



YOUR NORTH FLORIDA YARD & GARDEN

Flagler County Extension Service & UF/IFAS Florida
Master Gardeners

ISSUE XXX

July-September 2010

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From the MG Desk...

*Ruth Micieli,
Master Gardener Coordinator*



Wow! Our 30th issue!! I can hardly believe it! When we started this back in 2005 with our first issue we hoped it would last to at least the 25th issue. Well, we certainly surpassed that!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the newsletter both in the past and present issues. And a special THANKS to Diane Cortés who was the Editor of the newsletter for the past 2 + years. Diane and her husband Tony have recently moved to Albuquerque, NM and will be greatly missed around here by all of us! We wish them all the best for a happy life in the land of cactus and adobe!!

Here are some of the latest burning questions that have come into the Master Gardener Help Desk:

Q: I've got all these weeds coming up in my lawn. What can I spray now to kill them?
A: Unfortunately, it is too hot to spray any chemicals on the lawn for most broad-leaf weeds like Crabgrass, Chamber bitter, Matchweed, etc. other than non-selective weed

(Continued on page 15)



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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check out our new website at <http://www.flaglercounty.org>, select 'Departments', then 'Extension'. From there you can view all of our departments information, hot topics, newsletters, upcoming events & programs, links and much more!

We have a new delivery system for the Horticulture newsletter:

Go to <http://www.flaglercounty.org/>, click on 'Notify me' tab and sign up for our quarterly newsletter. It will automatically be sent to you by e-mail as soon as it is posted!



The Good...

St. Bernard's Lily

Louise Leister, UF/IFAS W.E.P. Coordinator

When shopping for plants I always look for new plants that I can experiment with, something I have done since starting my garden years ago. I like to buy plants and test them in different areas of my yard so I can report on different and new plants people might not have seen growing in these areas. I pick plants that have interesting color, flowers or just a nice growth pattern. Now, it takes several years to report on a success story. Why is that you ask? For one, a plant needs to spend several seasons in our Florida growing conditions to see if, in fact, it will survive. We have harsh summers reaching temperatures in the high 90s and at this time we have buckets of rainfall from our afternoon storms and tropical events during hurricane season. Remember May 2009 and our 30 inches of rain. Another problem for this area of Florida is that we have freezes as in the winters of 2009 and 2010. So, a plant must show good survivability in this instance before I recommend it for the average gardeners and their yards.

Several years ago I tried Flax lily (*Dianella tasmanica* 'Variegata') and grew it for about 5 years before I listed it as a great plant for Flagler County. Since then, I have seen it growing successfully here in many applications, but like every great plant we used it to death! I now see it everywhere, which is a testimony to how great a performer it is in Flagler County. Though not a perfect plant, it does grow fast and it is plagued with scale if planted too close and not given enough air circulation. I still love this plant! I can tell you when planted improperly it can be a problem for the reasons I mentioned above. Like all good plants, it needs maintenance; I recommend you divide it and separate the large plants into smaller ones every two to three years, but I will stick to my original statement that it is a great plant that makes a bold statement in the landscape.

My most recent test is a wonderful plant I have grown here in Flagler County for four years. Which, given our recent harsh winters and heavy rain fall last May, are great indicators of a plant that will survive in these growing conditions. My recommendations, however, are based on thriving, not just surviving, and to my delight this beautiful plant has thrived! What is the name of this wonderful little plant? It is called *Anthericum liliago*, and the common name St. Bernard's Lily. It is from a genus of about 50 species of fleshy-rooted, rhizo-

matous perennials from grassy scrub on hillsides in Europe, Turkey and Africa. They form clumps of narrow, linear, radical leaves. This beautiful plant is graceful, durable and will be happy in most areas of your yard, but is best grown in well-drained soil in a sunny position. It can be propagated by division of the rootstock every three to four years. I like this plant because, unlike the Flax lily, it is a slow grower and will not need constant attention to watch that it is not growing too



St. Bernard's Lily - L. Leister

large. It is more graceful than Flax lily and the flower is more noticeable. The flower is an open trumpet shape, lily-like white bloom that is about $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch across; it is borne on slender stems, and appears mainly in the spring and summer here in Flagler County. Mine have bloomed well into the fall and winter during mild years.

This plant did not freeze this winter and was happy after the freeze. It did not have any burned foliage in comparison to the Flax lily, which had a lot of freeze damage this year. The plant is available in solid green foliage or a variegated form. I have tested both to see if one performed different than the other and they have both tested the same. If you need a plant that is graceful, elegant and hardy, try this wonderful plant. Use it in borders or standing alone in a perennial garden as it is also loved by the butterflies and will attract hordes of visitors to the blooms.

Now all great plants have a down side and this little plant has one as well, it is difficult to find and most have never heard of it. I bought mine at a nursery in St. Augustine, but if we ask our local nurseries to look for it, they will locate it for you. Good luck and happy hunting for this great addition to your garden.



The Bad...

Crabgrass

David Tibbetts, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

Ah, crabgrass. Who is not familiar with this ever-present pest in the Florida lawn? If there's anyone out there who hasn't seen it, let me know because I want your lawn! Actually, crabgrass is supposed to be a pretty passive invader, so if your grass is well taken care of, you shouldn't have much crabgrass. If, however, you have not kept your desired grass in good shape, you could be seeing crabgrass. It appears in various ways and species – University of Florida's [Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses](#) lists five varieties, all of which seem to be present in my lawn. The challenges to keeping your grass in good shape are many – drought, too much water, prolonged freezes, and insects to name a few – and where there are problems in your lawn, there is the possibility of inviting in crabgrass. As I walk around my neighborhood, I see a lot of crabgrass in swales, where the desired grass has been damaged by water over the past year.

What is crabgrass? It is an annual weedgrass that propagates via seed and nodes on the stems that lie on the soil. It can grow in clumps, but is quick to spread if left to its own devices. Its seed heads look exactly like those of another weedgrass, common Bermudagrass. Apparently, it is also highly adaptable, which, for me, seems to mean that it makes itself look like something I want in my lawn, and I frequently misidentify it as St. Augustinegrass until it has become established. When trying to get rid of it, some crabgrass is relatively easily removed by hand, but others are extremely difficult to yank out due to deep or fat roots that demand diligent work to get them out of the ground.

Remedies. Once it has appeared, there are several possible remedies. One can live with it (probably not a good option since it's an annual), yank it up (depends on the extent of the problem), apply a "postemergent" organic arsenical compound (e.g., Scotts Post Emergent Crabgrass Control, Gordon's Crabgrass and Nutgrass Killer, and Ferti-Lome Crabgrass and Dallis Grass Killer), or kill everything with something like Roundup or solarization of the affected area. The location and extent of the crabgrass are important with regard to which remedy is best to apply. In landscaped areas, removal by hand is probably adequate. In the lawn, though, the method to use will depend on the extent of the infestation. If there is only a small amount of the lawn affected by the weed, then hand removal may be possible. Otherwise, for a more extensive infestation, there are two chemical options, one of which attacks crabgrass,

and the other goes after everything. (1) Targeted: if the infestation is less extensive, then the use of organic arsenicals might do the trick. Note that these chemicals should be applied multiple times over an extended period to improve their effect (2 to 4 applications spaced 7 to 10 days apart). (2) The nuclear option: solarization or Roundup-type chemical application might be considered in the case of an extensive infestation – kill it all and replace it with something more desirable. One note on solarization, it will not kill off seeds already present, so weeds will return, though not until next Spring.

Finally, as part of a complete, chemically-based regimen for countering crabgrass, the use of preemergence herbicides is recommended, in this case, a crabgrass preventer. Preemergent herbicides are applied before the growing season to kill



Smooth crabgrass
- D. Tibbetts

off young weeds before they get going. Two chemical are recommended - pendimethalin (Pendulum®, Pre-M®, Turf Weedgrass Control®, and Halts Crabgrass Preventer®) and prodiamine (Sam's Choice Crabgrass Preventer®). Crabgrass preventer should be applied in Flagler County between 15 February and 1 March (when day temperature reaches 65°F to 70°F for four or five consecutive days). Crabgrass preventers are not 100% effective, so it should be expected that some weeds will survive.

Summary. Crabgrass should almost be expected in your lawn and/or landscape. If you can't tolerate it, the best defense against its presence is a good offense – that is, keep your grass healthy. Do this by (1) choosing the right grass type for your lawn or application, (2) mowing it according to the recommendations for that grass type, (3) fertilizing at the correct intervals to ensure it grows vigorously at the right times of the year, and (4) watering as needed. If crabgrass becomes a more significant issue, besides regular inspection and weeding, consider using one of the chemical, or more drastic, methods of getting on top of crabgrass – these are pre- and postemergent herbicides that can be used to either kill it before it gets going or after it's already on its way. As always when using chemicals, ensure the label instructions are followed in their entirety including personal protective equipment.

Go grass, beat weeds!



and the Bugglies

Adapted from Fact sheet ENY-325 by Eileen A. Buss, assistant professor, Entomology and Nematology Department, Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS

Southern Chinch Bugs

Ruth A. Micieli, Horticulture Program Assistant and Master Gardener Coordinator

The southern chinch bug, *Blissus insularis* Barber, is currently the most difficult-to-control and damaging insect pest of St. Augustinegrass in Florida. Nymphs and adults feed on plant fluids within leaf sheaths, down in the thatch, and this feeding kills the grass plants and contributes to weed invasion. Homeowners and lawn care companies seek to prevent this damage by repeatedly applying insecticides to keep chinch bug numbers low. However, numerous chinch bug populations have developed resistance to every major chemical class that has been used against them and host plant resistance has been overcome. An integrated pest management program, or resistance management program, must be implemented to keep chinch bug populations under satisfactory control and keep St. Augustinegrass as a viable lawn turfgrass in Florida.

Southern chinch bug activity occurs from March through November in north-central Florida and is year-round in southern Florida. It is estimated that 3 to 4 generations with overlapping life stages develop each year in northern Florida and 7 to 10 generations develop in southern Florida. New damage may appear by May or June, depending on spring temperatures, and any damage that existed in late fall will become apparent in the spring. Part of the difficulty in dealing with this pest is that one generation may develop in 4-6 weeks during the summer. Any insecticides used to treat turfgrass will likely kill most nymphs and adults, but the eggs will survive, nymphs will hatch, and the infestation will continue. Thus, damage may become visible again within 2-3 months of treatment. Encroachment from neighboring lawns is also a possibility.

Adult southern chinch bugs ([Figure 1](#)) are about 1/8 to 1/10 of an inch long. The wings are folded flat on the back and are shiny white with a triangular-shaped black

marking in the middle of the outer edge of each wing. Adults may have long or short wings, and populations often contain both. Their bodies are black.

Adult females may live up to 2 months, laying 4 or 5 eggs a day, or 250-300 eggs in a lifetime. Tiny eggs are laid singly or a few at a time in leaf sheaths, soft soil, or other protected areas. The eggs are white when first laid and turn bright orange or red just before hatching. Eggs hatch within 6-13 days (average: 10 days), and nymphs mature in 4-5 weeks. Young nymphs are reddish-orange with a white band across the back ([Figure 2](#)), darken in color as they mature (fourth instar), and turn black before becoming adults (fifth instar; [Figure 1](#)).

Detecting Infestations

Other factors, such as disease, nematodes, nutritional imbalances, and drought can cause off-color areas to occur in lawns. Therefore, the lawn should be carefully examined to determine which corrective measures may be needed. Especially in areas where pesticide resistance is suspected, monitor before and after any treatments to determine if control has been achieved. If more than about an 80% reduction in chinch bug numbers has occurred, then the treatment was successful.



Figure 1. Southern chinch bug adult and fifth instar.



Figure 2. Southern chinch bug nymphs.

Several methods can be used to find southern chinch bugs. The easiest and fastest is to part the grass near yellowed areas and look at the soil surface and thatch. Pull out individual grass plants and look inside the bottom leaf sheath. Examine several different areas if chinch bugs aren't immediately found. Heavy infestations are easy to identify because large numbers of chinch bugs may migrate across sidewalks and driveways. Insects are most active on warm, sunny days in mid-afternoon.

Another method of detection is to mix up a gallon of water with 1-2 tablespoons of dish soap, shake until sudsy and pour over a 2 square foot area, just outside a dead patch. Allow to sit 1-2 minutes, insects will be irritated and come up in the soap bubbles. Then count the number of chinch bugs that come up.

Cultural Control

Cultural practices may influence the susceptibility of St. Augustinegrass to chinch bug damage (See [ENH-5: St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns](#)). Rapid growth resulting from frequent applications of water soluble nitrogen fertilizers may increase southern chinch bug survival,

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

development time, and the number of eggs that can be laid rather than help plants outgrow any damage. Responsible use of slow-release nitrogen fertilizers may help reduce pest population build-up.

Excessive watering, fertilizing, and/or fungicide use can cause lawn grasses to develop a thick thatch layer. Insecticide treatments can also bind to the thatch layer, instead of reaching soil-dwelling pests. Thatch is a layer of accumulated dead plant roots, stems, rhizomes, and stolons between the live plant and the soil. Excessive thatch should be mechanically removed (vertical mowing, power raking, aerating, etc). Proper mowing practices can make grass more tolerant to chinch bugs and greatly improve the appearance of the lawn. St. Augustinegrass should be mowed to a height of 3 - 4 inches.

Chinch bug damage could easily resemble drought-stress. Proper diagnosis of the problem is essential to growing healthy turfgrass.

Biological Control

Common natural enemies of the southern chinch bug are big-eyed bugs (*Geocoris* spp.), a predatory earwig (*Labidura ripara*), and spiders. A small wasp, *Eumicrosoma benefica* Gahan, parasitizes chinch bug eggs. Big-eyed bugs (Figure 4) and anthocorids (another group of predators) are similar to chinch bugs in size and shape and are often mistaken for them. Unnecessary insecticide use can reduce these natural enemies and their ability to suppress pest populations. Natural enemies are often not abundant and efficient enough to keep chinch bug populations under control by themselves. However, their populations may build after chinch bug populations increase.

Chemical Control

Southern chinch bug management is currently dependent on insecticides. Efforts should be made to reduce the amount and frequency of pesticide use against this pest, given its track record of developing resistance to insecticides. Researchers are studying various aspects of controlling this pest, so keep up-to-date on technology changes. The warning signs of product failure include having to increase the number of applications, the rate of product being used, or needing to use an insecticide in another chemical class or mode of action.



Figure 3. Damage to turfgrass caused by the southern chinch bug

Pyrethroids, carbamates, and organophosphates will only kill nymphs and adults, and their residuals may last from about 1 day to roughly 2 months or so, depending on the product and

environmental conditions.

Know the strengths and limita-

tions of the products that are used. Many contact products will kill the insects within 3-5 days of treatment, but others (e.g., neonicotinoids like clothianidin or imidacloprid) require the insects to feed on treated tissue, and affected insects might die more slowly (up to 7 or more days). Avoid using products that are not specifically for use on turfgrass for controlling turf-feeding insects or that have been made illegal for use on residential turfgrass (e.g., Orthene or acephate). All directions and the insecticide label should be read and understood before a product is used, particularly the dosage rates, application procedures, and precautions. Homeowners are discouraged from applying their own insecticides to control chinch bugs if they have a professional lawn care maintenance company.

FYI for Pest Control Operators and Homeowners:

In areas where resistance is suspected, be sure to monitor before and after any applications to see if the insecticides worked. This will be important information when discussing the problem with a client. Be sure pesticide applicators are properly trained and are not applying sub-lethal doses by either walking too fast, not applying enough product, using improperly calibrated equipment, doing an application when windy (results in drift and smaller droplets), etc. Use the highest labeled rate of the chosen insecticide, rotate insecticides with different modes of action, consider using a non-ionic wetting agent or adjuvant to increase penetration into the leaf sheaths and thatch, and determine if the spray solution needs to be buffered to have a neutral pH. If the label requires post-treatment irrigation (watering-in), be sure to communicate that with the client and provide instructions on how and when to apply the proper amount of water. If the insecticides bind tightly with organic matter (e.g., leaf blades, thatch), then watering-in should be done soon after an application. The insecticides must get to where the insects are living and feeding to be effective. On the other hand, be careful that some insecticides might wash off with excessive rain or irrigation within a day of application.



Figure 4. A big-eyed bug



Fresh from Florida

Snap Beans

Sharon A. Treen, County Extension Director and Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

Did you know that:

Florida is ranked first nationally in the production, acreage and total value of fresh market snap beans.

The state's snap bean crop contributes 46 percent of the U.S. total in terms of production and 51 percent in terms cash receipts. During the winter months, Florida produces 100 percent of the fresh market snap beans grown in the U.S.

Florida's Snap Beans are:

Low in calories.

One cup of cooked fresh snap beans contains only 30 calories, no fat, sodium or cholesterol.



A good source of dietary fiber, and they contain 93 percent water, 2 gm protein, 63 gm calcium, 8 mg iron, 680 IU vitamin A and 15 mg vitamin C.

Selecting and Storing Snap Beans:

Choose snap beans that are firm but tender, crisp, free from scars and reasonably well-shaped. As the name implies, a good fresh snap bean snaps readily when broken. Pods containing immature seeds are the most desirable.

The seeds are larger in pole beans, since they are broader beans than bush beans. Pole beans should still be snapped even though some of the beans will fall out of the pods.

Store beans in a ventilated plastic bag in the refrigerator.

Cooking Tips:

To get the best flavor out of snap beans, do not overcook them.

If cooking beans to add them to a salad, cook them in slightly salted water for four to seven minutes, then plunge them into ice water to stop the cooking process.

Snap beans are also great lightly steamed.

Home Preservation:

Snap beans can be frozen or canned. Immature beans retain more color and undergo less texture and flavor loss during freezing. All vegetables must be blanched before freezing.

For more information on canning snap beans visit the UF/IFAS publication "Preparing Beans for Canning" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HE/HE25400.pdf>

For more information on freezing vegetables visit the UF/IFAS publication "Preserving Food: Freezing Vegetables" <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FY/FY71900.pdf>

Growing Snap Beans:

- There are many varieties and types of green beans developed for Florida's growing conditions. These include pole, snap, bush and wax beans.

- Start plants from seed or buy seedlings from a nursery.

- Plant in early spring or late summer-early fall.

- Stake pole beans, hence the name.

- Water and fertilize regularly.

Harvest time is usually within 60 days.

- For more details, see the UF/IFAS publication: Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, www.Florida-Agriculture.com

Asian Style Snap Beans

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

- 1 pound fresh Florida green beans
- ¼ cup of your favorite Asian sauce (spicy or sweet)
- 2 tablespoons fresh grated ginger root (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds (black or white)
- Kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste.

Cook green beans in a large pot of slightly salted water for about 4 minutes. Drain beans and place in a mixing bowl.

Toss hot beans with sauce, ginger and sesame seeds; stir well. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Serve warm.



Orzo with Feta, Green Beans and Tomatoes

Yield 2-4 servings

- 10 ounces snap beans
- 1 cup orzo (rice shaped pasta)
- 1 medium onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 medium tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon white-wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon fresh flat-leafed parsley leaves, chopped
- 1 cup crumbled feta (about 6 ounces)

In a 4-quart pot, bring lightly salted water to a boil for beans and orzo. Chop onion and mince garlic.

Quarter and seed tomatoes. Cut quarters into ¼ inch-thick slices. Trim beans and cut into 1-inch pieces. In a large skillet cook onion and garlic in oil over moderate heat

until onion is softened. Add tomatoes and cook, stirring, until tomatoes are softened, about 2 minutes. Remove skillet from heat. In boiling salted water blanch beans 1 minute. With a slotted spoon transfer beans to a bowl of ice water to stop cooking. Drain beans well and pat dry. Add beans to tomato mixture and return water to a boil. Boil orzo until al dente and drain in colander.

Add orzo to bean mixture with vinegar, parsley, feta, and salt and pepper to taste, tossing to combine well.





The Urban Forest

Hurricane Recovery

Assessing Damage and Restoring Your Trees

Audrey Tennant, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

Well, here I am. The winds have died down. The rains are over. The sun is peeping out. The radio is announcing an all clear. I open the front door and gasp. I check out the back door...gasp again. What has happened to my beautiful Florida landscape? My trees are devastated. Where? How do I start?

"Start" begins before the hurricane. Some preventative measures include choosing of storm and disease resistant trees, building a strong structure in the early years of your tree's and pruning preventatively in January, February and March...before the hurricane season begins. This will open the tree canopy to air flow and remove fragile branches.



This done...or not done, post hurricane recovery may still be needed. And, it starts with personal safety followed by assessment, decision making and restoration pruning or removal.

First...Safety begins first with important details including proper clothing, a first aid kit, another person in case of emergency and cautious awareness of heat and overexertion. Be aware that the greatest cause of casualties in natural disasters occurs during cleanup.

Safety is the **FIRST** concern.

Sec-
ondly ...Develop an expert working knowledge of your equipment, especially the chain

saw. Follow the manual instruction, keep both hands on the saw, cut at waist level or below, and watch for twisted and bent tree limbs that could snap back. To prevent dangerous kick-back, always cut with the part of the bar closest to the



engine. Moreover, watch that the tip does not touch other branches or the ground.

Third... Create a clean work zone eliminating potential hazards from wounded trees and falling limbs.

Who should do the work? When does the work require a

professional? If climbing, ladders and ropes are required, call a Certified, Insured Professional (ISA Certified Arborist). Check for fallen or torn electric wiring and standing water are found, consider them

"HOT". Do not risk working around them. Report the fallen lines to the power company and secure qualified, insured, professional help to work near lines.

The primary questions to answer are: "When should I remove a tree?" and "When do I restore a tree?"

The answers lie in the condition of the tree, its age and the type of tree.

Removal criteria include

When the tree has a large broken branch and the wound extends well into the trunk.

When a large stem has split from the tree

When major roots are severed or broken, especially in large trees

When the tree is leaning towards a building, power line, road or valued structure

When the damage is extensive in a large tree

When major limbs are broken and most of the canopy is damaged

Restoration criteria include

When the only damage is defoliation (if the tree has been flooded with salt water, irrigate thoroughly with fresh water

Some major limbs are broken but the tree is resistant to decay
When the tree is leaning but small enough (4" diameter) to erect



(Continued from page 9)

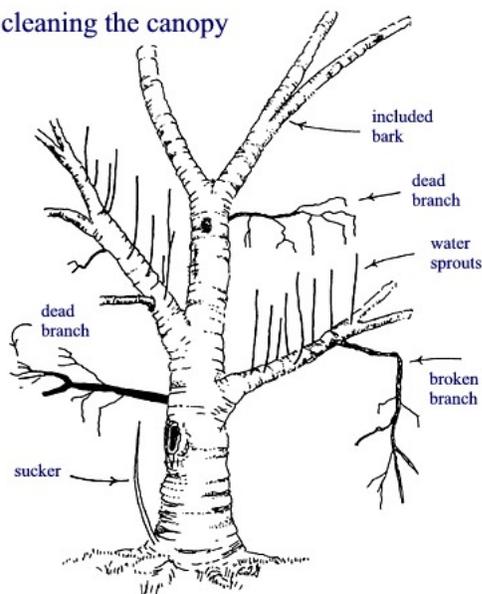
When small (4" diameter) branches are broken or dead but can be pruned

When the canopy is badly damaged but the tree is disease resistant

If you have determined that the tree can be successfully restored, the following practices will bring you best results:

Clean the canopy by removing large dead

cleaning the canopy



branches, pruning cuts behind jagged branch tips (to promote healthy development of new growth and diminish the potential for decay). Remove as little live wood as possible. Cut broken and hanging branches first. Use best principles of pruning including 45-degree cuts, clean cuts about 1" from the collar, Use reduction cuts first and heading cuts only when necessary.

The last step in restoring your tree is to manage the sprouts that grow from the pruning points. The goal of sprout management is for the new leader to close over the pruning cut. In the early stages they provide food for the tree but as they grow larger, they begin to compete with sprout that you have identified to replace the broken branch. Remove 1/3, shorten 1/3 and retain 1/3 to form the new branches. Continue this process over the years of restoration.

Some things to remember: Young trees, healthy trees, and disease resistant trees are more likely to recover and to recover faster as do large and old trees. But both are worth saving. Please seek more detailed information at the University of Florida Web Site, <http://solutionsforyourlife.com> and publication ENH1036 at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/30291>



Some lower fronds broken in the storms can be removed if they will present a potential risk (above). Salt injured lower fronds (right) can be removed if the entire frond is brown. However, most fronds typically have some green on them and these should remain. These will photosynthesize and help the palm recover energy reserves.



Garden Calendar

Jack Resser, UF/IFAS FL Master Gardener

July is usually the start of our wet, rainy season. If no rain, water twice per week, putting down one half to three fourths inch of water each time.

Lawn

If sedges are causing a weed problem, spray with labeled products for control.

If mole crickets are damaging the lawn, begin applying mole cricket bait to control them. Follow the label instructions.

Food Garden

Pumpkins can still be planted.

Fruit

Guava should be checked for ripeness this month.

Fertilize citrus trees with a citrus fertilizer.

Landscape

Fertilize palm trees with a palm fertilizer containing three to four percent magnesium sulfate.

Check mulch around all flower beds. If dry and stuck together, break apart with a rake. If mulch is less than two inches thick, add more. Do not mulch over two inches. Be sure mulch is pulled back from shrub and tree trunks to protect against moisture-caused diseases.

Remove seed heads and old flowers from crape myrtles. Deadheading spent flowers will encourage more blooming.

Plants that have become too leggy due to summer rains should be cut back. Trim no more than a third of the plant.

Watch pyracantha and junipers for spider mite damage. Spray with horticultural oil sprays weekly

for at least 3 weeks or apply a miticide to control them.

Annuals that can be planted now are celosia, coleus, crossandras, impatiens, kalanchoe, moss rose, nicotianas, ornamental peppers, periwinkles, Persian violet, salvia, torenia, creeping zinnias, globe amaranth, purslane, and wax begonia.

Check trees for weak limbs and have them trimmed or removed. Hurricane season started in June. Be prepared.

August

General

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

Lawn

Mow weekly, but be sure to follow mowing height guidelines for your grass. Use upper height of guidelines to protect lawn during summer heat.

Yellowish or brown patches in St. Augustinegrass along sidewalks and driveways and other water stressed areas where the grass is in full sun may be caused by chinch bugs. Check for chinch bugs by filling a one gallon jug with water. Add 2 tablespoons of liquid dish soap, shake until sudsy and pour on area at the edge of the dead spot (s). After a minute or two, check for small bugs in the soap bubbles. Spot treat for chinch bugs with an approved insecticide or refer to the chapter on lawns in this book for additional information. Rotate the type of insecticide to prevent chinch bugs from developing an immunity to one insecticide. If in doubt, bring a sample of the complete plant to the Extension Service. For mole crickets apply a mole cricket bait. Follow the label instructions for application rates and frequency.

Garden Calendar (continued)

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Food Garden

Crops that can be planted: pole beans, sweet corn, eggplant, okra, southern peas, peppers, pumpkin, summer squash, winter squash, watermelon, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

Fruit

Pineapple should be checked for ripeness this month.

Landscape

This is the last month to “shape” poinsettias by cutting back. Do not pinch or prune after August.

Spray roses weekly with a fungicide labeled for black spot fungus.

Annuals and perennials to plant this month include coleus, marigolds, salvia, verbena, ornamental peppers, nicotiana, and sunflowers.

If you cut back summer annuals, you can get new growth, bushier plants, and more flowers. Wax begonias, coleus, and impatiens respond well to being cut back.

Hand pull weeds rather than cultivating with a rake to protect the roots of your plants.

Yes it's hot! It's a good month to sit back and enjoy your earlier efforts from the pool!

S

eptember

General

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

Lawn

Fertilize with a 15-0-15 slow release fertilizer mid-month.

Check for webworms and armyworms. If present and causing damage to the lawn, apply a Bt product in accordance with the label instructions, as needed.

Fill in dead areas with plugs or sod. Water them regularly after planting.

Food Garden

Thanks to our Florida weather, this is a great month to plant a cool season vegetable garden.

Cool season crops that can be planted are beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, parsley, radish, summer squash.

Fruit

Check peach trees for scale. If present, spray with horticultural oil as needed.

Fertilize pears, grapes, and figs with a complete slow release fertilizer.

Fertilize citrus with a citrus fertilizer containing at least two percent magnesium.

Grape vines that are long and lacking leaves can be pruned back.

Landscape

Fertilize azaleas, bougainvilleas and poinsettias with a slow release fertilizer.

Fertilize palm trees with palm tree fertilizer.

Inspect roses weekly for black spot fungus. If necessary, apply a fungicide labeled for black spot fungus.

A nice fall planting is digitalis (Foxglove). You can also plant wax begonias, Shasta daisy, marigolds, pansy, petunia, snap dragon and verbena.



Hibiscus - *J Resser*



Discover Natural Florida

Shell Bluff Park

Karen Suggs, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

If you're looking for a great place for a family picnic or a leisurely walk, discover Flagler County's Shell Bluff Park. The park is located on state road 100--about 14 miles west of Bunnell--in the community of Andalusia. Up until recently, Shell Bluff was just a boat launch for Crescent Lake. The new Shell Bluff Park includes picnic pavilions, a playground, bathroom facilities and an easy hiking trail. The boat launch is still there, but the park and the launch have separate entrances off the highway. Heading west, use the first entrance on your left to reach the park.

Because of the park's secluded location,



Little Lake - K. Suggs



Barred Owl
- K. Suggs

wildlife is abundant. Little Lake, near the picnic area, is home to alligators. While on the trail, I saw a Barred Owl, six White-Tailed Deer (one was a fawn) and several Spiny Orb Weavers. These small spiders like to build their webs across the hiking path. The park is also home to lots of biting insects, so be sure to use bug repellent.



Spiny Orb Weaver
- UF/IFAS



Saw Palmetto along the Trail - K. Suggs

Palmetto and Cabbage Palms. The most common hardwood trees include Live Oak, Sweet Gum and Red Mulberry.

A short distance into the trail on the left you can see excellent examples of Air Plants. These plants, which grow on oaks and magnolias, produce reddish, spiky flowers that bloom June through September.

When I was there, several wild petunias were blooming. These small, pale blue/purple flowers can be found throughout Florida and bloom spring, summer and fall.

Wild Coffee and Wild Grape can also be found along the trail. Wild Coffee has tiny white flowers that bloom May through August. In the fall, it has bright yellow to red berries. The plant is a favorite of cardinals, mockingbirds, catbirds and spicebush swallowtail butterflies. Though it is related to coffee plants used for commercial production, wild coffee is not recommended for human consumption.

Wild Grape, also known as muscadine, scuppernong and southern fox grape, can be seen along the ground or climbing up trees. The grapes, which ripen from July through September, are a favorite of white-tailed deer and other wildlife. Humans use the grapes to make jellies, jams, juices, and wines. Florida's Native Americans used them to make a blue dye.



Air Plant - K.Suggs



Wild Petunia
- K. Suggs



Wild Coffee
- K. Suggs



Wild Grape
- K. Suggs



Sweet Gum - K. Suggs



Cabbage Palm
- K. Suggs



Kidz Korner

4-H Marine Camp

Maia McGuire, PhD, Marine Biologist, UF/IFAS SeaGrant Agent

“That’s not fair!” protests a 4-H student. She is not registering a personal complaint, but a complaint on behalf of her “species” of animal, which must use a bent paper clip to pick up pieces of macaroni, its food source. Nor is she complaining about the method of feeding assigned to her. Rather, she has just learned that another species of animal is coming into her “territory.” This new species can pick up food using its fingers, and will therefore outcompete her species for the limited food resources. This activity, called “Here today...gone tomorrow,” demonstrates the impact that invasive species can have on native species. It is one of many interactive games and activities that students in the 4-H Coastal Camp at the Whitney Lab will participate in this summer.

Under the leadership of Sea Grant Extension Agent, Maia McGuire, twenty youth between 8 and 12 years of age will spend four days learning about coastal topics and issues. Of the twenty, six participated in the camp last year, and for two students, this will be their third camp in a row with Dr. McGuire. The camp is so popular that it typically fills up within a week of being announced. In addition to invasive species, sea turtles, sharks, whales, oil spills and remotely-operated vehicles are on the agenda. Students will try to keep possession of “sea turtle eggs” (numbered ping pong balls) as they learn the fate of each of the 100 eggs from a particular nest. They will research sharks and create a “sharkometer.” They will use a “blubber glove” to feel how blubber allows whales to survive in very cold water. They will try different methods to clean up a simulated oil spill, and they will build and “drive” a remotely-operated vehicle to get a feel for how difficult it is to attach a cap to an underwater pipe.

The goal of the camp is to teach today’s youth an appreciation for and understanding of the coastal environment, and the threats that it faces. The hope is that these young people will share their concerns with their parents, and that they will grow up to make wise choices to help protect this critical habitat. And if they have some fun along the way, so much the better!

Gorgeous Glads!

Krista Busey, Family Nutrition Program Assistant

No, these did not come from a florist. In fact these Gladiolus were grown at the Pathways Alternative School at the Flagler Palm Coast High School Campus.

The students planted the bulbs randomly in their school garden and up popped these spectacular flowers. They were so pleased and proud to see what they have grown, besides the vegetable garden, that they share a bouquet with their Principal Carla Taylor almost daily!

These students learned how to grow, maintain and prepare all the vegetables from their garden as part of their classroom education through the USDA Family Nutrition Program through UF/IFAS Extension Service.



They have also learned how to plan, prepare and cook healthy meals which were ‘showcased’ at their monthly parent meetings and various school events.

Way to go Pathways kids!!

(Continued from page 1)

and grass killers such as Glyphosate or RoundUp™. For an organic method of post emergent weed control baking soda or vinegar can be applied directly to the target weed. But it may be just as easy to pull it out by hand. Keeping the lawn thick and healthy is always the best way to combat weed problems.

Q• My tomato plants leaves are turning brown, curling and falling off the stem. The plants are producing fruit but the leaves look terrible. What's going on and what can I do about it?

A• More than likely the plants are getting infected with late blight. It is a disease that is carried by wind and affects all plants in the solanaceae family. This disease also can be devastating to our potato crops. Avoid overhead irrigation whenever possible to keep the fungal spores from splashing and contaminating the rest of the plant. Once the plants start to show signs of severe damage by this organism, it is best to pull them up and throw them in the trash. They will not produce a good healthy crop of fruit.

Most diseases of vegetable crops are managed by preventative measures and good cultural practices long before they become a serious problem.



Late blight on tomato leaf and fruit. UF/IFAS



Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potatoes thrive in hot, humid climates and are known for their colorful and tasty tubers. Their flesh can be yellow, orange, or even purple!

Sweet potatoes should be planted in the spring. Water them often and let them grow for about four months before harvesting.

To help increase their sweetness, place harvested sweet potatoes in a dark, warm room for at least two weeks before eating. After that, store them in a cool, dry pantry. Nematodes can sometimes be a problem in Florida, so consider having your soil tested before you plant.

Sweet potatoes are an excellent source of vitamin A and a good source of vitamin C. And while the word “yam” is sometimes used to describe the sweet potato, a true yam comes from a totally different plant.

For more information on Sweet Potatoes, 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.

