are potential customers of a garden in Flagler County, which is in Butterfly Zone 3 according to the University of Florida Butterfly Regions map (see [UF Extension IFAS EDIS Publication WEC-22](#)). Based on our region, there are at least seven species of swallowtails, twelve of whites/sulphurs, sixteen or so gossamer-winged species, one metalmark species, more than twenty-five brush-footed species, and over fifty skipper species. Additionally, there is a healthy number of plants that might be used to attract butterflies that are found in Flagler County. But perhaps we are getting ahead of ourselves.

First, some information about the butterfly life cycle and how that might affect what the realm of possibility is in planning a butterfly garden here. As an insect, butterflies start out as eggs, then go through larval (caterpillar) and pupa (chrysalis) stages before becoming what we know as butterflies. The larval and adult stages require food sources, and generally these are quite distinct. The larval stage may be considered a nuisance since the caterpillars eat voraciously as they rapidly grow before entering the pupa stage. During this stage, the caterpillars consume whatever it is they like to eat with no apparent benefit. Most adult butterflies, though, rely on flower nectar to support themselves, which has the added benefit of pollinating the host plant. Depending on the type of butterfly, its caterpillar's diet may be grasses, sedges, trees, shrubs, etc.- basically, too many possibilities to list here. However, even without the required larval stage food source, it is still possible to attract adult butterflies to your garden, just do not expect them to stick around when it comes time to mate and reproduce.

The adult butterflies will be attracted by adult butterfly food sources. Some possible nectar plants include: Trees - Eastern Redbud, Dahoon Holly, Chickasaw Plum, Hog Plum, Sparkleberry and Walters' Viburnum; Shrubs - Bastard Indigo, Buttonbush, New Jersey Tea, Summersweet, Garberia, Firebush, Inkberry, Wild Azalea, and Florida Flame Azalea; Wildflowers - False Foxglove, Pink/White Swamp & Butterfly Milkweed, Aster, Florida Paintbrush, Vanilla Plant, Golden Aster, Mistflower, Dalea, Purple Coneflower, Elephants-foot, Snakeroot, Mistflower, Joe-pye Weed, Blanket Flower, Narrow-leaf & Beach Sunflower, Scarlet Hibiscus, Redroot, Blazing Star, Cardinal Flower, Snow Squarrestem, Hempweed, Horsemint, Turkey Tangle Fogfruit, Black-eyed susan, Yellow & Cut-leaved Coneflower, Wild Petunia, Salvia (Sage), Rosinweed, Goldenrod, Stoke's Aster, and Ironweed. And, there are others, like the Penta, which is covered in the next section.



Monarch  
(*Danaus plexippus*)



White peacock  
(*Anartia jatrophae*)



Zebra longwing  
(*Danaus plexippus*)

### Three Butterflies Found in Flagler County

# The Good...(cont.)

## PENTAS

(*Pentas lanceolata*)

Pentas are easy to care for, rapid growers, and an absolute MUST for a butterfly garden. The dwarf plants can be used as foreground flowers, and tall varieties, which can grow to be 3-4 feet tall, can be used as background shrubs. The plant's common, and latin, name comes from the five lobes of the flower. They are beautiful planted as an accent in an annual or perennial bed or massed among other shrubs. Flowers of white, pink, lilac or red bloom are present from spring through fall. This perennial, which requires a minimum amount of water and fertilizer, demands little attention, and insects and disease seem to ignore it. Sounds like a dream plant to me!



Plant pentas in spring and early summer in full sun or partial shade and in an area that drains well. Well-drained soil is absolutely essential for this plant. If you have an area that tends to be soggy, try growing them in a raised bed. Space the plants 12-24 inches apart as they grow quite large. Water daily for a week or two, gradually tapering off until you water only once a week. For more bushier plants, pinch off the early growth.

In three or four years, when they start to get woody or leggy, you can take cuttings and replace them. Cut back in early spring to rejuvenate the plants. You might want to mulch well in winter to protect the basal bud from the cold.

They are a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies!

## PARSLEY

(*Petroselinum crispum*)

Parsley is a biennial, and grows to 1 1/2 feet in poor and well-drained soil. In Flagler County, the plant will grow as an annual in full sun in fall and spring or partial shade in summer. Seed should be sown one-fourth inch deep, fairly thickly; then seedlings thinned to 6 inches apart. It is high in Vitamins A and C and minerals. Curly parsley, *Petroselinum crispum*, makes a beautiful border for flower and vegetable gardens. Italian parsley has a better culinary flavor. Parsley blends well with most other herbs, tastes good with almost everything but sweets, and is great with carrots, potatoes, eggs and cheese. The leaves are used fresh or dried as flavoring or as a garnish. The rooting types are useful as a cooked vegetable, particularly in soups. Mix a handful of cut parsley with cottage cheese, fresh tomatoes and a little mayonnaise. Chop parsley to make your own ice cubes. It freezes well and should be added to recipes during the last 15 minutes of cooking. Make a sauce by processing a bunch of parsley with garlic, olive oil and ricotta cheese in a food processor or blender to enhance cold beef, shellfish and pasta.

If you are a butterfly lover extra parsley should be planted as it is a host plant for black swallowtail caterpillars.



Curly leaf parsley, black swallowtail caterpillar and butterfly



# The Bad...

By: David Tibbetts, UF/IFAS Master Gardener

## Moles – Love ‘em or ...?

So, am I the only one who has seen mole hills all over the place? The hills seem to be pretty much everywhere these days, though I have to admit that there are many yards without them. A little knowledge about the eastern mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*) that is found throughout Florida may reveal the reason for this. Moles are not rodents, but mammals of the Order *Insectivora*. As the name seems to imply, this means that moles eat insects, not the roots of grasses, shrubs or trees. Other animals that belong to this group are shrews and hedgehogs - I don't know too many people who like shrews, but hedgehogs are very popular, as well as the butt of many jokes ("Why did the hedgehog cross the road? To visit his flat mate."). But I digress, the moles in our neck of the woods grow to an average length of 5½-6 inches (14-15 cm for you metric types) with a short, almost-bald tail of 1 - 1½ inches. The mole's hair has an interesting feature - it stands straight up, rather than lying towards its rear as in most mammals. This helps it to burrow either forward or backward without forcing soil into its coat. Additionally, its coat is thick enough to keep out both dirt and water. Mole fur is generally slate grey, but color variations in moles may occur based on their environment, e.g., moles living in red clay can appear rusty.

Moles prefer loose, well-drained soils. They have been found in dune sand and rich forest humus. The ridges that can be seen in areas that are inhabited by moles are foraging tunnels. The moles use these tunnels to search for food (insects such as mole crickets; beetle larvae (white grubs, wire worms, etc.); ants and ant brood; moth larvae and pupae worms); and slugs, slugs). So, despite the ridges, moles are considered our gardens' friends and aerate the soil. Back to the ridges, moles can burrow up to eighteen feet per hour in loose soil, which understandably some people do not want to see in their yards. When they bed down for the night, they push the soil from their nests, which are 6 - 12 inches below, to the surface, leaving a mound of fresh dirt - another potential problem for some folks.



The average mole couple has a litter once each year of 2 - 5 young. They are generally born in March, are large in size relative to their mother, and are ready to fend for themselves four weeks after birth.

The damage wrought by moles is entirely cosmetic. Often accused of eating roots, they do not. Their diet is entirely insects and/or earthworms. However, the cosmetic damage may be enough for some homeowners to want to take drastic action against these otherwise beneficial animals. So, what can be done.

There is a variety of possible actions one can take to rid the yard of moles. Homeowners or renters may trap and remove moles without a permit. Pest control or landscape technicians hired to remove moles must be licensed to do so. There are various traps that can be used to either live-trap or kill moles. Captured live moles may be relocated to forested areas. Another possible way of getting rid of a mole populations would be to eliminate its food supply - killing off mole crickets, white grubs and other soil insects can go a long way to warding off moles. Depending on the type of insects present that are feeding the moles, insecticides may be employed - the local extension office should be consulted to ensure the right insecticide is used, and, as for all chemicals, all label instructions must be followed.



# and the Bugglies

by: Karen Durand, UF/IFAS Master Gardener

## ASIAN CYCAD SCALE

I've been battling an invasive invader for months. I wish that I could say I've won or that I'm gaining on it. But whether I'm actually rid of this pest in my garden remains to be seen. I've been engaged in battle against the invasive Asian Cycad scale (*Aulacaspis yasumatsui*).

Infestations of this invasive scale insect have been moving across the state since the pest was discovered in 1996 in Miami. Scale insects are the most serious pests of ornamental plants. This particular scale affects the family of plants called cycads. This family includes king and queen sagos, cardboard palms and coonties, which are ancient, primitive plants that have been around since dinosaurs ruled the earth. Although these plants give the appearance of palms, they are actually unrelated to them. At this point the sagos appear to be the most vulnerable to the scale.

In general, scale insects hatch into a larval "crawler" stage. When they find a suitable spot on a plant, they insert their mouthparts into the plant and start feeding. They cover themselves with a waxy covering and they stay that way until they die.

You can determine if your plant is infested with Asian Cycad Scale in two manners:

1. Observe the insect under the microscope and compare it to images.
2. Watch the rate of the spread of the scale and whether there are layers of scale on

your plant.

At its worst an infestation of this scale can completely coat medium sized sago within a couple of months. It is unusual in that it can also infest the roots of cycads. It is difficult to control because there are presently no natural enemies of this insect, it reproduces very quickly, they can move with the motion of the wind and they can live in roots to depths of 24 inches. So what does one do if your sagos ARE infected?

For severe infestations, one option might be to remove all the affected fronds from the sago before beginning chemical treatment. This is not recommended as standard treatment – only on severe infestations. Removal of the fronds allows the chemical treatment to be more thorough and effective. If you prune your sagos, disinfect your tools between plants and when you're finished trimming. Use 1 part bleach or alcohol to 9 parts water. Soak the tools for 10 minutes before re-using. The Extension Service recommends double bagging the fronds and clippings securely in plastic bags, and throwing them out with regular trash or incinerating the remains.



Adult female *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*



Infested sago frond



Infested sago "palm"

"Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now. So we might as well make peace with the landlord." ~ Thomas Eisner

# and the Bugglies (cont.)

*(continued from page #6)*

Research is underway attempting to identify suitable predators for the cycad scale. While this is underway, there are other options for controlling the scale. One method that has provided some success is simply training a strong water stream onto the fronds to push the scale off. This does not eliminate the scale but can slow its effect on the affected plant. Treatments that work well on other types of scale also have some efficacy against cycad scale. Horticultural oils (Ultra-Fine, summer oil, volck oil, dormant oil, etc), fish oil (not fish emulsion) and Malathion-in-oil all yield good results. These oils should be applied to both sides of fronds, along stems and trunks, and into the ground around the plant. Spray every two weeks in warm (>70F) weather and once per month in colder (<70F) weather. During warmer weather, avoid applying oils in the heat of the day to prevent damage to new growth.

When should spray applications be stopped? This is not so straightforward because dead scale can remain attached to plant surfaces. To the naked eye, live and dead scale look pretty much alike. It may be possible to determine whether the scale present is alive or dead by scraping a small amount onto one's fingernail - if the scale residue is dry and powdery, it's dead, if it's sticky it's alive. Spraying the affected plant with water can help to clean off dead scale.

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## **Announcements:**

### **Garden Club at Palm Coast Flower Show**

April 29<sup>th</sup> 11 am- 6 pm & April 30<sup>th</sup> 10 am- 4 pm Flagler County Association of Realtors Building 4101 East Moody Blvd. Bunnell <http://www.gcpcinc.org> for details.

### **City of Palm Coast Arbor Day**

Saturday May 7th 11 am-4 pm at Central Park 975 Central Ave Palm Coast

Free tree give-away with donation of non-perishable food item or pet food. For more information contact the City of Palm Coast 386-986-3722 or [palmcoastgov.com/arborday](http://palmcoastgov.com/arborday).

### **Spring Fling Open House and Plant Sale**

Hosted by the Flagler County Master Gardeners Saturday May 21st from 9 am-3 pm at the Flagler County Extension Service 150 Sawgrass Road, Bunnell. Educational programs on Birds, Butterflies and Bees from 10am-2pm. Come tour the demonstration gardens and talk to the Master Gardener Volunteers. Admission is free!

"Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now. So we might as well make peace with the landlord." ~ Thomas Eisner

# Fresh from Florida

## Blueberries

(from UF/IFAS EDIS publication CIR1192)

Blueberries may be grown successfully by Flagler homeowners. There are two main varieties, each with several cultivars, that can be grown here, rabbiteye and southern highbush. These so-called low-chill cultivars have been specifically bred to provide Floridians with options for growing, among other deciduous fruits, blueberries. Generally, rabbiteye blueberries grow well in areas of Florida that have winters as cold, or colder, than Ocala, while southern highbush cultivars are well-adapted to areas south of Ocala and north of Sebring, although they will grow reasonably well in Alachua County.

All blueberries should be planted in acidic soils (pH 4 - 5.5) with more organic matter than is usually found in Florida. Southern highbush requires 3% or more organic matter, while rabbiteye requires 2-3%. In addition, the soil should be well-drained down to a depth of 18", due to the danger of root rot. Generally, if azaleas and camellias like the area, blueberries will, too. If your soil is not up to snuff, consider using a raised bed. Plant in a sunny area away from the roots of trees except pines, and at least 20 feet away from any building foundation. Allow at least a 7' x 7' area for rabbiteyes and a 4' x 4' area for southern highbush. Plants may be set 3 feet apart (southern highbush) or 5 feet apart (rabbiteye) for a hedgerow effect.



Jewel cultivar

Plant from mid-December to mid-February. Usually, ¼ - ½ cubic foot of acid sphagnum peat moss in the planting hole will benefit the new plant. It should be placed at the same height it was in the nursery. New plants will also benefit from a layer of pine bark mulch. New plants should be pruned back to the main cane, and remove all flowers during the first season to prevent fruit formation to promote strong establishment of the plant.

Aside from site selection, choosing the proper cultivars is probably the most important decision a blueberry grower can make. Most blueberries cultivars require the presence of another cultivar to pollinate and bear fruit. Southern highbush cultivars are: Emerald, Gulf Coast, Jewel, Millenia, Sharp Blue, Star, and Windsor; rabbiteye cultivars are: Beckyblue, Bonita, Climax, Austin, Brightwell, Powderblue, Tifblue, and Woodard. In general, southern highbush cultivars are considered to be more difficult to grow due to early flowering that can be affected by frost damage, less-forgiving soil requirements, and more susceptibility to root rot and stem blight.

Blueberries benefit from frequent, light fertilization. Over-fertilization can be deadly. And, do not place fertilizer into the planting hole. "Blueberry special" and azalea-camellia fertilizers are suitable.



Emerald

### Florida Blueberries

- ◆ Choose sunny area not close to trees or buildings for blueberry plants
- ◆ Ensure multiple cultivars are planted if not self-pollinating
- ◆ Frequent, light fertilization is recommended
- ◆ Regular pruning helps improve plant health and fruit output
- ◆ Reference: UF IFAS EDIS Publication # CIR1192 (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg359>)



Downloaded from:

<http://freshfromflorida.wordpress.com/recipes-of-the-month-2/>

## Blueberry Breakfast Casserole

Yield: 6 Servings / Time: 1 hour

### Ingredients

2 cups fresh Florida blueberries, rinsed and dried  
8 large Florida eggs, beaten  
1/4 cup maple syrup  
1 loaf bread (any kind)  
1 1/2 cups low-fat milk  
4 ounces low-fat cream cheese, cold  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
Cooking pan spray

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Lightly spray a 9 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish.  
Cut bread into 1-inch cubes.  
Cut cream cheese into small cubes.  
Place half of the bread cubes in the dish.  
Evenly distribute the cream cheese cubes and 1 cup of the blueberries over the bread.  
Add the remaining bread cubes and blueberries to the top of the casserole.  
In a medium-sized bowl, combine eggs, milk, maple syrup and butter.  
Slowly pour egg mixture over bread.  
Cover casserole with foil and bake for approximately 45 minutes.  
Insert a toothpick in the center of the casserole.  
When the toothpick comes out clean, remove the foil so the casserole can brown on top.  
Let cool slightly and serve warm with extra maple syrup on the side.

## Creamy Blueberry Shake

Yield: 3 Servings / Time: 15 minutes

2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen (washed and sorted, if fresh)  
2 small bananas, ripe  
1/3 cup honey  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 1/2 cups low-fat vanilla yogurt  
1 cup low-fat vanilla ice cream  
4 sprigs mint

### Preparation:

Combine blueberries, bananas, honey and lemon juice and purée on HIGH speed in blender.

Add yogurt and ice cream and blend until thick and smooth.

Serve immediately in cold glasses decorated with sprigs of mint.

**Bon appetit!**



# The Urban Forest

Louise Leister, W.E.P.  
Coordinator

## Florida Flowering Trees

Trees are an indispensable part of the landscape and of our lives. They give our lives a sense of permanence and stability. They add beauty and tranquility to our homes. Trees just make us feel better. Luckily, we have a large variety to pick from when looking for landscape additions.

Trees also help the environment by aiding in controlling pollution, filtering dust, removing carbon dioxide, all while releasing much needed oxygen. They reduce noise pollution, lower temperature by shading us and through evaporation of water from their leaves. They also prevent soil erosion and help stabilize areas from runoff of our fragile top soil. Trees improve an ugly view and add homes and food for wildlife. Many of them add color for us during the spring or fall by blooming or producing fruit or the simple addition of their leaves changing color before defoliation. So how much more can trees improve our lives?

There are a number of flowering trees for Florida. Some produce flowers during a season and remain green through the rest of the year. Others produce flowers on and off through out the year giving us color year round. Others bloom before producing fruit and this cycle continues year after year. So, just how do we pick flowering trees for our landscape and which ones will provide a beautiful picture for us?

First, we must look at the soil, site conditions, exposure, and, in this area of Florida, the proximity to the beach or ocean salt air. Another factor is water and its salt content. I know I have mentioned salt two times, but we are located in an area that salt intrusion plays an important part in having a plant or tree survive in the landscape. We will look at a few trees and go over what areas and conditions they will require in order to survive and, for that matter, thrive.

**Crape myrtle** – *Lagerstroemia spp.* One of Florida's best flowering trees. Crape myrtles come in a range of sizes and colors from dwarf to medium sized trees and their sizes can reach 30 feet. So I will say the most important thing to remember when picking a crape myrtle is size and planting it in the right location in order to keep the trimming of these beautiful trees to a minimum. A large crape myrtle should only be pruned to dead head the old spent flowers, **not** to make the tree smaller.



Colors range from hot watermelon, lavender, purple, light pink, dark pink, red, white and now new multi-colored flowers all ranging in assorted sizes. Much work has been done in breeding these beautiful trees to engineer them to be less disease prone and less attractive to the insects that commonly cause problems with crape myrtles. Crape myrtles are somewhat salt tolerant and need full sun to maintain good flower production. They are also deciduous losing their leaves during the winter months. I will suggest going online for the detailed list that is available from the University of Florida titled 'Crape Myrtle in Florida # ENH-52.' This list gives sizes, colors, and great history of this wonderful tree.



**Flowering Dogwood** – *Cornus florida* This tree is native to the eastern United States including northern Florida and can reach heights of 20 to 35 feet tall. If grown in sunny areas it will grow much slower, so I will say that it prefers partial shade or the under story of larger trees giving it a break from the intense Florida heat. Dogwoods can be grown as single trunk trees or multi trunk picturesque trees giving it a fuller effect.



*Dogwoods bear showy white bracts which are modified leaves and not a true flower. These are*

# Garden Calendar

*Taken from Survival Guide to Gardening in Flagler County*

## April

### General

If it does not rain, water twice per week, putting down one half to three-fourths inch of water each time.

### Lawn

Mow weekly to ensure no more than one third of the grass blade is cut at a time. Cut St. Augustinegrass to three and one-half to four inches high. Do not bag grass clippings. They recycle nutrients back to the lawn

This is a good time to repair dead or damaged spots in the lawn. Fill uneven spots in lawn with sand or topsoil. Repair dead areas with sod, plugs, or seeds. Keep areas uniformly moist during establishment period. Lightly water with one-quarter inch of water per day for the first two weeks. Once established and growing, switch to above recommended watering schedule.

After mid-April most weed killers or weed and feed products should not be applied to your lawn. Wait until cooler weather returns in the late Fall.



Blackberries

### Food Garden

Do not allow new seedlings to dry out. They should be kept moist, but not soaking wet. Vegetables that can be planted are cantaloupes, okra, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, watermelon, squash, pumpkin, and cucumber.

### Fruit

Oklawaha, Brazos, and Floridagrاند blackberries should be checked for ripeness by the end of the month.

Treat citrus for scab (small bumps on fruit and leaves) with a copper-based fungicide two to three weeks after petal drop and again two weeks later.

### Landscape

Prune Spring-flowering plants: camellia, azaleas, spirea, and Indian hawthorne after they have finished flowering. You can transplant these shrubs at this time if needed.

Fertilize azaleas and camellias with an acid-forming fertilizer.

Monitor your azaleas for lace bugs. If present, treat them with insecticidal soap..

Annuals and perennials to be planted are celosia, coleus, coreopsis, dusty miller, gaillardia, gazania, geranium, impatiens, Marguerite daisy, marigold, nicotiana, pentas, phlox, portulaca, rudbeckia, Persian violet, salvia, verbena, periwinkle, and zinnia.

# Garden Calendar (continued)

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Potted poinsettias that you've kept indoors since the holidays can now be planted outdoors away from artificial light sources. Since they will get bushy, leave three feet around them for growth.

Fertilize roses with slow release fertilizer. Watch for black spot on roses. Begin weekly spraying with fungicide for black spot as necessary. Follow the instructions on the label.

Add mulch to flower beds, shrubs, and trees to a depth of two inches. Do not mulch around citrus trees.

Check your oleanders for orange caterpillars with spiked black hairs. Use bacillus thuringensis (Bt) to treat them. Bt is a bacteria that is ingested by the caterpillars and stops them from eating. Apply late in the day or on a cloudy day for best results, since these bacteria are sensitive to strong light. Bt is effective on most caterpillars and chewing worms. It is relatively safe, but should not be ingested or inhaled. Store in a cool, dry place.

## May

### General

If it doesn't rain, water no more than twice per week, putting down one half to three-fourths inch of water each time.

### Lawn

Mow lawns weekly to ensure no more than a third of the grass blade is cut off each time. This will also help to reduce thatch build-up.

### Food Garden

Vegetables to be planted are eggplant, okra, New Zealand spinach, sweet potatoes, and southern peas. For best results, plant these crops at the beginning of the month.

### Fruit

Sharpblue blueberries should be checked for ripeness by the end of the month. Watch for the various blueberry festivals...enjoy!

Peaches, nectarines, and plums begin to ripen by the end of the month.

Fertilize citrus trees with a citrus fertilizer and nutritional (mineral) spray.

### Landscape

If no rain, water citrus regularly to reduce fruit splitting.

Mulch all flower beds to aid in water retention during warm weather.

Fertilize poinsettias with a slow-release fertilizer.

Fertilize palm trees with palm fertilizer and nutritional (mineral) spray.

Annuals and perennials to be planted this month include celosia, coleus, coreopsis, crossandras, gaillardias, gazanias, hollyhocks, impatiens, kalanchoe, marigolds, nicotianas, ornamental peppers, pentas, moss rose, salvia, thunbergia alata, torenias, verbenas, periwinkles, zinnias, purslane, portulaca, and wax begonias.



Impatiens and hibiscus

## June

### General

Water no more than twice a week, if no rain, putting down one inch of water each time..

### Lawn

Apply an iron product at the beginning of the month.

Due to Spring/Summer rapid growth, you may need to raise your mower height or cut more often to ensure no more than a third of the grass blade is cut at a time. Make sure your mower blade is sharp.

### Food Garden

Tomatoes, lima beans, and cucumbers should be ready to harvest this month. Crops that can be planted are okra, southern peas, and sweet potatoes.

### Fruit

Occasionally, at this time of year, citrus trees may drop excess fruit they cannot support. This is a natural occurrence and not to worry. For additional information on citrus problems, refer to the University of Florida Dooryard Citrus Guide at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_guide\\_your\\_florida\\_dooryard\\_citrus\\_guide](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_guide_your_florida_dooryard_citrus_guide) or call your local Extension Office.



Mophead hydrangea

### Landscape

Check mulch levels around all landscape beds. If less than 2", add more being careful to pull it away from the stems of plants.

If black spot is showing up on your roses, avoid overhead irrigation and treat with a fungicide labeled for black spot fungus.

Annuals and perennials for this month include celosia, coleus, crossandras, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotianas, ornamental peppers, moss rose, Persian violet, salvia, periwinkles, and zinnias.

June is the last month to prune azaleas and camellias. Pruning any later in the year may reduce next year's flower production.



# Discover Natural Florida

## **Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park**

Karen Suggs, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

If you're looking for a beautiful natural setting that showcases Florida history, discover Flagler County's Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. Located on Old Kings Road about 3.5 miles south of SR 100, the park's 150 acres are a perfect location for a shady picnic, short or long walks through the woods, a variety of water activities on Bulow Creek, and a lesson in the rise and fall of sugar plantations in east Florida.



Old Beach Road

To enter the park, look for the dirt road directly opposite the park sign on Old Kings Road. This one-mile road, once called the "Old Beach Road," is one of the most scenic roads in Flagler County. In the early 1800s, it stretched from Old Kings Road to the Atlantic Ocean crossing Bulow Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway. It was the original entrance to the Bulow Plantation, and today looks much like it did when the plantation was a thriving sugar cane, cotton, rice and indigo operation. At the end of Old Beach Road is the entrance gate to the park. The park is

open from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday through Monday. The entrance fee is \$4.00 per vehicle (8 people per vehicle) or \$2.00 for pedestrians and bicyclists.



Live Oak

Begin your exploration of the park at the Bulow Creek picnic area. Live Oaks covered with resurrection ferns, mature Eastern Red Cedars, and Cabbage Palms now inhabit the area where the plantation house once stood. Resurrection fern, an air plant, gets its name because it can survive long periods of drought by curling up and appearing dead. When just a little water is present, the fern will uncurl and reopen, appearing to resurrect.



Resurrection Fern



Eastern Red Cedar



Cabbage Palms

*(Continued on page 18)*



# Master Gardener Spotlight

## **DJJ Community Garden**

*David Tibbetts, UF IFAS Master Gardener*

Flagler County Master Gardeners are working with the Flagler County Department of Juvenile Justice Council to develop a community garden. This garden provides a hands-on opportunity for area youth to volunteer and acquire community service hours while working to help feed Flagler County's hungry. The Juvenile Justice Council adopted the development of the garden during Florida's DJJ Youth Success Week in April of 2009.



David Tibbetts, Marsha Zeller and a student volunteer harvest mustard greens

Under the leadership of Chuck Smarr, the Flagler Master Gardeners advise students on planting and harvesting vegetables at the community garden. So far, the garden has produced two full crops and more than 100 bushels of fresh vegetables and citrus which have all been donated to area food banks, like the Grace Tabernacle Food Pantry.



Honor O'Reilly and a student volunteer harvest lettuce

The garden is one of two in Florida to receive the People's Garden recognition from the United States Department of Agriculture. The People's Garden Initiative challenges

USDA employees to establish gardens at their facilities or help communities create gardens.

In May, the community garden won a mini-orchard in the online "Communities Take Root" competition, sponsored by the National Fruit Tree Planting Foundation and Edy's Fruit Bars. A dozen fruit trees and eight fruit-bearing bushes were planted in November at a groundbreaking party to celebrate the planting.



Chuck Smarr and students at Edy's tree-planting event

This year, the DJJ Community Garden Management Board has been nominated to represent Flagler County by the United Way as its Volunteer of the Year for 2010.

(Continued from page 1)

a regular basis. Different strokes for different blades (of grass). For a comprehensive guide on what should be done for your particular type of grass, please see the various papers that are available on-line from the University of Florida (UF) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) and its Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS). For St. Augustinegrass: "St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns" (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh010>). The fact sheet for Zoysiagrass is currently being revised and unavailable on-line, but there is a reference available at the Flagler Extension Office. For Bahiagrass: Bahiagrass for Florida Lawns (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh006>). For Bermudagrass: Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh007>).

The short answers to the questions originally posed:

Brown spots may be due to cold damage, drought, or insect damage. The only way to be sure is to take a live, green or green-yellow sample to the Extension Office and get it analyzed.

Bermudagrass invasion is very difficult to stop. Re-sodding may be the only option.

When to water is partially dependent on when can you water. Until recently (start of Daylight Savings Time), it was once per week. Now, it is twice per week maximum. Additionally, if it rains, less watering is required. Depending on grass type, 1/2 – 3/4 inch of water is needed each week. Better yet, let your grass tell you when it needs water - the blades will begin to fold when water is required.

Fertilization is specific to grass type.

**Q:** Why are bay trees losing their leaves?

**A:** From UF IFAS EDIS (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs391>): The probable cause of bay tree damage is laurel wilt, which is caused by a fungus carried by the redbay ambrosia beetle - it introduces the fungus to create its food. Meanwhile, the fungus blocks water flow through the trees' nutrient systems and causes the demise of leaves and, eventually, the tree. There is no known treatment.



## Canna Leaf Rollers

Canna leaf rollers are quickly becoming frustrating pests for gardeners throughout Florida. These hungry caterpillars feed on the leaves of cannas, especially those with red leaves or orange or red flowers.

There are two types and they differ in size and color. Lesser canna leaf rollers are tiny and yellow, while larger canna leaf rollers are green and can reach two to three inches long.

Check your cannas often for pests or signs of damage, including tattered leaves or rolled leaf edges. It's best to hand-pick leaf rollers and destroy them, since they can be difficult to target with insecticides.

After the plants turn brown in winter, cut down and destroy all above-ground parts of affected plants to help prevent future infestations of canna leaf rollers.

### ***UF Resources For Gardeners***

- Solutions For Your Life  
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS)  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- UF Environmental Horticulture Dept.  
<http://hort.ufl.edu/>
- Florida Master Gardener Program  
<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Florida-friendly Landscaping  
<http://www.floridayards.org/>

For more information, contact your county Extension office or visit [GardeninginaMinute.com](http://GardeninginaMinute.com).

*Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.*

(Continued from page 10)

surrounded by a group of small yellow flowers adding a bold showy flower to the tree. These trees flower early in the spring for about two weeks and start our growing season off with a brilliant start. Any pruning should be done after flowering and before next year's buds set in July or the next year's display will be very poor. These trees also add interest in fall to the landscape by turning a beautiful shade of red to maroon before losing their leaves for the winter.

Dogwoods grow best in well drained soils with a slight acidic reaction of about pH 5.0 to 6.5. Woodland soil temperatures change slowly and dogwoods grow best in this environment rather than in areas that the soil temperature changes quickly. Again, growing these trees in the under story of trees will make a good home for the dogwood where they will thrive.

Dogwoods are not tolerant of drought periods and need water at regular intervals to maintain good growth. A few things that might plague dogwoods are powdery mildew and leaf scorch during hot periods. Some insects are leaf minors, scales, aphids and twig girdlers but none are life threatening.



**Fringe tree-** *Chionanthus virginicus* is another great native tree for this area of Florida. This tree can reach heights of 30 feet, but the good news is there is a dwarf variety as well. This sweet tree has beautiful white fringe like flowers in spring. It's a deciduous tree and grows slowly. The fringe tree has wide soil pH adaptability and adds a beautiful splash of color in spring. This tree requires very little care in the landscape which makes it a great plant to a carefree gardener. It is not salt tolerant!

**Jerusalem thorn** – *Parkinsonia aculeate* is the last tree we will talk about today. This beautiful tree is one that will tolerate salt. The tree is a wispy, graceful, light and airy specimen bearing beautiful yellow flowers in spring and summer. The down side to this tree is that it does, as the name implies, have thorns on the branches and when pruning you need to err on the side of caution. These thorns are present, but in no way are they as big as the bougainvillea. The Jerusalem thorn will reach heights of 30 feet, but maintains a graceful stance making it a great tree for a smaller landscape. This is another tree that will tolerate neglect if you are also a carefree gardener!



Hopefully, this short list of flowering trees has provided you with a good introduction. There are many more flowering trees suitable for this area and we will look at more of them in the next issue. All the trees listed above should be found at any garden center in this area and all the additional information you might need is available on line at the University of Florida.



Slash Pine

*(Continued from page #14)*

To reach the sugar mill ruins, you can drive the circular Plantation Road or walk the quarter-mile trail across from the picnic shelter. I strongly recommend the trail. It's an easy walk and not only marks the location of the plantation's slave cabins, but also reveals remnants of a massive brush fire in 1998 that resulted in a mandatory evacuation of Flagler County. Scorching caused by the fire can still be seen on Slash Pines and Live Oaks along the trail. With most of the underbrush destroyed by the fire, native plants—such as Cabbage Palms, Saw Palmetto, Magnolias, and Coontie ferns—are making a comeback. How can you tell the difference between a young Cabbage Palm and a Saw Palmetto? Look at the way the leaf fan is attached to the stem. In a Cabbage Palm, the stem appears to continue into the leaf fan in a triangular shape, giving the fan a folded appearance. In a Saw Palmetto, the stem appears squared off where it connects with the fan.



Saw Palmetto



Coontie Ferns



Magnolia

The trail ends across from the sugar mill ruins. The mill is made of coquina stone, which has been used as a building stone in Florida for over 400 years. When first quarried, the stone is very soft. In order to use it as a building material, the stone must be left out to dry for one to three years.

In its heyday, the Bulow sugar mill was the largest in Florida. The Second Seminole War brought its downfall as the Seminole Indians fought to reclaim land that had been taken over by settlers. The Seminoles burned “Bulowville” and other plantations in the area in January 1836. More information about the plantation and the events leading up to Second Seminole War can be found at an excellent Interpretive Center near the ruins.

The Bulow family never returned after the war. Though the plantation once encompassed 2,200 acres, all that remains today are ruins, several wells, and a spring house. The cleared fields have been reclaimed by the forest, and the area looks much as it did when the Seminoles lived on the land.