



YOUR NORTH FLORIDA YARD & GARDEN

Flagler County Extension Service & UF/IFAS Florida
Master Gardeners

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From the MG Desk...

*David Tibbetts, UF/IFAS Florida
Master Gardener and Newsletter Editor*



Here are some common problems our residents have been dealing with this season:

Q: What can be done about citrus leafminer?

A: Citrus leafminers are tiny moths that lay their eggs in late spring on new citrus leaves. Upon hatching, the larvae work their way through the leaf, feeding, leaving a trail that's visible as a squiggly line. The mines cause the leaf to curl, and on young trees, excessive feeding can retard growth. There is no chemical treatment available or necessary, in a dooryard situation. However, there are parasitic wasps that help curb the leafminer population, and homeowners can spray new leaf growth with horticultural oil sprays labeled for citrus as a preventative. Once the trees start to mature, the problem is reduced.



Q: What can be done about lawn weeds at this time of year?

A: During hot temperatures, the recommended

(Continued on page 17)



FLAGLER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE &
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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Short & Sweet Horticulture Series at the Flagler County Extension Service

10/1– Landscaping for the Cool Season,

10/8– Lawn Care, 10/15– Pruning Trees and Shrubs, 10/22– Roses in the Landscape

All programs are from 10 am—12 noon

Pre-registration required. Contact Ruth Micieli at 437-7464 or rmicieli@flaglercounty.org

Go Native! Program at the Flagler County Extension Service 11/6 9a m—2 pm. Look for announcement and program schedule on the Flagler County Website (coming soon!).

Creekside Festival 10/9 & 10/10 at Princess Place Preserve. Sat. 10 am-5 pm,
Sun. 10 am-4 pm

Herb Festival 10/9 at Washington Oaks State Park 10 am—4 pm

DJJ Community Garden Tree Planting Ceremony 11/15 at 11 am.
The Garden is located at the corner of Howe & Magnolia St's in Bunnell,
FL.



The Good...

Alstroemeria

Julia Wilson, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

Every now and then we luck into a plant that surprises us and continues to brighten our days. Mine is the Alstroemeria I picked up in one of the big box stores several years ago. I saw it, liked it, and ran in and quickly bought it while waiting for my husband. It still blooms beautifully, tolerates the heat and, with some protection, even laughed at the freezes. The biggest drawback is finding more plants at a reasonable price.



The common names of Alstroemeria are Peruvian lily and Lily-of-the-Incas. It is a South American genus of about 50 species of flowering plants. Many hybrids and about 190 cultivars have been developed with different markings and colors. These cluster blooms can be red, purple, white, yellow, orange and shades between. The flowers are often streaked or spotted with dark colors. The main blooming time is late spring through early summer. I have had mine bloom some during the winter but very little in the summer heat. The flowers are commonly used in cut-flower arrange-



ments and last up to two weeks. The plants are also identified by their upside-down leaves which twist on the stem to cause a reversal of the upper and lower surfaces. This unusual botanical feature is called resupination. The flowers have no fragrance.

The Alstroemeria is hardy from zones 8 to 11 and should tolerate cold down to 23 degrees F. It prefers full morning sun to part shade and well-drained soil. The roots are tuberous and like consistent moisture, but not wet soil. If the foliage goes limp and yellow and the soil is dry, do more regular or deeper watering. The plant will stop producing flowers if it gets too hot. Fertilize regularly during the growing season. Pick and enjoy the flowers. The old flower stems that formed seed pods should be removed. The seeds take up energy and are hard to get to sprout and grow successfully. The plants will multiply through the underground rhizome like tubers. At times the whole plant may turn straw-colored and go dormant in the fall.

This genus was named for the Swedish baron Claus von Alstroemer by Carolus Linnaeus, the great botanical classifier. The plant's seeds were among many collected by Alstroemer on a trip to South America in 1753.

Since I really liked this plant I found and it proved to be hardy, I wanted to add more to my garden. That is the difficult part. This year I located one, but it was expensive. So why can't I buy a garden Alstroemeria when they are so common in the flower shops? In my research I found an explanation given by Weidners Gardens in Southern California. Many years ago the Dutch company named Royal Van Zanten started working on this group of plants. They collected wild plants, hybridized for years and eventually had beautiful flowers with long sturdy stems. Since they are a very large company that works mostly in cut flowers for the florist, they never wanted all their work to end up in our gardens. They have patent protection on their varieties and collect royalty payments each year from flower growers. Their new yellow and white colors are very much protected. However, since there are now some Alstroemeria available to gardeners and the demand is there; the company has come out with their own varieties for the gardening public. These are called the Princess series and they are genetically dwarf varieties. Other breeders are working on making these plants more available. Cornell has a breeding program and has released several. Nurseries in California have a variety for sale out there. Searching for Florida retail sources has proved frustrating.

So in conclusion, if you find one of the plants in any color, add it to your garden and enjoy the beautiful blooms.



The Bad...

Downy Mildew of Basil - Pesto Pathogen!

Barbara Kipnis, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

Downy mildew of basil, caused by *Peronospora belbahrii*, is a new destructive disease that has spread widely and is expected to occur routinely in the US now that the pathogen has been introduced. Downy mildew was first detected on basil in south Florida in 2007, and subsequently in many US states, from Massachusetts in 2008 to California in 2009.

Spores of the basil downy mildew pathogen are capable of being dispersed long distances. Infected basil leaves produce an abundance of spores. Thus the pathogen can spread widely once introduced to an area. This could explain the widespread occurrence of basil downy mildew in the eastern USA in 2008. Tests are now being conducted to see if certain varieties of basil are less likely to be infected than others.

Symptoms: Symptoms initially appear as yellowing of leaves and are typically concentrated around the middle vein. The discolored area may cover most of the leaf surface. Gardeners generally do not realize their basil plants are infected with downy mildew disease since the most noticeable symptom on affected basil is yellowing of the leaves.



Fig.1: Yellowing of the upper surface of affected basil leaves often occurs in sections of the leaf delineated by veins because the downy mildew pathogen cannot grow past major veins in leaves.

On the underside of leaves, a gray fuzzy growth of the pathogen may be apparent by visual inspection. Under high humidity, the chlorotic areas turn to dark brown quickly.



Fig.2: Purplish gray spores of the downy mildew pathogen only develop on the lower surface of leaves. These are the same leaves in Fig. 1. Sporulation coincides with yellowing on the opposite side of the leaf.

Sporangia, the reproductive structures of the pathogen, are easily detected under magnification.



Downy mildew vs powdery mildew. Symptoms of Downy Mildew appear as a light gray colored, fluffy growth on the underside of leaves. The discolored foliage on the upper leaf surface could be confused with a nutritional deficiency. Downy mildew symptoms appear very rapidly and tend to be much more difficult to control than powdery mildew. Conditions that promote leaf wetness, such as high relative humidity, overhead irrigation and close spacing, favor this disease. With a hand lens, closely examine the bloom of sporangia (microscopic stalks bearing spores) on the underside of the oldest leaves. (They will look like many tiny branched trees, each bearing tiny lemons.) This can help you distinguish downy mildew from powdery mildew. Downy mildew sporulation also tends to occur on the underside of the leaves, whereas powdery mildew can occur on either the upper or lower surface. It is important to distinguish between downy and powdery mildew because they are managed differently. Many of the fungicides labeled for powdery mildew will not control downy mildew. Few fungicides are registered for herbs.

Causes and Cures: High humidity, prolonged leaf wetness, and cool weather favor the development of downy mildew diseases. Use disease-free seed as the pathogen is believed to be seed transmitted. Reducing the period of leaf wetness by avoiding overhead watering may also be helpful. Using seed not infested with the basil downy mildew pathogen, selecting a less susceptible variety, and applying fungicides are the primary management practices for downy mildew. Applying fungicides frequently and starting before first symptoms are considered necessary to control downy mildew effectively. Few fungicides are currently labeled for this new disease, but fungicides are expected to be labeled for basil downy mildew in the future. Some phosphorous acid fungicides are effective against downy mildew under herbs on the current label.

Margaret McGrath of Cornell University, in an interview with NPR, suggests making pesto on the spot with the healthy leaves when you see the first signs of blight. "You'll see a grayish, almost purplish dusty growth on the underside, sometimes turning to almost black — and that is all of the pathogen spores. And there are incredible production of them on the underside of the leaves," she says. "The wind will pick those up and blow them off and the disease just keeps multiplying like crazy."

References

PP271 - *Downy Mildew of Basil in South Florida*. Shouan Zhang, Pamela D. Roberts, and Richard Raid. Solutions for Your Life, UF/IFAS Extension

Basil Downy Mildew – A New Disease to Prepare for. Margaret Tuttle McGrath, Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University, 10/23/2009

Basil Blight Threatens Pesto Lovers, by NPR Staff. All Things Considered, June 23, 2010



and the Bugglies

Wasps, Hornets and Yellowjackets

David Tibbetts, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener

This is a topic that is near and dear to my pain centers – ouch! There have been three instances in my life of encounters with wasps, hornets and/or yellowjackets : a sting on the nose as a boy while trying to retrieve a baseball led to a severely swollen face from which I could barely see, two years ago a sting on the back of my thigh caused me to leap in pain and injure my back, and last year I was stung on my hand and almost decided to go to the emergency room when the pain and swelling were so great. The last sting was definitely from a paper wasp, while the other two were from unidentified wasps. But the fact is that the stings from these animals are the most painful one can experience. On the other hand, these are very beneficial insects in the garden, and it is better to have them around than not.

Wasps. This is the term used for all of these types of insects (i.e., yellowjackets and hornets are also wasps). Wasps fall into two broad categories, social and solitary. Social wasps include yellowjackets, hornets and paper wasps (*polistes*). Solitary wasps include the cicada killer and mud dauber. Both of the solitary varieties likely to be found in Florida are not a danger, generally speaking, to humans, though due to their size can be very threatening. And, since most of us do not know the difference when we encounter a large wasp, it is better to avoid them. And, unlike bees, wasps do not sacrifice themselves when they sting – they may sting multiple times, and may also release pheromones that signal a general danger to the colony, which brings their brethren into the attack.



Paper wasp nest



Mud dauber



Cicada killer



Baldfaced hornet

Yellowjackets and hornets (*Vespula* and *Dolichovespula*). Only two of sixteen species of *Vespula* are from Florida (Miller 1961). These are the two yellowjackets: eastern yellowjacket, *V. maculifrons* (Buysson), and the southern yellowjacket, *V. squamosa* (Drury). One species of *Dolichovespula* is also present: the baldfaced hornet, *D. maculata* (Linnaeus). The baldfaced hornet is actually a yellowjacket. It receives its common name of baldfaced from its largely black color but mostly white face, and that of hornet because of its large size and aerial nest. In general, the term "hornet" is used for species which nest above ground and the term "yellowjacket" for those which make subterranean nests. All species are social, living in colonies of hundreds to thousands of individuals.

A wasp colony begins from a solitary female queen that has mated before the cold season. The queen creates a home, generally in the bark of a tree. In the Spring, the solitary queen builds a nest, forages for food, and lays and tends eggs. As offspring emerge, they become workers and relieve the queen of many and, eventually, all of these duties, with the exception of laying eggs.

Good or bad? Wasps are generally considered beneficial. They feed on many types of garden pests: houseflies, blowflies, various caterpillars, corn earworms, armyworms, and other garden pests. On the

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

other hand, if the social wasps are bothered by humans (e.g., hitting the palmetto bush housing a paper wasp nest with the lawn mower), they will attack. The solitary wasps are not likely to be a hazard to humans unless a person manages to get a cicada killer or mud dauber stuck in their clothing. Most humans will survive a wasp sting with little or no major issues beyond itching, pain and swollen, red tissue around the sting site. However, approximately 0.4 to 0.8 percent of humans are allergic to wasp stings, which means that their reaction to a sting may also include one or more of the following: fever, wheezing, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, breathing or swallowing difficulty, and/or confusion. Very severe cases of wasp stings may also include symptoms of shock in addition to the sting reaction. In the event of a sting, the following should be done, if possible:

- Capture or identify the stinging wasp.
- If the victim has a history of allergies or is known to have an allergy to stings, contact a doctor.
- Keep the victim warm and quiet until a doctor is present.

Note: Anyone who has a history of allergic reactions should get tested to determine their susceptibility to a severe reaction to wasp stings.



Eastern
yellowjacket



Southern
yellowjacket



Hornet nest

Precautions. Some common sense precautions if you are aware of wasps in your garden:

- Don't go barefoot in areas where wasps may be present on the ground
- Avoid mowing or gardening where wasps are collecting nectar.
- Keep sweet items covered in the presence of wasps (things like soda cans and ripe fruit), and dispose of rotting fruit promptly.

Control. Again, as a beneficial insect, it is best to keep these guys around. If, however, due the location of a nest or other factors, this is not possible, the recommended way to get rid of a wasp nest is to kill them in their sleep. If the nest is large, it may be best to hire a pest control professional to eradicate it. At night, the nest activity is much lower, so it is safer to attempt eradication after dark. One should wear protective clothing, and start by carefully marking out the area of the nest during daylight hours. After sunset, and again carefully, return to the area and apply one of many approved insecticides that can be used on wasps. Whatever spray is used, it should have a quick knockdown agent, such as synergized pyrethrum or pyrethroids, mixed with it. For a ground nest, an insecticide dust may be blown into the nest opening.

Conclusion. Wasps include several insects that we find locally, paper wasps, mud daubers, cicada killers, yellowjackets and hornets. Of these, two are considered solitary species in that they create relatively small colonies (mud daubers and cicada killers), while the others are social species capable of creating colonies of hundreds to thousands of insects. The solitary species are not dangerous to humans unless they are significantly threatened, while the social species are known to regularly attack humans given little provocation. All wasp species are beneficial because they prey on pest insects in the garden. However, they also have a nasty sting that can cause itching, swelling and local pain in all victims, and potentially life-threatening symptoms if an allergic reaction occurs in the victim. As a beneficial, it is preferable to keep them in the garden, but eradication from particularly poor locations (eaves, attics, high-traffic garden areas) is relatively straightforward if standard precautions are followed.

References

- UF Publication Number: EENY-81, Grissell and Fasulo, Publication Date: May 1999. Latest revision: August 2010.
- Univ. of Utah Extension Service Fact Sheet No. 19, Karen and Roe, May 2000.
- UF Publication Number: ENY-215, Koehler and Oi, June 2007.



Fresh from Florida

Fresh From Florida: Lettuce

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

Nutrition Facts about Florida Lettuces:

High in Vitamin A (with the exception of crisphead lettuce), Vitamin K and a good source of Vitamin C.

A good source of folate and fiber.

Naturally free of fat and cholesterol, and low in calories and sodium.

Types of Florida Lettuces:

Escarole and endive (*Cichorium endiva*) make up about 40% of Florida lettuce production. Escarole is a leafy, pretty green which can be used raw in salads or cooked into soups and other dishes. Endive is a pale green, yellow and white vegetable with elongated leaves that are compact. It is popular in salads as well as serving as the base for hors d'oeuvres.



Romaine lettuce comprises about 15% of Florida lettuce production. Although it is most commonly used in salads, it can also be cooked. After removing the core, the entire head can be eaten.

Curly parsley, which is 11% of Florida lettuce production, is related to celery and carrots. Traditionally thought of as a garnish, its bright, fresh flavor enhances dishes. When using fresh parsley in place of dehydrated, a good rule of thumb is to triple the amount called for in the recipe (e.g. for 1 teaspoon or dried, use 1 tablespoon of fresh.)

Chinese cabbage, also known as bok choy, makes up 11% of the Florida lettuce market. It is crisp and is usually shredded and added to salads and stir fried dishes.

Other varieties of Florida lettuce, such as bibb, leaf, and butter lettuce, and savories like cilantro make up the remaining 23% of Florida lettuce production. With butter lettuce having a tender, delicate flavor compared to the bold, bright flavor of cilantro, this category of greens rounds out the wide variety of lettuces grown in the state.

Did you know that:

There are many varieties of Florida lettuces, each with its own distinct flavor, texture and crunch.

Fresh lettuce is available from November through May and is grown throughout Florida. As members of the Asteraceae family, lettuces are related to radicchio and dandelion.

Selecting and Storing Lettuce:

Look for lettuces that do not have brown spots, wilting or scarring. Lettuces are delicate, so use care when transporting and storing. They can be stored in the refrigerator and washed just before using. If you choose to wash before storing in the refrigerator, simply separate the leaves, dry and wrap the leaves with paper towels and store in a plastic bag.

Florida Salad

Makes 8 servings

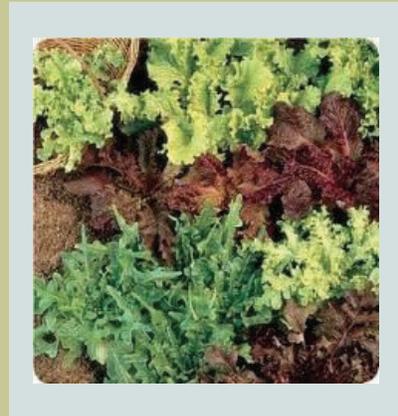
Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, www.Florida-Agriculture.com

Ingredients

- 1 cup of romaine lettuce, torn
- 2 peeled and sliced carrots
- ½ cup coarsely chopped escarole
- 1 seeded and sliced green pepper
- ½ cup coarsely chopped endive
- 1 peeled and sectioned tangelo
- 1 bunch chopped cilantro
- ½ cup coarsely chopped kale
- 1 peeled and sliced avocado
- ½ cup sliced strawberries
- 1 peeled and sliced cucumber
- ½ cup whole cherry tomatoes

4 sliced radishes

Toss all ingredients in a large bowl. Serve with your favorite dressing.
Nutrition info per serving (without dressing): 95 calories, 3 g fat, 9 g carbs, 1 g fiber



Grilled Romaine

Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients

- 1 head of romaine lettuce, washed
- 1 tablespoon garlic
- Balsamic vinegar
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Drizzle balsamic vinegar and olive oil over whole romaine leaves. Sprinkle with garlic and salt and pepper. Grill leaves over medium high heat for 20 seconds on each side. Nutrition info per serving: 50 calories, 4 g fat, 4 g carbohydrates





The Urban Forest

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson, UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Dep't.

Wild Olive *Cordia boissieri*

Wild-Olive is a native North American evergreen tree which reaches 20 feet in height with a 10 to 15-foot spread. This small tree is very rarely found and is even reportedly close to extinction. The silvery green leaves have a velvety texture and the showy, white flowers appear year-round, if enough rainfall or irrigation is available. Otherwise, the three-inch-wide, trumpet-shaped, white blossoms with yellow throats will appear from late spring to early summer. The olive-like, white fruits which are produced have a sweet flesh relished by birds and other wild-life and, although edible to man, should not be eaten in quantities.

This broadleaf, evergreen tree grows 15 to 20 feet tall with a 10 to 15 foot spread. The crown is symmetrically round with a moderate density. It is a slow growing tree, which makes it a nice choice for a small areas.

This is a versatile plant adapted for use as a specimen tree or as an accent in a shrub border. Showy, year-round flowers make it suitable for placing in a lawn area as a free-standing specimen. It can be planted in an above-ground container and kept looking nice for a number of years when it is carefully maintained. It is hardy from USDA zones 9A through 11.

Wild-olive should be grown in full sun or partial shade on well-drained soils and is highly drought-tolerant. Although hardy to about 20-degrees F., Wild-Olive will lose its leaves in a severe frost. This is the cold-hardy relative of *Cordia sebestena* which is very sensitive to the cold. Propagation is by seeds and air-layering. No pests or diseases are of major concern.



1.This document is ENH340, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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

Garden Calendar

Jack Resser, Master Gardener

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.

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.



Florida Strawberries – R Micieli

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.

November

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 remains 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.

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 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.



Navel Oranges - *J Resser*

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 – *R Micieli*



Discover Natural Florida

River to Sea Preserve

Karen Suggs, UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener (author and photographer)

If you're looking for a great place to explore the wilder side of the beach and the intracoastal waterway, discover the River to Sea Preserve. Jointly owned by Marineland and Flagler County, the park is located on both sides of A1A at Marineland. Formerly a campground and fire station location, the 90-acre preserve protects a rapidly disappearing maritime scrub environment. Today's article will follow the loop trail on the west side of A1A through oak scrub and hardwood hammock.



Pokeweed

To enter the intracoastal side of the park, look for the River to Sea Preserve sign and follow the dirt road into the scrub. You will soon arrive at a parking lot. Follow the path, at the northwest corner of the lot, to the picnic pavilion on the lake. From here you can pick up the grass and dirt path that wraps around the lake and heads west toward the loop trail. A common sight this time of year is Pokeweed and Winged Sumac.



Hercules club



Winged sumac

In addition to the Preserve, these shrubs can be found in disturbed areas throughout the county. While on the path, look for the Hercules Club and Southern Bayberry (Wax Myrtle) trees. Hercules Club was widely used among Native Americans and early settlers for its medicinal properties and earned the name "toothache tree." The berries of the Bayberry were commonly used by American Colonists to make fragrant bayberry candles. This practice continues today.



Bayberry



Wild petunia



Ironweed



Beautyberry

When you reach a fork in the path, turn right to begin the loop trail. Soon you will see the remains of a fire station on your left. Along the way, be sure to locate the Wild Petunia and Ironweed flowers and the Beautyberry shrubs;

(Continued on page 15)



Black mangrove



Muscadine grapes



Ball moss

Muscadine Grapes and Ball Moss can be found hanging from the trees. When you reach the next information sign, turn left. As you head toward the Matanzas River, note the Wild Coffee bordering the path on both sides underneath the Cabbage Palms.

As you approach the picnic area near the river, look for the Black Mangrove on the right side of the trail. The pencil-shaped aerial roots (or pneumatophores) that protrude in large numbers around the tree serve as breathing tubes for the plant. Another common sight near the water is Sea Oxeye.

After enjoying the water view, return to the loop trail and turn right. The trail winds its way back to the beginning of the loop trail, passing by remnants of the old campground. Take time to read the interpretive signs along the way. Golden silk spiders and their webs may stretch across the trail-- particularly in areas with lots of Live Oaks--so keep a look out. In addition to the spiders, hungry mosquitoes are a common resident in Florida's natural areas. To enjoy your walk in the woods, don't leave home without a strong bug repellent.



Sea oxeye

Golden silk
spider

Air plant



Master Gardener Spotlight

DJJ Community Garden Project Update

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

As the fall planting season begins, so does the DJJ Community Garden. Last year the garden grew and harvested enough fresh vegetables to feed 500 families in Flagler County through our local food banks!

The DJJ (Dep't. of Juvenile Justice) Community Garden in Bunnell was the recipient of several awards and grants this year including one from the Flagler County Crime Prevention Program. The garden is a place where youth having to serve community service hours, can come to fulfill their hours and learn valuable life lessons like producing your own food and accomplishing something with a positive impact.

In May the garden won an award from the National Fruit Tree Planting Association, sponsored by Edy's Ice Cream. The garden will receive 10 citrus trees and 10 blueberry bushes to be planted at the dedication ceremony at 11 am on November 15, 2010. Please join us, and bring a shovel!

The Garden also received national recognition through the USDA Peoples Garden Initiative. "The People's Garden" award was received and dedicated on September 30, 2010. This garden is one of two in the State of Florida to receive this award! For more information on the People's Garden Initiative, go to the USDA website at <http://www.usda.gov>.

The DJJ Community Garden Council also received a grant from the Florida Department of Health to purchase 2 small greenhouses that will be installed this fall.

It's funny how gardens grow in more than one direction. This project that started only a little over a year ago has truly blossomed into a county-wide effort.

The DJJ Community Garden Council partnered with Matanzas High School to create another community garden at the school for the students. This project has also inspired some local churches to dedicate some land for their congregation to create a community garden for the local food banks.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of all the council members and especially Master Gardeners Chuck Smarr, Honor O'Reilly, Elma Chung, Ben Allen and David Tibbetts for their sore backs, dirty hands, loving hearts and dedication to the project!



(Continued from page 1)

way of removing lawn weeds is by hand. As the weather cools off, it becomes appropriate to treat with post-emergent weed killer (temperatures should not exceed 85). Pre-emergent weed suppressants should be applied around February 15, when day temperatures fall between 65 and 70 degrees for four or five consecutive days. As with all chemicals, all label instructions must be followed.

Q: I am seeing a lot of moths flying out of my lawn. What are they? Are they going to damage my grass?

A: The moths are not the problem. The problem is their larvae, sod webworm or fall armyworms, that eat your grass. If there is no damage, it's not really an issue. The adult moths will lay eggs that will hatch next summer. Scout for leaf damage (chewed grass blades) in July, August and September. If present, treat to control the larvae with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) products such as Thuricide or Dipel. Follow the label instructions for application rate and frequency.



Fall armyworm & Sod webworm damage to St. Augustinegrass blades



Fall armyworm



Tropical sod webworm



Fall Vegetable Gardening

Fall is a popular time to plant vegetables, and there are lots of choices for your veggie garden. It's the season for greens of all sorts. Sow your edible landscape with mustard greens, spinach, lettuce, kale, collard greens, and cabbage.

All of these vegetables are high in Vitamins A and C, and many also contain high levels of important nutrients such as calcium and iron. Other cool-season vegetables include cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, celery, and radishes.

Because the sun dips more to the south in winter, you may need to relocate your garden to a sunnier part of your yard. Many cool-season crops can be planted multiple times throughout the growing season, providing an extended harvest.



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.