



YOUR NORTH FLORIDA YARD & GARDEN

Flagler County Extension Service & UF/IFAS Florida
Master Gardeners

ISSUE XLIII

October-December, 2013

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From the MG Desk...

David Tibbetts, Newsletter Editor



It's been a very wet September here in Flagler County. Based on my yard, some of the plants are a little confused - things that don't normally blossom now are trying to, so I hope this doesn't bode ill for them when the cold weather finally gets here.

I hope that you can take some useful information from this quarter's newsletter. There is a treasure trove of information available from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) web sites, which are listed at the end of this letter. If you can't find it there, then the UF/IFAS Extension located at 150 Sawgrass Rd, in Bunnell off County Road 13, is ready to assist (phone: 386-437-7464).

Happy gardening!

Q ■ Where can I get information regarding citrus, citrus harvesting, citrus problems, citrus fertilizing, etc.?

A ■ There are many resources available for one to determine what's up with their citrus trees, fruit. The University of Florida/IFAS web site (solutionsforyourlife.com) is a good place to start. However, to talk to someone

(Continued on page 20)



FLAGLER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE &
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WWW.FLAGLERCOUNTY.ORG

OR

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Upcoming Programs at the Flagler County Extension Service:

Fall Short and Sweet Horticulture Program Series:

10/28: Bedding Plants and Shrubs

10/30: Maintaining your landscape

Each program starts at 10am and lasts approximately 2½ hours. A fee of \$5 is charged for attendance at each program to cover the cost of program supplies and materials. All programs will be conducted at the Flagler County UF/IFAS Extension auditorium. Contact Ruth Micieli 386-437-7464 or e-mail rmicieli@flaglercounty.org to pre-register. Program details posted on website flaglercounty.org.



The Good...

By David Tibbetts,
UF/IFAS Master Gardener

Cora Vinca (Periwinkles)

Introduction. The vinca in my yard have fought me tooth and nail to stay around so I recently gave up and decided to let them be. They seem to pop up pretty much everywhere, and have resisted my efforts to rip them out. So, I was surprised to find out a couple of weeks ago that people actually want them in their yards, to the point that one seed company had bred a super vinca that can withstand the extremely wet periods we sometimes have (like lately).



Spindly, small, but very reliable periwinkle

Background. The scientific name for a vinca is *Catharanthus roseus*, and while I know them as vinca, they are more commonly called Madagascar or rose periwinkles. Already I like them better for being known as periwinkles rather than vinca. Anyway, the periwinkle is considered valuable for its tolerance of heat and humidity, as well as its long and colorful display of flowers that range in color from mauve pink to white. It is a native of Madagascar, and derivatives of the periwinkle have been used to make medicines and treatments for ailments such as leukemia

and Hodgkin's disease, though one should not try this at home. Periwinkles are tolerant of many types of soil, moderate salt, like full sun, grow fast, are used for group or border plantings, and are adept at seeding themselves into nearby areas.

The Cora variety. Due to a problem with "wet feet," sometimes called "stepped-on" or "sudden death" diseases could cause a bed of periwinkles to die out within days. The most aggressive of these diseases is Phytophthora blight. In a ten-year effort to develop a more disease-resistant periwinkle, Goldsmith Seed of Gilroy, CA, released a patented blight-resistant periwinkle in spring 2008. Named after Cora Van Wingerden, considered by many to be the mother of the modern U.S. greenhouse industry (of note, Ms. Wingerden had 16 children, 15 of whom still worked in the greenhouse industry as of 2008!), the Cora Series periwinkle is able to withstand significant periods of "wet feet" without developing any of the "stepped-on" or "sudden death" diseases. In addition to its new disease resistance, the Cora periwinkle has darker green leaves and about 20% larger blossoms, making it a clear improvement



"Stepped on" or "sudden death" diseases have taken these periwinkles

The Good...(cont.)



'Cora' periwinkles - larger blossoms and darker, more dense foliage



'Cora' blossoms are 20% larger than 'old-time' periwinkle blossoms

red "eye"), burgundy and violet.

from its old-time predecessor. Six colors of Cora periwinkle are available: white, lavender, deep lavender, apricot (with a

Typically, periwinkles flourish in austere, nutrient deprived "soils". You may have noticed stray periwinkles growing quite nicely in the middle of nowhere, along the roadside in a bone-dry, sandy area. This seems strange to say, but do not add much organic matter and minimize watering when using periwinkles! Plant them high in a well drained bed. Avoid the temptation to plant them a little deep, like a tomato seedling, otherwise the plant will be more prone to root rot diseases. Cora periwinkles thrive in full sun and reach a height of 14 to 16 inches with a spread of 2 feet (the first year!). Add some tropical color and pizzazz to your landscape beds with the addition of these robust and stunning flowers. Just try a few in one location, since this is a new strain there could be some issues with it in our climate.



Bed of mixed 'Cora' Periwinkles, showing off both the color variety and dark green foliage

References: "A Rainy Season Periwinkle?" by Doug Caldwell, Collier County Landscape Horticulture, Naples Daily News, April 19, 2008

"Cora vinca renews joys of periwinkles" by Norman Winter, Miss St Univ Horticulturist, Central Mississippi Research & Extension Center, Feb 28, 2008



The Bad...

By: David Tibbetts,
UF/IFAS Master Gardener

Feral Cats

Introduction. Recently it came to my attention that there is a feral cat population living on the grounds of the Flagler County Extension. In my travels around the county's many walking and cycling trails, I have noticed evidence of feral cat populations and support in various locations. Apparently, there is a number of cat lovers who look after the feral cat populations in Palm Coast.

Why Feral Cats? Since this is a horticulture newsletter, you may ask why are we writing about feral cats? Feral cats can make a mess of a garden, affect wildlife (birds, reptiles, etc.) populations and effects will continue to grow unless we humans work to manage the problem.

Background and Additional Information. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, cats are descended from the wild cats of Africa and south-



A successful hunt (for the cat)

western Asia and were domesticated about 4000 years ago by the Egyptians. Cats will hunt even when they are well-fed, and are very effective predators of rabbits, squirrels, mice, lizards, snakes and birds. Domestic and feral cats are not a part of the natural ecosystem. A single cat can kill up to 100 or more birds and mammals annually. Scientists in Wisconsin estimate that cats kill at least 7.8 million birds each year in Wisconsin alone. In addition, cats compete with natural predators and spread disease, can

be a nuisance in the same way that wild animals are by killing poultry and small domestic stock, compete with pets for food, kill birds at bird feeders, and defecate and dig to cover it up in gardens. Other problems include the marking of territory by male cats, mating noises, and territorial fighting and associated noises.

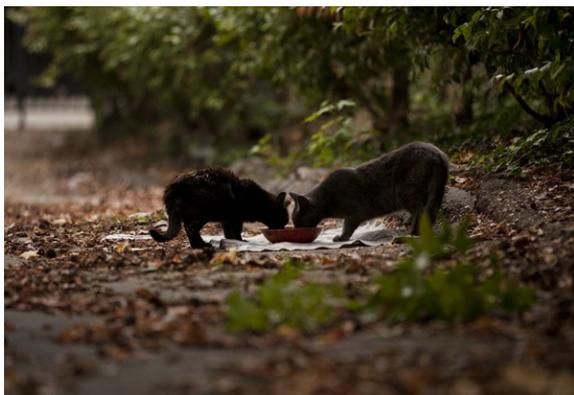
The Problem & a Possible Solution - TNR. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that there are 50 million feral cats in the U.S. Due to our climate here in Florida, it is believed that there is a greater number of feral cats here, relatively speaking, than other states with colder winters. These feral cats are recognized to be a problem, either due to the poor conditions in which they live, or due to the damage they cause to local wildlife and property. Many steps have been taken to try to reduce the feral cat problem, but the most promising seems to be the current efforts being undertaken to trap-neuter-return (TNR) feral cats.

Why TNR? The TNR program came about after many locales attempted to trap and euthanize their feral cat populations. This proved to be a non-solution due to new cats entering recently depopulated areas to take up residence. Attempts to 'starve out' feral cats through feeding bans have likewise proved ineffective due to good Samaritans and cats' ability to find ways to survive. A TNR program maintains the feral cat populations in place, which helps to keep new entrants away; due to the territoriality of feral

The Bad...(cont.)

cats, visitors are not welcome to vie for already scarce resources, while the neutering of the feral cats prevents the population from becoming overly large. Secondary benefits of neutering include a reduction in mating and fighting leading to a lot less cat noise.

Feral Cat Population Growth. With no control on feral cat reproduction, populations can grow very quickly. A female cat can have two to three litters annually, with each litter containing an average of five kittens. Furthermore, a female cat can begin to get pregnant as early as five months old. So, it's easy to see how the population can very quickly grow to the point that it is virtually impossible to maintain the health and well-being of so many cats. It is not uncommon to see dead kittens that have been unable to obtain sufficient food to survive in uncontrolled populations of feral cats. Older cats will fight for food and mating privileges causing injuries and higher risk for disease. Malnourished cats are also more susceptible to disease. So, it is im-



Feral cats feeding

portant to try to control feral cat populations, both for the good of the cats and for their human neighbors.

Local Efforts. Our local humane society is trying to address the problem of feral cats with its own TNR program. For those who live in Flagler Beach, there is no fee for spay/neuter services due to a grant that has been allocated for beach residents. For the rest of us, it costs \$25 to have a cat spayed or neutered at the Flagler Humane Society, which is located off US 1 just north of the intersection with Palm Coast Parkway (1 Shelter Dr., Palm Coast, FL 32137, phone 386-445-1814).



Feral cat with left ear notched after TNR

Summary. The Humane Society of the U.S. devotes a significant part of their web site to the issues associated with the feral cat problem in the United States. The address is: http://www.humanesociety.org/feral_cats/. The FAQ (frequently asked questions) section has lots of information about the pros and cons of various community tactics in dealing with the feral cat issue, and, of course, about the TNR program. It is pretty convincing that the way ahead is TNR, even if you're not a cat lover (I count myself among this group). We can all do our part by ensuring the cats we meet are spayed or neutered, and not by simply feeding them. A

spayed or neutered cat has one of its ears "notched," that is surgically cut to make it obvious that it has gone through the TNR program.



and the Bugglies

Greg Hodges, Taxonomic Entomologist, Florida
Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services,
Division of Plant Industry

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM)

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM) was first detected in Broward and Miami-Dade counties in June 2002. Since that time, PHM has been detected in many other Florida counties.

PHM: What is it? The pink hibiscus mealybug is a sap-sucking insect which is typically observed as clusters of small soft-bodied insects in cotton-like masses covering buds, stems, fruit and roots, and in extreme cases the entire plant. The insect has a life cycle of 24 to 30 days. The female mealybug produces more than ten (10) generations per year in colonies of 500 eggs or more.

What it does: This mealybug attacks more than 125 plant species. It feeds on the plant sap and releases toxic substances causing injury and death. It is spread by wind, ants, stuck on clothing, on the hair of animals, or the movement of infested plants.

- Crinkled or twisted leaves and shoots
- Bunched and unopened leaves
- Distorted or bushy shoots
- White fluffy mass on buds, stems, fruit and roots
- Presence of honeydew, black sooty mold and ants
- Unopened flowers which often shrivel and die

Small deformed fruits

Maconellicoccus hirsutus (Green)-'bunchy top' damage.



Fruit trees affected:

Papaya, Carambola, Avocado, Sugar-apple, Soursop, Mango, Breadfruit, Golden Apple, Cherry, Plum, Guava, Citrus, Pigeon Pea, Passion Fruit, Grape, Banana

Vegetables affected:

Tomato, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Peppers, Okra, Dasheen, Lettuce, Cabbage, Beans, Squash

Ornamentals attacked:

Hibiscus, Bougainvillea, Croton, Oleander, Allamanda, Ixora, Anthurium, Ginger, Lily, Heliconia, Schefflera, Lantana, Ficus, Seagrape, Numerous Weeds

The U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services seek your assistance to prevent the spread of the pink hibiscus mealybug.

Chemical control: Chemical (pesticide) control of the PHM is difficult because the waxy covering protects the mealybugs and eggs from chemical exposure. **Do not apply pesticides without first contacting your local county extension agent.**



Adult male PHM
(note the two waxy tails)



Adult female PHM (arrow) with offspring
in various stages

"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.)

Biological control works! Fortunately, several natural enemies of the PHM exist which have been used successfully in a biological control program here in Florida. Since July 2002, two species of small, wasp-like parasites (*Anagyrus kamali* and *Gyranusoidea indica*) have been released in areas where PHM has been detected. A third predator, 'mealybug destroyer' was already active in Florida and has been observed at several sites feeding on pink hibiscus mealybug. These biological control agents are now considered established in Florida and are suppressing the pink hibiscus mealybug populations to low enough levels. With this establishment, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Division of Plant Industry is no longer rearing the two small wasp-like parasites.

PHM biocontrol is not harmful: Neither the biocontrol insects nor Pink Hibiscus Mealybug will harm humans, animals or any other insect species.



Mealybug Destroyer



Wasp-like parasite,
Anagyrus kamali.



PHM predator ladybug

You can help!

1. **Do NOT cut or trim the plants you think have PHM!** PHM spreads most easily by the wind and the movement of infested plants.
2. **The use of pesticides on your plants should be avoided.** Pesticides will kill the biocontrol insects used to attack PHM.
3. Please provide our inspectors access to your property. All state and federal agriculture inspectors carry proper identification and drive vehicles with state/federal emblems.
4. If plants are already cut, double-bag in plastic all plant cuttings (leaves, branches, flowers, etc.) and put them out with regular household garbage, NOT yard trash.

Lawn/landscape companies in Broward and Miami-Dade counties are required to COVER ALL CUTTINGS while transporting; though businesses should also NOT cut or trim suspected plants.

HELP US PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THIS TERRIBLE PEST THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

For further information call the PHM Helpline toll-free at (888) 397-1517.

Or contact your local office of:

The United States Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

Miami: 305-526-2825

Orlando: 407-648-6856

"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 citrus offers many health benefits:



Did you know:

An entire medium orange or half of a medium grapefruit (154 grams) provides 100 percent or more of the recommended Daily Value for vitamin C. Vitamin C is an important antioxidant.

Weight Management: Those trying to maintain a healthy weight should consume fruits and vegetables with high water content, like oranges or grapefruit, to help create a sense of fullness and satisfaction. A medium orange or half of a medium grapefruit is fat-free and contains no more than 80 calories.

Heart Health: Fresh citrus fruit deliver key nutrients that may be associated with heart health indicators. Hesperidin, a phytochemical found in oranges, has been associated with lower blood pressure. Pectin, a soluble fiber found in citrus fruit, may help to maintain healthy cholesterol levels.

Fresh citrus is sodium-free, saturated fat-free, and cholesterol-free and can be a part of a heart-healthy diet and lifestyle.

Immune System Support: Citrus delivers vitamin C, plus other nutrients and phytochemicals that may help support a healthy immune system.

Fruit Intake: Adding citrus to your diet can help you meet fruit intake recommendations. Americans, especially children and adolescents, fall well short of meeting fruit intake recommendations.⁴⁻⁶ Remember to make half of your plate fruits and vegetables.

Skin Health: Vitamin C found in fresh citrus can help support collagen production, which may support healthy skin and gums. Collagen breakdown in the skin may lead to the appearance of premature aging.

Vitamin Absorption: Citrus are high in vitamin C, which may help aid the absorption of non-heme iron (the iron found in plants like spinach, not meat products). Vitamin C-rich foods should be consumed daily to help get the most iron from foods.

Reduce Cancer Risk: Low fat diets rich in fruits and vegetables (foods that are low in fat and may contain dietary fiber, vitamin A, or vitamin C) may reduce the risk of some types of cancer, a disease associated with many factors.

Nutritional Benefits of Fresh Citrus :

Vitamin C

helps support a healthy immune system and may act as an antioxidant.

Folate (Folic Acid)

Folate is an essential vitamin that some studies suggest may have a role in supporting brain health.

Potassium

may play an important role in cardiovascular health and diets containing foods that are a good source of potassium and that are low in sodium may reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke.

Calcium

Calcium, found in calcium-fortified orange juice, can help support bone and tooth health, blood pressure regulation and muscle function, which are important considerations at any stage of life.

Thiamin

Thiamin, also known as vitamin B1, is important to the health of both men and women. It plays a role in the functions that help the body to convert food into energy.

Magnesium

Magnesium-rich diets may help support healthy blood pressure and cardiovascular health, and may contribute to bone health in men and women.

Phytochemicals

Research suggests that orange juice consumption may be associated with favorable effects on blood pressure and blood vessel function and that these benefits may be partially attributable to the flavonoid, hesperidin, found in oranges and orange juice.

Minted Citrus Couscous

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Recipes>

Ingredients:

- 10 ounces couscous
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 small red onion, finely chopped
- 2 oranges (one zested and juiced, one sliced for garnish)
- 2 tablespoons fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint, chopped
- cucumber, seeded and chopped
- kosher salt to taste
- freshly ground pepper to taste



Directions:

1. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, add couscous and 1 cup of boiling water. Stir couscous and cover tightly with plastic wrap allowing couscous to steam until tender, about 5 minutes.
2. After couscous is tender, fluff with fork and add olive oil. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Add remaining ingredients except for the orange slices and mix well.
3. Place couscous mixture in the refrigerator to marinate before serving. To serve, garnish couscous with orange slices and any leftover fresh herbs.

Lobster, Carambola, Citrus Salad

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Recipes>

Ingredients:

- 1 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 medium carambolas, sliced
- 1 cup orange sections
- 1 cup grapefruit sections
- 1 pound cooked lobster tail meat, sliced
- 1 cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained
- salad greens, chilled



Directions:

1. For dressing, bring orange juice to a boil in a saucepan, reducing liquid by 1/2. Cool in a small bowl. Whisk in the orange juice, honey, oil and salt.
2. Set aside. On individual plates, arrange carambola slices, orange and grapefruit sections, lobster and black beans on salad greens.
3. Drizzle with orange salad dressing and serve.



Jerusalem-Thorn, *Parkinsonia aculeata*:

Loose, flowing, delicate leaflets, a light, airy, low-branching growth habit with pendulous branch-tips, and a profusion of small, slightly fragrant, yellow blooms combine to create this popular, small landscape tree. Quickly reaching a height of 20 to 25 feet with a similar spread, this multi-trunked deciduous tree is actually much stronger than its fragile appearance would suggest. Branch bark often remains bright green even on several-year-old limbs.

General Information

USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: has been evaluated using the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.



Uses: street without sidewalk; specimen; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; urban tolerant; highway median

Availability: not native to North America

Crown uniformity: irregular

Crown density: open

Texture: fine

Flower characteristics: very showy

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches, 3 to 6 inches

Fruit color: brown

showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem
typically multi-trunked; no thorns

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig thickness: thin, medium

Height: 15 to 20 feet **Spread:** 20 to 25 feet

Crown shape: vase, spreading

Growth rate: fast

Flower color: yellow

Fruit shape: pod or pod-like

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife;

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy;

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Current year twig color: green

CULTURE

Light requirement: full sun
well-drained

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Outstanding tree: yes

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic;

Drought tolerance: high

Roots: not a problem

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown

Use and Management

Be sure to purchase trees with a well-developed central leader and upright branches for street and parking lot plantings to allow for clearance for vehicles. This can be a tough chore as branches weep toward the ground as they spread from the tree so older specimens can be wider than tall. Open-grown trees are beautiful if left un-pruned, forming a fountain of fine texture. The stems are armed with short, sharp spines and the trees should be located where they will not injure passersby.



Thriving in full sun on any well-drained soil, Jerusalem-Thorn will tolerate heat, drought, alkaline soil, and salt but not wet, soggy soil. It will grow in clay only if it drains very well. In spite of its rapid growth rate, it has strong wood, withstanding harsh winds with ease due to the open growth habit. However, the trees have a short life, approximately 15 to 20 years. Poor drainage may account for short life on many sites, so locate it accordingly in areas where soil is never wet for more than an hour or two. The bark is thin and easily injured and the tree appears to compartmentalize decay poorly. Locate the tree properly and design the site to minimize

trunk injury.

Adapted to arid regions, Jerusalem-Thorn is one of the best choices for hot, dry locations and its salt-tolerance makes it ideal for seaside plantings. The light shade afforded by the fine-textured foliage allows lawns to thrive beneath this tree and its small size allows a multitude of applications, from specimen, parking lot, median, or street tree, set back from the road or walk. There are reports of the plant escaping cultivation in some locations along the gulf coast.

Propagation is by seed.

Pests

Some pests of Jerusalem Thorn are scales and thorn bugs, but none are serious.

Diseases

One disease that infects this tree on wet soils is root rot but none are serious on other sites.

Witches-broom occasionally causes a proliferation of branches forming tight heads of foliage.

Literature Cited

Fox, A.M., D.R. Gordon, J.A. Dusky, L. Tyson, and R.K. Stocker (2005) IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. Cited from the Internet (November 3, 2006), <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment.html>

Footnotes

1.This document is ENH590, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date November 1993. Revised March 2007. Reviewed May 2011. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2.Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

Garden Calendar

From: Guide to Successful Gardening in Florida's Zone 9A

O ctober

General

If it does not rain, water as needed every seven to ten days, putting down approximately one-half to three-fourths inch of water each time.

Do not use insecticides unless absolutely necessary. Many beneficial insects are active in the fall and if allowed to live will help reduce bug problems next spring.



Florida Strawberries – R Micieli

Lawn

Do not fertilize after mid-October. If you missed the September fertilization, do not compensate by fertilizing late this month.

Due to slower growth at this time of year, you can reduce your mowing frequency.

Remember, only one third of the grass blade should be cut at a time.

If you need to over seed with ryegrass to fill in bare spots in the lawn, you may do so this month.

Food Garden

Ornamental gourds are ready to harvest. Wait until dry on the vine to pick.

Plant this month: beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, endive, rutabaga, kohlrabi, mustard, onions, radish, kale, spinach, strawberries, Swiss chard, and turnips.

Fruit

Navel, Hamlin, and Parson Brown oranges should be checked for ripeness starting this month. They may still be green—you will have to pick one and taste to determine ripeness. Do **not** wait until they turn yellow/orange to check for ripeness.

If you did not fertilize your citrus last month, then you can still do a final fertilization by the second week of this month.

Landscape

Mulch flower and shrub beds for winter. Apply up to two inches of mulch.

Annuals to plant are bachelor buttons, calendula, dianthus, delphinium, hollyhocks, foxglove, larkspur, ornamental cabbage, poppies, pansy, petunia, Shasta daisy, snapdragon, and sweet alyssums.

Bulbs may be planted this month! Many reliable varieties include agapanthus, African iris, amaryllis, Aztec lily, calla, daylilies, hurricane lily, narcissus, spider lily, walking iris, and zephyr (rain) lily.

If you missed fertilizing your palm trees last month, you can do the final application no later than the second week of this month.

Poinsettia, Christmas cactus and kalanchoe require uninterrupted periods of decreasing light to bloom. If you have them indoors, put them in a closet each evening for four to six weeks to give them time to set blooms. Outside, ensure that they do not get unexpected light after it gets dark. If the dark period is interrupted, flowering will be delayed or not occur at all.

Garden Calendar (continued)

14

N_{ovember}

General

Water every ten to fourteen days or as needed, putting down one-half to three-fourths inch of water each time.

Potted houseplants that have been outdoors all summer and fall can be injured by temperatures as low as fifty-five degrees. Now is the time to bring them back in. Clean up and inspect plants for insects prior to bringing them back inside.

Black widow spiders are full grown and active by this time of year. Be careful when reaching into dark areas in the garden or garage.

Lawn

Brown patch disease may begin rearing its ugly head this month if weather is rainy and soils stay wet. If an area begins to turn yellow and stolons begin to decay or rot, spot treat with a fungicide labeled for use on lawns as needed. Reduce watering frequency to the recommended rate and frequency to help culturally control this disease problem.

If you were plagued with dollarweed this summer, you can treat the lawn with a pre-emergent herbicide now. Follow the directions on the label.

Food Garden

Early in the month you can plant arugula, parsley, sage, thyme, chives, and rosemary for fresh herbs for your recipes!

You can also plant beets, broccoli, cabbage, collards, endive, kohlrabi, mustard, onions, radish, spinach, and Swiss chard.

If no soil pH test has been done in over two years, have it checked at the Extension Office.



Navel Oranges, J. Resser

Fruit

Many varieties of citrus are ripe by this month, check routinely.

Landscape

Any trees and fully grown shrubs that need to be transplanted should be root pruned this month. Late fall and winter is a good time to transplant.

Annuals and perennials that can be planted are calendula, dianthus, delphinium, foxglove, larkspur, flowering cabbage, flowering kale, pansy, petunia, Shasta daisy, verbena, violas, snapdragon.

You can also plant agapanthus, African iris, amaryllis, Aztec lily, calla lily, daylily, hurricane lily, kaffir lily, walking iris, narcissus, and zephyr (rain) lily.

D ecember

General

If it does not rain, water every ten to fourteen days or as needed, putting down one half to three-fourths inch of water each time.

If you have not had a soil pH test in more than two years, you should have one done at the Extension Office.

Lawn

The warm season grasses (St. Augustinegrass, Bahiagrass, Zoysiagrass, and Bermudagrass) should be going dormant at this time of year. It is perfectly fine to have a brown (dormant) lawn from now until February or March. St. Augustinegrass weed control can be done at this time. Products such as Atrazine may be used during the cool season for controlling broadleaf weeds. Follow the label instructions for application rates and frequency.

Winter annual and broadleaf weeds in Bahiagrass lawns can be controlled with 2,4-D, which is a post-emergent herbicide. Follow the label instructions for application rates and frequency.

Food Garden

Peppers, eggplant, and strawberries planted in September should be ready to enjoy.

Crops that can be planted: broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, English peas and radish.

Fruit

Many orange, grapefruit, and tangerine varieties will be ripe this month; check their progress.

Landscape

Any cold sensitive plants should be covered on nights when the temperature is expected to drop below thirty-five degrees. Be sure to uncover them the next morning so they will be exposed to the sunlight.

Bedding plants to plant this month include: carnations, digitalis, pansies, petunias, shasta daisies, and snapdragons.

Happy Holidays!!



Poinsettia



Landscape Design Themes part 2

Landscape Styles

Landscape styles can be identified because they are based on a collection of distinctive features and materials with a recognizable organization and/or form. Examples of landscape or garden styles include cultural and historic gardens, such as Italian, English, Japanese, or Spanish colonial gardens. Other styles may be historic utilitarian gardens, such as cottage gardens, colonial kitchen gardens, or swept yards. Styles also include urban, contemporary, classic, or iconic designs that can be attributed to a particular designer, a certain design movement, or a design period. Examples include California midcentury modern and, more recently, minimalist modern, a style based on a collection of just one or two plants, such as a garden composed almost entirely of grasses, ferns, or palms.

Landscape Types

Landscape types are typically based on a type of ecosystem or plant material, or they have a particular type of function. Examples of landscapes based on ecosystems include desert, prairie, woodland, or coastal. They can be identified by a particular combination of plants common to those regional ecosystems. Landscape types sometimes mimic the organization of the plant materials as they are found in nature (naturalistic form), but they can also have a more structured (geometric form) layout. Gardens based on function include firewise design, which is a particular layout intended to protect a home from wildfires; dry gardens (or water-conserving gardens) that are composed entirely of drought-tolerant plants; or feng shui gardens designed to improve energy flow, based on the ancient Chinese philosophy of the same name.



Finding Design Theme Inspiration

There are several places to find design theme inspiration and examples. The best place to start is your own community. Once you find a landscape that appeals to you, study the features of the landscape and identify the most common form, whether naturalistic or geometric. Also look for specific built features and materials that would represent a particular style or type of landscape. Things to consider when looking for a design theme are detailed below.

Consider the region in which you live.

Study the natural ecosystems and native plants in your area for ideas. The combinations of plants could be replicated in your yard in different forms. You may also find a particular style of garden that has been historically used in your area. For example, areas of Mexican or Spanish influence, such as southern California and Florida, commonly have Spanish colonial gardens. The original cottage-style gardens, common in the Northeast, are now found in all areas of the country. The organization of the plants remains consistent, but the plant material reflects the region. There are tropical cottage gardens, seaside cottage gardens, and urban/contemporary cottage gardens.

Consider the architectural style of your house.

Some homes, especially historic or older homes, have an identifiable architectural style, and there are garden styles that are commonly associated with the style. The traditional bungalow is often associated with a cottage garden, the symmetry of the Italianate style matches the formal geometric style of an Italian garden, and a contemporary house can be complemented with a contemporary garden that either echoes the straight lines of the house or soft-

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tens it with an ecodesign that mimics nature. Many homes today are no particular style, except for what one might call a "builder's special." They are often simple structures without much detail, which offers the opportunity to put more detail and personalization in the landscape.

Tour neighborhoods you like.

Look for a common or repeated style or form in the houses and yards. If the homes have a common style, such as Tudor, then many may have cottage gardens. Most people will find a variety of landscape designs in their neighborhoods, so the best option may be to find a house that is architecturally similar to yours with a yard you like and use it for inspiration. This way you will know exactly how the landscape style will look with your house.



Visit model homes with demonstration gardens.

A number of model homes have professionally designed landscapes that complement the house. Some communities have built energy-efficient homes for public tours that include sustainable landscapes with the latest technology in irrigation and hardscape. Sometimes the yards in entire communities have been designed by professionals, but it is usually best to visit these communities when they are newly built because the landscape often degrades over time from lack of care or simply from changes the homeowners make in the plant material.

Look in magazines and garden books.

Look particularly for images with homes that have the same architectural style as yours and note both the hardscape and the plant material. Try to imagine the design with your house. If you have design software for editing photographs, you may be able to scan images from magazines or books and cut and paste your home into the picture.

Consider forms that you find appealing.

Choosing a form theme may be as simple as selecting your favorite form and using it repeatedly in the design. For example, if you like the shape of circles, you can find ways to incorporate them into your design. The actual shape of your house may also help when choosing a form. Some houses have octagonal-shaped bay windows or curved walls that can be replicated in the hardscape or plant beds in the yard.

Consider plants you find appealing.

Some plants have a structure or form that is very appealing when planted in large sweeping masses, such as grasses or bamboo. These plants often have enough variety in different cultivars to create interest in the landscape, and a theme can be based on the use of one plant. A theme can also be based on one color. For example, a great variety of plants has yellow in the flower or foliage, and a very interesting, contemporary theme can be developed using only plants with yellow in them.

Consider the shape of the open spaces in your yard.

Open spaces are those areas between your property line and the house. The shape of these areas could inspire a design theme based on form. For example, the space between the fence and the back of the house may lend itself to a square form in the landscape or a series of circular forms.

Applying the Theme to the Design

Once you have identified a theme, decide which features to incorporate in your yard. You can use a few features to

give a hint of the theme, or you can replicate the theme entirely. First, decide on the form to use in the hardscape and possibly in the shape of the planted areas. Next, arrange the forms in different layouts to try different concepts until you have a spatial organization that is functional and aesthetic. (Figures 1–4 show four different concepts for the same house and yard.) This is referred to as creating outdoor rooms, where different spaces in the yard—such as a patio, lawn area, garden, and play area—represent rooms. Once the spatial organization is finalized, the details of the design can be added.

The design theme may have a particular color or color combination associated with it, or you may need to choose a color theme. The color could be inspired by the plant material or ornamental features, such as pottery or sculptures. Materials must also be decided upon. For example, the theme may call for brick and wood for more traditional themes, or metal and cut stone for more contemporary themes. Built structures may include arbors, trellises, and garden houses, which could be "old fashioned" or modern in style. The types of plants are also important—a traditional theme may use plants found in historic gardens and old neighborhoods, while a contemporary theme might use new cultivars and plants with unusual shapes and colors. Other details include the ornaments and decorative elements, such as birdhouses, birdbaths, and lighting.

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Footnotes

1. This document is ENH1169, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date July 2010. Reviewed September 2013. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Gail Hansen, assistant professor, and Erin Alvarez, assistant-in., Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.



Spotlight

Did you know the UF/IFAS Flagler County Extension Service Master Gardener program is approaching its 30th anniversary?



Flagler County started its Master Gardener Volunteer training program back in 1984 under County Extension Director, George Newberry. There were five trainees attending the program at that time. Since then, the Flagler County Horticulture Program has trained 482 volunteers to assist the residents of Flagler County with their landscape and gardening issues. Currently, there are 68 active Master Gardener Volunteers assisting the County Extension Horticulture Program.

Flagler County Master Gardener volunteer duties include:

maintaining 11 demonstration gardens surrounding the Flagler County Extension office,
staff the Master Gardener Information Desk 5 days a week from 9 am-4 pm,
created and maintain the DJJ Community garden in Bunnell,
created and maintain the gardens at the Florida Agricultural Museum,
assist with horticulture education programs,
assist with and participate in county-wide events such as:

Arbor Day, Ag-Ventures Day, Flagler County Fair and Youth Show,
Creekside Festival, Citrus Harvest Festival, Herb Festival, Earth Day Celebration,
county cleanup events, invasive plant removal projects, 4-H events, Joy of Bonsai,
school garden projects and EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival!

We have several MG's receiving 5, 10 & 15 years of service awards.

Congratulations and many thanks to 15 year recipients- Honor O'Reilly & Art Wante, 10 year recipients- Joy Gournic, Mary Ann Shields & Rachel Williams and 5 year recipients- Fran Atkinson, Jean Dell'Olio and Karen Suggs!

These dedicated volunteers will be receiving their awards issued by the University of Florida at their Annual Holiday and Awards Luncheon in December.

One of the biggest accomplishments of the Flagler County Master Gardeners is the "Guide to Successful Gardening" book. They started writing the book in 2003, finished it in 2008, and published it that year. The guide is designed to assist gardeners and landscapers (from novice to professionals, alike) with Florida Friendly Landscaping™ practices specifically for USDA Hardiness zone 9A areas in Florida. It includes not only planning, care and maintenance, but also plant lists specific to zone 9A. The guides are available for sale at the Flagler County Extension office, Ocean Publishing in Flagler Beach and many retail nurseries in Flagler, St. Johns, Duval and several other counties.

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knowledgeable, please call or visit your local Extension office (see the number and address on page 1 of this newsletter).

Q ■ My trees and shrubs look like they are dying. There are dead leaves that hang and droop on the branches. What could be causing this?

A: The most likely cause of many of these problems is overwatering - the recent heavy rains and inattention to home irrigation systems has resulted in many places getting WAY too much water. Like many things in gardening, "more is not better"!

Q ■ Should I fertilize my citrus, lawn, ornamentals, etc.?

A: It's getting a bit late in the season to fertilize. Many plants go dormant at this time and need to slow down. Fertilizing them after October 15th will encourage growth over the winter and make our landscape plants and grasses susceptible to cold damage. The only plants that should be fertilized are the cool season vegetables and annuals.



Confederate Jasmine
Trachelospermum jasminoides



Confederate Jasmine

Confederate jasmine is a beautiful, evergreen vine with a misleading name, as it's neither a true jasmine nor a plant native to the South. But it is used frequently in Southern landscapes.

Confederate jasmine grows as a tangle of slender stems with glossy leaves. In the spring, it sprouts delicate white pinwheel-shaped flowers with an intoxicating, jasmine-like scent.

Confederate jasmine prefers a well-drained location in full or part sun, and can be planted throughout the state. It's drought-tolerant once established, easy to maintain, and practically pest-free.

Confederate jasmine can be used to soften walls and fences or on arbors and pergolas. It can be grown in containers or even be trained as a groundcover. Plant it by a patio or window for a thrill to your senses!

For more information on Confederate jasmine and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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.

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