

January 2015

Message from Flagler Horticulture Agent

Dear Horticulture Friends,

I am happy to announce that Flagler County Horticulture and Master Gardener Volunteer Program has revamped the quarterly newsletter! We have many new and exciting upcoming programs and initiatives!

If you would like to submit information for the newsletter, please send it in to the extension office or contact me directly. Please note that this newsletter will cover January through March of 2015. The next issue will be released in April 2015.

If at any time you wish to have an email address removed or would like an email added to the newsletter email list, please contact the Extension Office: mfloyd@flaglercounty.org or 386-437-7464.

Happy Spring Gardening!



Maxine Floyd

UF/IFAS Flagler County Extension
Horticulture Extension Agent I,
Master Gardener Coordinator

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The “New” Fertilizer License by Maxine Floyd

Florida Friendly Landscaping practices are now common throughout the state, with demonstration gardens and public training available to teach the nine principles to homeowners and landscape professionals through the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension Service (UF-IFAS Extension). However, there is another step for landscape professionals to complete to apply fertilizer to urban landscapes. Anyone applying fertilizer in urban landscapes for commercial gain (for-hire) is required to have a Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate also known as the “fertilizer license.” Landscape professionals must attend the Green Industries Best Management Practices training and obtain their Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate as of January 1, 2014.



The University of Florida IFAS Extension in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) offers the Green Industries Best Management (GI-BMP) training courses that satisfy the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (FDACS) requirements for obtaining a license to apply fertilizer per the 2009 statutory amendment to chapter 482.156. The GI-BMP training program provides science-based landscape education that enhances the landscape professionals’ skills and knowledge, while also encouraging the adoption of good landscape cultural practices (Rainey, 2014). The training is offered in three languages and can be taken in person at your local extension office, online, or on DVD. For more information or to find a class,

please contact your local extension office or visit: <https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu>

The Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate only applies to the application of fertilizer and does not authorize the following: 1) the application of pesticides to turf or ornamental plants, including pesticide fertilizer mixes such as “weed and feed” products; 2) the operation of a pest control business; 3) the application of pesticides or fertilizers by unlicensed or uncertified individuals under the supervision of a certified person. For questions regarding pesticide licensing please see: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi006>

Compliance to obtain the Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator Certificate is a two-step process. First, applicants must complete the 6 hour GI-BMP training program (UF IFAS Flagler County Extension does offer this training, please call 386-437-7464 for assistance). Secondly, once the individual has completed the approved training and passed the exam with a score at least 75%, they will receive their GI-BMP Certificate. The certificate holder may then apply for a “fertilizer license” online at <https://aesecomm.freshfromflorida.com> or by mailing the completed FDACS application form, a copy of the training certificate, a passport size photo, and the \$25 fee for the cost of the certificate to 3125 Connor Blvd Bldg 8, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650.

The FDACS Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control began issuing the LCFAC in 2010, and these licenses must be renewed every four years by completing four Continuing Education Units (CEUs), two of which must address fertilizer best man-

agement practices. It is also important to note that local governments may require more frequent refreshers or may have additional requirements under their own fertilizer ordinances.

Currently, grounds staff directly employed by a golf course do not need the state fertilizer license, however, any landscaper contracted by the golf course would need the fertilizer license. Municipal and county governments are required to adopt fertilizer ordinances based on standard model ordinances to meet impaired watershed regulations. GI-BMP is also required for “institutional applicators” which includes anyone who applies fertilizer to an employer’s property.



In conclusion, it is very important for homeowners and landscapers to stay up to date with state and local fertilizer ordinances to be compliant with Chapter 482 which encompasses GI-BMP training and LCFAC licenses. GI-BMP training is encouraged for everyone mowing, trimming, pruning, applying pesticides, and managing irrigation in urban landscapes. For training, questions, or additional information please contact the Flagler County Extension Service.

Starting a New Hummingbird Garden by Linda Brannon

One of my favorite things to do to relax is to spend some time on my back porch (I'm from Ohio - it's a porch!) and watch the hummingbirds visit our feeder. We have the feeder positioned under the eave and directly in front of the patio table. The feeder is the main attraction for the hummingbirds, but what keeps them from wandering away are the flowers and bushes that are planted near the feeder and around our property.

You most likely already have several plants in your yard that are hummingbird attractors. Bottlebrush, agapanthus, oleander, canna lilies, firebush, penta and salvia are just a few of the plants that attract these wonderful little birds to your property.

If you do not currently have hummingbirds visiting your yard, a few simple steps will get them coming and will likely keep them coming back to visit, as they are creatures of habit.



The first step is to figure out where you want your garden located. You want to pick a spot that will give you a front row seat, but also you need sun for

the plants to thrive and some shade for some type of shallow water bath and a resting place for the little critters.

The next step is to decide on the selection of plants for your garden. Think bright colors (red, orange, pink, purple) and tubular. The lack of fragrance in your choices of plants will not matter, as hummingbirds have no sense of smell. Select plants that bloom at different times of the year to provide nectar throughout the year. Also, plant patches of the same species (three or more) to provide larger quantities of nectar. Once you have your plants established, keep them pruned so that they will continue to bloom.

Try to avoid using insecticides in your garden. The hummingbirds can ingest the poison when they eat the insects.

A small shallow bird bath will be an added attraction for the hummingbirds to drink from and to bathe in. The water should be changed every couple of days to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. They also like water misters, and watching them fly through the spray is a hoot.

Even though you have planted your hummingbird garden, you should keep your feeders full. The recipe for the nectar is one part sugar to four parts water. There is no need to color your nectar. The experts

strongly recommend no food coloring. Be certain to change the nectar every few days and more often in the heat of the summer to prevent mold and fungal growth.

Now that you have your garden planted, the only thing left to do is wait for the hummers to discover your 'garden of nectar'. Be patient - they will find you! Enjoy!

Other plants for hummingbirds:

Aesculus pavia: Red Buckeye

Aesculus x carnea: Red Horsechestnut

Asclepias tuberosa: Butterflyweed, Indian Paintbrush

Campsis radicans: Trumpet creeper

Cephalanthus occidentalis: Buttonbush

Cuphea ignea Cigar Plant: Cigar Flower

Hamelia patens: Scarlet Bush

Hibiscus coccineus: Swamp Mallow

Lonicera sempervirens: Trumpet Honeysuckle

Odontonema strictum: Firespike

Ornamental sages



March To-Do List by Maxine Floyd

It has been a wet and chilly winter this year, leading to early blooming on many plants and early budding of trees. Things may be a bit “off track” for the spring season. Keep an eye on the local weather before doing any major pruning and renovating in your landscape. There is still potential for a late frost or freeze this month. March is the beginning of the spring gardening season in Flagler County, the time to get out, cleanup all old and dead materials from last year, mulch, and plant your garden to enjoy the spring. Azaleas, pansies, petunias, dianthus, snapdragons and many other plants will be blooming.

This is a good time to check your irrigation system for leaks, broken heads, adjust your settings and make sure your rain shut-off device is working. In mid-March apply fertilizer (16-4-8, 15-0-15, 10-4-10 or 8-2-12) with approximately 30-50% of the nitrogen in slow release form. Give it a LIGHT (¼ inch) watering-in after application. If you cut your own lawn, now is a good time to service your lawn mower; change the oil, sharpen the blades and make sure to set the cutting height properly for the type grass that you have.

March is the last month that you can apply most herbicides for weeds safely. When the daily temperatures rise above 85 degrees F., most of the available post-emergent herbicides can cause the grass to yellow and eventually die. Read and follow the label recommendations for proper application rates and frequency. Check the product carefully for any restrictions such as “Do not use on Floratam St. Augustinegrass”, etc.

Vegetable Garden: Most gardens will produce better by amending soils with compost (organic matter). Do a soil pH test to determine acid/alkaline level. Warm season vegetables can be planted: snap beans, pole beans, cantaloupe, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, green (bunching) onions, peppers, potatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons. Plant the seedlings you started indoors in January and February. For more information on growing a vegetable garden go to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021> to download a copy of the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide.

Fruit: Many citrus trees bloomed early this year, blossoms will drop early if they have been damaged by frost prior to pollination. If your citrus trees had scab (bumps on fruit and leaves) or melanose (black specks on the foliage and streaking on fruit) in the past year, treat the entire tree (and any surrounding citrus trees) with basic copper sulfate solution two to three weeks after blossom drop and again after an additional 2 weeks. Follow the label instructions for proper application rates. Citrus Greening has spread its way through Flagler County since 2010. It is a disease vectored by an insect called the Asian Citrus Psyllid. Once the tree is inoculated with the bacteria, over time the foliage becomes discolored and blotchy, sections of the canopy start dying, fruit becomes small, bitter tasting and misshapen and seeds are aborted in the fruit. At this point, there is nothing you can treat it with to stop the tree from declining. It is currently recommended to remove the tree. To obtain additional information on what to do about Citrus Greening go to: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/citrus_greening.html



Did you know the Flagler County Master Gardeners wrote and published a book on gardening just for you?

The “Guide to Successful Gardening in Zone 9A” book covers all areas of gardening and landscaping including vegetables, herbs, roses, wildlife habitat, coastal area gardening and so much more! For information on where to purchase a copy, contact Ocean Publishing (386) 517-1600 or pick up a copy at the Flagler County Extension office 150 Sawgrass Road, Bunnell, the cost is \$24.95.

Upcoming Events



| Date | Time | Event | More Info |
|---------|-------------|---|--|
| 2/11/15 | 8:30-3:30 | Marion County Palm School | Ocala, FL |
| 2/13/15 | 12:00-3:30 | Oyster mushrooms | Taught by Aparna Gazula and Carolyn Saft |
| 2/18/15 | 11:00-12:00 | Plastics in the Ocean | Master Gardeners Only |
| 2/20/15 | 10:00-12:00 | Visioning Session | Master Gardeners Only |
| 2/26/15 | 10:00-12:00 | Short N Sweet #1 Managing Your FL Lawn | Taught by Dr. Laurie Trenholm |
| 3/5/15 | 10:00-12:00 | Short N Sweet #2 Florida Friendly Landscape Principles | Register at the Front desk |
| 3/7/15 | 10:00-2:00 | Flagler Children's Day Festival | At the Government Services Building |
| 3/12/15 | 10:00-12:00 | Short N Sweet #3 Integrated Pest Management | Register at the Front desk |
| 3/19/15 | 10:00-12:00 | Short N Sweet #4 Irrigation Practices | Register at the Front desk |
| 3/20/15 | 9:00-12:00 | Landscape Design | Taught by Louise Leister Register at Front Desk |
| 3/26/15 | 10:00-12:00 | Short N Sweet #5 Native Plants for you Landscape | Register at the Front desk |
| 4/11/15 | 9:00-4:00 | Palm Coast Garden Club Spring Fling | At Trinity Presbyterian Church |
| 5/9/15 | 10:00-1:00 | Flagler County Extension Open House | Register at the Front desk |

Contact us for More Info: mfloyd@flaglercounty.org or 386-437-7464

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A CENTURY OF SERVING FLORIDA

University of Florida Master Gardener Volunteers

Our Mission

To assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

Our Vision

To be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida.



Confederate Rose (Hibiscus mutabilis 'Plena') Jack Schaper © 2005 FloridaData.com

**Stay Connected with Flagler County
Horticulture!**

Flagler County Extension.....<http://www.flaglercounty.org/index.aspx?nid=110>

University of Florida Solutions for Your Life.....<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/>

Florida Friendly Landscaping.....<http://http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida Gardening Solutions.....<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida Master Gardener.....<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener>

If you are interested in joining the Flagler County Master Gardener Program, please contact Maxine Floyd at mfloyd@flaglercounty.org or 386-437-7464. The Flagler County Master Gardener and Horticulture program is open to all regardless of gender, race, color, nationality, creed or disability.