

- **Your plants survive frost**
- **Bee College!**
- **Mothballs explained**

# The New Leaf Newsletter:

## Florida-Friendly Landscaping

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2015

### New Water Clinic: Showers of Savings



week.

This is Joan's grass. Twice a week Joan gives her grass a 1 inch shower. It uses 1246 gallons a week or about 25 showers.

If Joan waters her yard at the recommended 1/2 inch instead of 1 inch, she'll save 623 gallons each week. That's close to two weeks worth of Joan's showers!

This is Joan. Once a day she takes a 20-minute shower that uses 50 gallons of water or 350 gallons a

If Joan waters at 1/2 inch and she installs "smart irrigation technology" her irrigation will turn off during and after rain-fall events. On average this saves 872 gallons a week or 17 showers. Over the year she can save 45,344 gallons of water.



Do you want to shower your lawn less and save money? Learn how to set your irrigation system. Schedule a free Water Clinic Appointment with the Seminole Co. Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent. Call 407-665-5575 or email [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Joan uses water for all sorts of things in her house. The water she uses on her lawn each week (1246 gallons) can go a long way with other activities:

- Brushing her teeth or washing her hands takes 1 gallon of water each time. She can wash her hands 1246 times with the same amount of water it takes to water her lawn.
- A dishwasher (20 gallons) could be run 62 times.
- A clothes washer (25 gallons) could be run 50 times.
- A toilet (1.5 gallons) could be flushed 831 times.
- Joan could drink 19,936 glasses of water (8 oz) or she could water her lawn.

### Showdown: Yard vs Freeze

In true Floridian spirit, we tend to treat a freeze like an invasion—running for our scarves and boiling up soup. How do we defend our plants when temperatures drop? If

the weather would only cooperate more, temperatures would gradually decrease over time, allowing our plants to acclimate. When temperatures fluctuate drastically, as

has been the case in the past, it's a bigger shock to plant systems. Here are ways for our plants to have the best defense before, during, and after the freeze.

## Yard vs Freeze cont.



Frost on leaves

First, as always, is this the right plant for the right place? If not, a weaker plant has a harder time dealing with stress. Winter tests whether you've selected plants in cold hardiness zone 9b. If you have 10a or higher plants, try to place them where there is good wind protection, good drainage, and where cold air won't settle. You want your plant to be well-nourished and nicely shaped, but avoid fertilizer in the late fall or pruning in late summer/early fall; this can cause a

late flush of growth, which will be more susceptible to cold injury. Watering landscape plants right before the freeze will allow the wet soil to absorb heat during the day and radiate it during the night. Prolonged saturated soils, however, will damage the root systems of most plants. During a freeze, heat radiates from the soil and is lost to the atmosphere. You can reduce this soil heat loss by mulching, thus protecting the root system. You can try to trap heat

with covers such as cloth sheets, quilts, plastic, or commercial frost clothes. Make sure the covers extend to the ground and do not touch the plant foliage. After the freeze, water your plants because water in the soil may be frozen. You can remove dead leaves once they turn brown, but wait to do any severe pruning until new growth appears since it is difficult to determine what may still be alive. For further questions about sensitive landscape plants, contact the Extension office!

A n Africanized honey bee (left) and European honey bee on a honey comb



## The Newest EDIS Articles

The University of Florida is constantly at work to bring its research to the masses. By the time you read this, there may already be another EDIS document published. Have all the EDIS documents at your fingertips at [www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu). Here are some of the most recent and relevant to search for.

### Frequently Asked Questions About Africanized Honey Bees in Florida <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in738>

Beekeeping is becoming ever more popular, except you wouldn't want the Africanized Honey Bee to ruin the party. Just what is an Africanized Bee? Is it a killer bee? This publication will give you the lowdown.

### The Facts About Mothballs <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi254>

You may have gotten tips about using mothballs against all sorts of pests, but you have to keep in mind that mothballs are pesticides, containing powerful toxins. This publication describes how to properly use mothballs, including when not to use them.

### Postemergent Herbicides for Ornamentals <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg059>

Postemergent means directly applying the herbicides to weeds after they have germinated. Different herbicides require different treatments and are effective only on certain plants. This publication has a table summary of different postemergent herbicides and the weeds they control.

### Is My Tree Safe? Recognizing Conditions that Increase the Likelihood of Tree Failure. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep507>

This is a handy document that describes common defects in suburban trees, such as dead limbs, decay, cavities or leaning trunks. An unsafe tree can lead to property damage or personal injury. Do you have anything to worry about? This guide will help you diagnosis any problems and if further action is necessary.

Fungal conks are a sign of decay



## Upcoming Events

### Weed and Pest Control

**Saturday, January 17, 2015 9:30 -11:30 am**

**Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL**

Weeds, disease, and pests? Oh my! For those of you overrun with weeds in your yard or pests attacking the plants you like, check out this two hour class about landscape methods to reduce these problems and other treatment possibilities.

### Landscaping for Shade

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL**

Where's all the sunshine? If it's not in your yard, this class will help you select and care for plants best-adapted for shady conditions.

### Getting to Know Invasive Species

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015 6:30—9:30 pm**

**Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL**

In honor of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, we will be having a discussion about troublesome, invasive plants and animals that can be in your yard or your community's common areas.

### Planning Your Attack on Invasive Plants

**Tuesday, March 3, 6:30—9:30 pm**

**Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL**

Are you interested in helping organize your neighbors to get rid of invasive plants in your common areas or yards? This program will give you insight on coordinating an invasive plant cleanup and how to educate your community.

### Living with the Lake

**Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:30-11:30 am**

**Red Bug lake Park- Pavilion C, 3600 Red Bug Lake Road, Casselberry, FL**

Curious about plants along a waterbody? Ready to design your waterfront? Come to Living with the Lake! Learn about our lakes and how to improve their water quality! Bring plants to identify and leave with free, new aquatic plants!

### Wildflowers and Native Plants

**Thursday, April 2, 2015 6:30 -8:30 pm**

**Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL**

It's called *Florida* for a reason! Learn about some of our state's diverse, native flora and how to introduce and care for them in your landscape.



**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE!**

University of Florida Bee College is one of the nation's leading beekeeping education events.

Whether you are interested in honey bees, have a hive or two, or are a professional, Bee College is for you.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 6– Saturday, March 7, 2015

**WHERE:** The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience.

9600 N. Oceanshore Blvd, St. Augustine, FL 32080

**EMAIL:** [honeybee@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:honeybee@ifas.ufl.edu)

**All events are FREE unless otherwise noted. Pre-register at least two days before the event.**

**Call 407-665-5575 or email [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)**

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. USDA, UF/IFAS Extension, FAMU and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

# Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM



Taryn Sudol, Editor  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping  
Extension Agent

Extension Office  
250 W. County Home Road  
Sanford, FL 32773

Phone: 407-665-5575  
E-mail: [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn)  
[www.fyn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.fyn.ifas.ufl.edu)

**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. The program is a partnership between the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and in cooperation with the Florida's Water Management Districts, the support of industry and local governments.**

**Take our SURVEY! We would love to hear about how you manage your landscape and ways that we can help you!**  
[https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9BOoq42iiDAM6Rn](https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9BOoq42iiDAM6Rn)



Like us on Facebook!  
Search "UF IFAS Extension Seminole County Florida-Friendly Landscaping"