



September 2015

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UF/IFAS Extension Marion
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Timely Gardening Tips for MARION COUNTY

*by Josephine Leyte-Vidal, UF/IFAS
Extension Marion County Master
Gardener*

Fall is in the air and the trees are turning color. The sycamores and crape myrtles are already dropping their leaves. Some plants in our gardens are slowing down and entering dormancy. Now is the time to think about building a compost pile. Lots of leaves, dead plants, and kitchen scraps from the holidays will soon be available (no meat, milk, or bread in the pile.). Take advantage and build some free organic matter for your garden.

Gardeners in northern states are working at putting their gardens to bed for the

Native, Naturalized, Florida-Friendly—What's the Diff?

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener

We always hear these trendy words when it comes to gardening. It all has to do with classification. So what is a **native**? A plant is classified a native if has grown here since the time of Columbus, a solid 500 years. Only plants found in this country before European settlement are considered to be native to the United States. It is a plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem. Note: The word "native" should always be used with a geographic qualifier (that is, native to New England or native to the Southeast for example).

Florida's flora includes one of the largest assortments of spontaneously occurring species in North America! More than 4100 kinds of plants have been cataloged and 2800 of these are considered "native" which means they were here prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation although some nit-pickers debate that only fossil records can prove that a plant evolved in a certain place.



Firebush: a Florida native ifas.ufl.edu

Using natives enhances conservation of our natural resources and usually ensures low maintenance and sustainable gardens. Traditionally, the value of a planted landscape has been measured on how well it serves humans, conserves water and provides for wildlife habitat. Natives excel here because they live here. This does not mean they are maintenance free or water free, or even pretty, for that matter. But they are low maintenance, low water and relatively pest and disease free and many of them *are* really pretty!

Timely Gardening Tips for MARION COUNTY

by Josephine Leyte-Vidal, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County Master Gardener

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winter and preparing their tools for storage. Not here! We in central Florida have just finished planting fall vegetable crops, rejuvenating beds with mulch, and planting winter annuals.

Some plants will give you blooms that will last until our first freeze and then come back next year.

- Mums are in stores now and can be kept blooming by deadheading periodically.
- Plumbago is a pretty blue groundcover that will continue to bloom until it freezes.
- Cassia is a butterfly attractor with bright yellow blooms October through December.
- Beautyberry is the shrub that produces purple flowers in summer and purple berries in winter.

Cooler temperatures beckon us to work outside. An article I read said you may be able to burn 30 percent more calories working in your yard digging, carrying, and piling debris than in a step aerobics class, both activities lasting one hour. How about trying a new kind of workout?



Native, Naturalized, Florida-Friendly—What’s the Diff?

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener

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What does “**naturalized**” mean? Naturalized plants are plants established as a part of the flora of a locale other than their place of origin. A non-native plant that does not need human help to reproduce and maintain itself over time in an area where it is not native becomes naturalized. Naturalized plants do not, over time, become native members of the local plant community. Nor are many of them considered “invasive”. **Invasives** are a small, but troublesome, sub-category of naturalized plants.

Although there are no roses native to Florida, there are roses that are native to North America. They are wild flowering shrubs that provide a full spectrum of pollen for bees, nesting places for birds, and seclusion for small mammals. Their fruits or hips are tasty treats for wildlife as well as a powerhouse of important antioxidants for humans. Native roses are important components of food forests and land restoration projects. Introduced species roses have in many cases naturalized into the landscape so early that they are sometimes assumed to be indigenous to North America. There are many naturalized roses that do extremely well here in Florida: Mochata, Roxburgii (the chestnut rose), Cherokee and several others.

Local native plant growers will offer a range of species for central Florida landscapes. The trick is to keep your eye peeled for native plant growers. It isn’t easy. Fall is an excellent time to plant native perennials, shrubs, and trees in our area. Summer’s ample rainfall helps roots establish before we dry out for the winter, while cooler temperatures reduce stress on plants.

Lastly, what is **Florida-Friendly**? The definition of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) in Florida Statutes section 373.185 (adopted in 2009 in Senate Bill 2080) addresses "quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant. So, are natives Florida-Friendly? YES. Are naturalized plants Florida-Friendly? Yes, as long as they are not invasive. We all have Florida-Friendly plants in our gardens. They are any plant that is pretty, takes little or no water, provides food (pollen) for wildlife, and does not use



Non-native plumbago is a popular FFL shrub. Source: hort.uga.edu

Native, Naturalized, Florida-Friendly—What's the Diff?

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener

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a lot of fertilizer. A typical Florida-Friendly landscape provides a diversity of vegetation appropriate to the conditions of a yard or site and may include turfgrass and landscaped beds with trees, shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers. Almost any landscape can be Florida-Friendly if it's designed and cared for according to the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles described below. Nuisance, poorly maintained, and unkempt landscapes are not considered Florida-Friendly.

Another phrase you might encounter is **Non-native**, which is a plant introduced with human help (intentionally or accidentally) to a new place or new type of habitat where it was not previously found. Many non-natives can also be Florida-Friendly. And very few non-native plants are invasive. In fact, when non-native plants are introduced to new places, they usually cannot reproduce or spread readily without continued human help (for example, many ornamental plants). However, people like me, blind to the laws because of our addiction, will see a plant on the side of the road and will stop and dig up *just a little*. Then we'll plant it in our gardens. After a while, it shows up at the back door! When you plant something you absolutely must have, and you know it's wrong, but you say "I will be able to contain it" and you can't, then you've got a problem. So does your neighbor, so does the community. I am so happy there is no plant jail.

Today gardeners enjoy an unprecedented wealth of plants to choose from in their quest for the perfect landscape. Most of our yards are truly Florida-Friendly. People want to do the right thing. Mine is a lovely little garden with the exception of those plants I pulled off the roadside. Bad girl.

Please join us for the Master Gardener Plant Sale on October 3rd. There will be a large variety of native and Florida-Friendly plants for sale.

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ PRINCIPLES

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle
8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
9. Protect the Waterfront



UPCOMING LECTURES/EVENTS:

Educational seminars and events are presented by UF/IFAS Extension Agents and/or Master Gardeners.

Unless otherwise indicated, to pre-register, please call 352-671-8400 or e-mail terry.holt@marioncountyfl.org.

September

Dunnellon Library Ask the Experts

September 15, 2015
2:00—3:00 p.m.

Dunnellon Public Library
2035 I Robinson Rd, Dunnellon

Fort McCoy Library: Ask the Experts

September 19, 2015
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Fort McCoy Public Library
14660 NE Highway 315, Fort McCoy

Forest Library: Ask the Experts

September 19, 2015
2:00-3:00 p.m.

Forest Public Library
905 South Hwy 314A, Ocklawaha

UPCOMING LECTURES/EVENTS:

October

Dunnellon Satellite Plant Clinic

October 2, 2015
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library
20351 Robinson Rd, Dunnellon

Freedom Library: Ask the Experts

October 2, 2015
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Freedom Public Library
5870 SW 95th St, Ocala

Master the Possibilities Series: Turf Pests

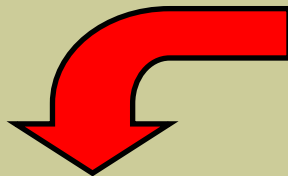
October 9, 2015
9:00—10:30 a.m.
On Top of the World
8415 SW 80th St, Ocala

Fort McCoy Library: Fall Gardening

October 17, 2015
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Fort McCoy Public Library
14660 NE Highway 315, Fort McCoy

Reddick Library: Winter Flowers

October 17, 2015
11:00 a.m.— Noon
Reddick Public Library
15150 NW Gainesville Rd, Reddick



Helpful websites:

www.petpoisonhelpline.com
www.pets.webmd.com
www.dogpack.com
www.aspca.org
www.pethealthnetwork.com

Poisonous Plants: Protecting Your Fur-Babies

by Joetta Lax, Master Gardener



Source; martinandjohan.org

Parents of canines think of their pets as members of the family and take the time needed to keep them healthy and happy. Pet parents typically have total control of these family members' lives. But there are times when they lose that control. Inside of homes pet parents can grow plants that are safe for animals but that's not the case in the great outdoors.

Dogs love to go for walks. They run, chase and sniff everything in sight and often they also munch. Some plants are dangerous to ingest. Some that top the poison list are azaleas and rhododendrons, which contain toxins that may cause vomiting, diarrhea, coma or even death. Tulip and daffodil bulbs, when ingested, can cause stomach problems, convulsions and increased heart rate. Just a few of the sago palm seeds are enough to bring on seizures, vomiting and liver failure. Angel trumpets and yucca are quite popular in our area and eating these plants can spell trouble. The list of poisonous plants is extensive but a significant amount of information is readily available. If your pet has a safe yard in which to play, check it periodically for unwanted plants that may have crept into his or her play area.

Aside from plants, there are other menaces lurking outdoors. Rodenticides can cause serious medical problems depending on the nature of the poison. Certain insecticides are irritants to dogs, and can be life threatening if they contain organophosphates and carbamates. Contact your local vet or poison control helpline if you believe your pup has ingested any hazardous chemicals. Small ingestions of fertilizer may result in mild stomach upsets but if Spot has gobbled a larger amount he/she could develop a bowel obstruction and pancreatitis.

Many informational web sites are available online and data can be downloaded and copies kept handy. Pets look to their owners for love and protection. Keep up on the following websites to ensure bright eyes and happy tails in their "fur-ever" home.

September is Disaster Preparedness month. Include your pets in all preparations. An emergency kit should contain first aid supplies with instructions, three to seven days of bottled water and food and dishes for both, garbage bags, liquid dish soap, an extra leash and collar, a carrier and comfy bed. Photocopy your pet's medical records and save to a thumb drive. Be safe.

Submitting a Plant Sample

by Jack LeCroy, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Extension Agent

Today, many people send in pictures of plants to get them identified via the numerous platforms we have exposure to, including Facebook and email. It could be a plant that someone has noticed all of a sudden taking over their yard, or one that has recently started blooming and they can't remember the name of the plant.

When identifying plants from pictures the ID can only be as good as the photo. When I am out looking at a plant, whether it is at a nursery or in someone's landscape, I look at several different things to make a final determination about the plant. Some specifics I look for are growth habit of the plant, flower detail, how the leaves grow on the plant, venation on the leaves, and how the bark or stems look; I could go on all day. Some of these things need to be shown ever more clearly in a picture since we can't actually hold the plant and look at these characteristics in person. Here are some helpful tips when you send in a plant sample for identification:

- Send in multiple pictures of the plant. Send in a picture with the whole plant in the frame, pictures of the leaves, flowers, and seeds. A good practice is to place a ruler or some other item beside the plant part to give us an idea of the size.
- Tell us the growing conditions of the plant. Where did you find it? Is it growing in full sun or shade in your yard? Does the area where it was growing stay consistently wet?
- Most of the time, we get pictures of branches or stalks that have been cut off or pulled out of the ground. Explaining the growing conditions with pictures like this is even more important since we can't be there to assess the area where it was growing.
- Look at the pictures before you send them. Are they blurry? Are there any items that are blocking parts of the plant that would be helpful for identification?

These tips also apply to plant samples that are actually brought into our office to be identified. Make sure to bring in as many parts as you can. Even spent flowers can sometimes help to identify the plant.


These tips will help you get a much faster response back for your plant identification!

For those of you born in September—your birth flower is the Aster. Aster flowers are symbols of Love, Faith, Wisdom, Valor, and Light. The genus Aster includes some 600 species of widely distributed flowering plants. Aster comes from the Greek word for "star", and refers to the shape of the flower head. Aster's were laid on the graves of soldiers to symbolize afterthought.



Got Questions?

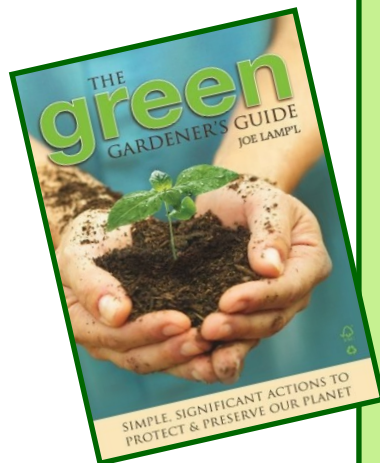
What does 4-H have to offer my child? When is the best time to prune crepe myrtles? How can I make money off 10 acres of land? What is the difference between type 1 and type 2 diabetes?



uf/ifas marion county
EXTENSION SERVICE

We Have Answers

Items below are available for purchase at the UF/IFAS Extension Marion County. We also have many other items available in our Shop Extension store. The store is open Mon-Fri from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Please come to see these environmentally-friendly products, as well as many other agricultural-related items.



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Book of the Month Sale

Each month, we will be offering one of the books available in the Extension Bookstore at a substantial discount (sorry, walk-ins only).

September's offering is **The Green Gardener's Guide**

By Joe Lamp'l

Regularly \$15.00—on sale for \$9.00
40% off until the end of September

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Challenge

Learn how to save time and money managing and maintaining your landscape



Saturday, October 17, 2015
9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Cost: \$15
(includes snacks and lunch)

Pre-register by October 3rd by calling Terry at 352-671-8400.

UF/IFAS Marion County
Extension Auditorium
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, FL 34470

Sponsored by:





Florida Gardening 101

What you'll learn:



Monday, Sept. 21
Building Your Soil: Learn how to transform your sandy soil into "gardener's gold."
Composting: Tips for transforming your yard and kitchen waste into rich soil.


Tuesday, Sept. 22
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™: Learn to save time and money managing and maintaining your garden in Florida.
Trees and Shrubs for Central Florida: Trees and shrubs that thrive in Central Florida.

Wednesday, Sept. 23
Plant Propagation: Learn to propagate new plants from seeds, cuttings and other techniques.
Indoor Plants: Learn how to care for houseplants.

Thursday, Sept. 24
Lawns: Tips to establish and maintain a Florida lawn.
Water Conservation: Learn how to install a micro-irrigation system in your garden.

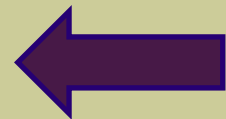
Friday, Sept. 25
Vegetable Gardening: How to grow vegetables successfully.
Pests in the Florida Garden: Learn how to identify and control insects, diseases, and weeds commonly encountered in Florida gardens.



 For those new to gardening or just new to gardening in central Florida, this class will teach the basics to help you be successful at growing just about every kind of plant.
September 21 - 25, 2015
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
UF/IFAS Extension Marion County Auditorium
2232 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala
 The registration fee of \$30 per person or \$50 per couple is non-refundable and covers materials and light snacks. To register (by Sept. 11th) call Terry at 671-8400.



ONLY ONE MORE DAY TO REGISTER!

DON'T MISS OUT



Marion County Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 3, 2015
8:00 am—12:00 pm

- Fruit Trees
- Ornamental Trees
- Shade Trees
- Shrubs

- Native Plants
- Herbs and Perennials
- Pollinator Plants
- Butterfly Plants
- Hummingbird Plants

- Rain Barrels
- Melaleuca Mulch
- Micro-irrigation supplies
- Garden publications
- Master Gardeners available for consultation
- Mobile Plant Clinic on site
- Soil Test Kits available

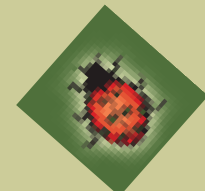
FREE ADMISSION
NO PETS PLEASE!

PAYMENT BY CASH OR CHECK ONLY

Marion County UF/IFAS Extension
2232 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala
For more information call 352-671-8400







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