

UF IFAS EXTENSION/
SEMINOLE COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Sunshine
Spotlight:
Native
Pollinators!**
- **Fertilizer
Workshops**

The New Leaf Newsletter:

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

FALL 2017

Irma's Gardening Touch: Recovering from a hurricane

Hurricane Irma forced a landscape makeover whether you wanted one or not. It brought down trees and strewn limbs like confetti. While you have assessed your damages and conducted your initial clean up, your yard is still on a long road to recovery.

•Assess light conditions. Your canopy trees determined the level of sunlight that hit the mid-story or ground layers in your yard. If those trees have toppled or major limbs broke away, you've let the sunshine in! Consider your mid-story and ground plantings. How will they rise to this opportunity? Young canopy trees may assume the new leading role, however, shade plants that were previously happy with your overhead trees may suffer from this new influx of light. A full sun plant wants six or more hours of direct sun while a full shade plant wants less than

three hours (partial sun/shade is between three and six hours). You may want to add full sun plants and remove shade plants or transplant them to shadier locations.

•Standing tall...for now. If you have trees that withstood the hurricane, they're not out of the woods yet. It is going to be a waiting game to see how your trees or plants recover. They've been through a stressful situation (as have we!) and they will likely be vulnerable to disease, fungus, and pests with all the heavy rain and flooding. Watch for these signs, but do not try to rush recovery by over-watering or over-fertilizing. This will likely increase fungus, burning, and pests. If you do not see new growth in the spring then unfortunately the plants couldn't handle the strains. Sometimes plants will succumb to this hurricane trauma years later!

•Snags and brush piles. While Hurricane Irma broke records in its severity, it is still a *natural* disaster, and wildlife have historically adapted to post-hurricane conditions. When nature creates dead

trees, wildlife utilizes them. When we clear away all dead material, we withdraw this opportunity. Cavity-nesting birds, snakes, small mammals, and a host of insects will take up residence (yay!). Of course we don't want a dead tree to be a potential danger to you or your home. You will have to make sure your dead tree is a safe distance away or reduce its size so that is a not a risk to you. However, realize that a dead tree, called a snag, has immense wildlife value and brush piles (which we currently have no shortage of!) make good cover.

•Selecting new trees. If you had to do it all over again, you probably have already learned several lessons: keep trees clear of powerlines and a safe distance from your home. A hurricane-proof yard does not mean no trees, but trees carefully selected for size, placement, and maintenance. We lay it all out for you in this guide: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes/>



The Newest EDIS Articles

Learn all the latest UF research at
Edis.ifas.ufl.edu

Managing Whiteflies on Landscape Ornamentals

Whitefly is a common pest. There are 75 species in Florida! Learn how to identify and control them.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg254>

Nematode management in Residential Lawns

How to manage this mysterious underground nuisance? You may need the nematode diagnostic lab.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ng039>

Residents' Perceived landscape Benefits Can help Extension Promote Good Landscape Management Practices

See how Floridians perceptions translate to practice.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wc282>



Sunshine Spotlight: Sally Saves Forgotten Pollinators

Four years ago, a vast, new landscape revealed itself when Sally read this fact: Florida has 316 species of native bees, 29 of which are found nowhere else in the world. A Florida native herself, Sally had no idea there were any bees but honey bees. She decided to learn more. New knowledge leads to passion, which leads to change. Countless native bees, buzzing unbeknownst to most of us, have benefited from Sally's inspiration.

Sally has helped friends and family establish pollinator gardens in their yards. Bee boxes for native cavity-nesting bees have been a fun and easy project. With Sally's artistic flare, her bee boxes add structural interest to any garden and are a great way to draw attention to our native bees.

In February, 2017, Sally began a large project at Mead Gardens in Winter Park. She started with a bare ground, dead zone but, with the addition of potted plants and flower seed, by July it was a pollinator garden full of bees and butterflies. The mason bees nest in the boxes and the sweat bees nest in the bare ground left for them between plants. By using a combination of native, Florida-Friendly plants maintenance has been kept to a minimum.

Sally recently adopted the Florida-Friendly Garden at the UF IFAS Extension office in Seminole County. She says, "It was already a well-established garden with a wonderful variety of native plants. All it really needed was weeding and a bee box! It is already full of life."



How do you garden for native pollinators?

"Gardening for our native pollinators requires little time and little money. It can be as simple as spreading a wildflower seed mix in sunny, well-drained area of your yard. For those in apartments or condominiums a few pots of native wildflowers can provide food for our native bees and butterflies.

Those of us who want something more can plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees. Bees need food, shelter, and water. In providing food, we need to have a variety of plants that bloom at different times of the year. Also provide a variety of colors and fragrances. Bees and butterflies find it easier to feed on plants that have open somewhat flat flowers. To name a few: Black-eyed Susan, Asters, Blanket flower, and Purple passion vine. In providing shelter, keep in mind that 70% of all native bees are ground dwellers. You can leave some bare ground (no mulch) between plants or in the back of a planted bed for them. Water can be provided in a shallow dish with rocks or sand or an automatic pet watering dish with rocks or sand."



Why do you believe in Florida-Friendly Landscaping?

"Florida-Friendly Landscaping provides a framework that addresses all of the most important environmental issues that we as individuals can have an impact on. By landscaping with native or Florida-Friendly plants we can save water, fertilize less, and use less pesticides. As to why we should do this I like the parable of the bird and the man.

A man comes upon a sparrow along the side of the road. The sparrow is lying on its back with its feet in the air. The man asks the sparrow what he is doing. 'I heard that the sky is falling,' the bird replies, 'and I want to hold it up.' The man laughs at the bird. 'You believe you can hold up the whole sky?' 'No,' the bird says. 'But one does what one can.'"

What's the most important thing a homeowner can do?

"The most important thing a homeowner can do, in my opinion, is to take the time to fully assess your property. What kind of soil do you have? How much sun or shade do you have? Are there any drainage issues? How will this outdoor area be used? Do I really need grass? My answer is always NO! But grass is a personal choice. How much time do I want to spend on maintenance? Then using the Florida-Friendly principles you can make a new landscape plan or renovate your existing landscape. Proper planning saves time, money, and the environment."

Your Yard Calendar

What sights in your yard do you get to look forward to? Flowering trees and frolicking critters will make their debut at different times of year. Yard maintenance can also be most effective when paired with the seasons.

October

Flowering: Goldenrod, Partridge Pea, Buckwheat, Muhly grass

Wildlife: Warblers are at their peak migration to Florida and ducks are beginning to arrive. Bears are feeding heavily in preparation for winter.

To Do: Consider planting annuals like dianthus, petunia, and pansy for a fall garden and plant bulbs like agapanthus, and lilies to be ready in the spring. Apply fertilizer to St. Augustine or zoysia grass early in the month. Apply pre-emergent herbicides for winter annuals once nighttime temperatures reach 55°-60° for 4-5 days. Avoid “weed and feed” products.



November

Flowering: Mexican Sunflower, Tea Olive



Wildlife: Set out winter seed and suet feeders. Expect different woodpeckers at suet and winter migrants such as kinglets, phoebes, and robins. Bears are on the move. Manatees are heading to springs.

To Do: Consider planting cool-season plants: Annuals include pansies, snapdragons; herbs: cilantro, parsley and thyme; vegetables: broccoli, carrots, and kale. Watch for brown patch and large patch fungus in the lawn.

December

Flowering: Camellia Japonica, Camellia Sasanqua, Poinsettias, Powderpuff

Wildlife: Participate in a Christmas Bird Count! This is the best time of year to watch waterfowl and if it is cold enough watch for yellow-rumped warblers at feeders. Listen for Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls courting.

To Do: Enjoy poinsettias as an indoor plant. Protect them from the cold and plant them in the spring. Protect other cold tender plants from possible freezes. Use the fallen leaves for compost or mulch.

Learn more at:

Central Florida Gardening Calendar:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep450>

Florida Wildlife Extension, Wildlife Happenings:

http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/

Upcoming Events

Micro-Irrigation Workshop

Saturday, Oct 14,

10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Extension Auditorium

Get set to water! Learn how micro-irrigation amounts to big water savings and healthy plants. Leave with your own micro-irrigation kit to get started! Register online at: <https://microirrigation-seminole.eventbrite.com>



Landscape With Potted Plants

Saturday, Oct 21, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Extension Auditorium

Put it in a pot! Arranging plants in a container can be great gardening on a small scale. We'll discuss how to design and maintain container gardens in this class, and then you'll create your own container to take home! Register online at: <https://containergardenfl.eventbrite.com>

Turf Alternatives

Wednesday, Nov 8, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Extension Auditorium

Is grass in the past? We'll go over other groundcover options for different areas in your yard. Register online at: <https://turfalternativesseminole.eventbrite.com>

Water and Fertilizer Restrictions

When cooler temperatures set in and rain drops off, our turf growth slows. We must water and fertilizer appropriately.

During Eastern Standard Time you may water once a week (Saturday for odd addresses and Sunday for even addresses).

We recommend fertilizing no later than early October for St. Augustine and Zoysia lawns. Use slow-release nitrogen, phosphorus-free products with an equal percentage of nitrogen to potassium.

Fertilizer Workshop!

How can we have healthy lawns and clean waterways? Get the scoop on the new fertilizer ordinance and learn, hands-on, the best management practices. Please register at <https://seminole-fertilizer.eventbrite.com>. FREE.

Extension Auditorium. Multiple Dates/Times:

Wednesday, Oct 11, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct 21, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 4, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Thursday, Nov 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec 9, 10 a.m. - Noon

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Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS



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Florida-Friendly Landscapes protect Florida's unique natural resources by conserving water, reducing waste and pollution, creating wildlife habitat, and preventing erosion. Any landscape can be Florida-Friendly if it is designed and cared for according to the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles. Seminole County's program is a partnership between the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service, the Public Works Department's Watershed Management division, and local government, including the cities below.



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