

Fall 2015







# GreenThumb

Seminole County  
Quarterly Newsletter

**Gabrielle Milch**  
Residential Horticulturist  
Seminole County Extension

407-665-5558  
[gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Working for you and with you

- Table of Contents: To go directly to a page, scroll over subject line, hold down the Ctrl key and click the mouse or press "Enter."
- To return to the Table of Contents: scroll over [Return to "Table of Contents"](#) and click the mouse or press "Enter."
- If a link will not work for you, copy and paste it into your browser.

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## PEST ALERT

### Redbay Ambrosia Beetle

*Xyleborus glabratus*

#### A Major Problem for Florida Avocados

<http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/4h/foresthealth/insects/ambrbeet.html>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in886>



"Ambrosia beetles" is the common name used collectively for a group of wood-boring insects in a number of related genera. These insects are found throughout the southern United States and share a common habit of tunneling through the bark into the wood of trees.



As the adult beetle chews through the bark and into the wood, it creates a series of winding tunnels called "galleries." The wood debris from the galleries can appear as either a series of thin, white tubes pushed out of the bark

or as fine sawdust piling up at the base of the tree. The insect does not use the tree xylem [woody part of a tree] as food, but uses the galleries created as a place for a fungus to grow. The fungus becomes the source of food for the beetles.

Interestingly, because of this dependence on the fungus, the beetle carries spores of the fungus with it as it moves from one tree to another. This transportation of spores guarantees that no matter where the ambrosia beetle may go, it will always be able to produce a steady food supply.

The Redbay Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*) is a species of special concern because it transmits the particular fungus that causes Laurel Wilt Disease.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs379>

The beetle transmits the causal pathogen of laurel wilt disease among plants in the Laurel family caused by a particularly nasty fungal symbionts. This fungus is a "very high risk" invasive disease pest complex having potential equal to that of Dutch elm disease or chestnut blight.

Laurel wilt is a relatively new disease and much is still unknown about how it will impact the flora of North America. The Laurel Wilt Disease primarily affects redbay (*Persea borbonia*) but it will also damage or kill other members of the laurel family, including the Avocado tree.

The Redbay Ambrosia Beetle is *not directly responsible* for the widespread death of redbay trees but by transporting the fungus from tree to tree, it is the vector [path] that allows the disease to spread.



#### Identifying the injury:

An Ambrosia Beetle attack is recognized by piles of fine, whitish dust found around the 1/16" entrance holes or at the base of the tree. In lumber, the fungus darkly stains the galleries and the bark.



#### Identifying the insect:

Adult beetles are long and thin, usually about 1/4" long. They are reddish brown in color with sharp spines at the back end of their bodies. Fully-grown larvae and pupae are the same size as the adult beetles but are yellowish white in color.



Avocado Leaf Wilt

#### Susceptible trees:

- Avocado
- California bay laurel
- Northern Spicebush
- Redbay, *Persea borbonia*
- Sassafras
- Swampbay

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# MILKWEED BUGS

## Types of Milkweed bugs

**Small Milkweed Bug**  
*Lygaeus kalmii*



Milkweed Bug lookalikes:

**Large Milkweed Bug**  
*Oncopeltus fasciatus*



**Milkweed Assassin Bug**  
*Zelus longipes*  
(Eats caterpillars!)



It is the **Small Milkweed Bug** that is most common in Central Florida. These bugs are often found in groups of hundreds on milkweed plants often on the underside of the leaves.

When the seedpods ripen, they release the seeds that float on fluffy white parasols. Milkweed bugs gather on seedpods, piercing the wall to feed on seeds. Milkweed



bugs are one of a small group of insects that have the ability to tolerate the toxic (poisonous) compounds in the milkweed plant. They are therefore

important in regulating populations of this plant. Milkweed bugs have few predators because they concentrate in their body's bad tasting compounds found in the sap of milkweed plants. The bugs use their bright colors to advertise their bad taste.

Inexperienced birds that taste their first milkweed bug are unlikely to try to eat another orange and black insect, such as a Monarch or Viceroy butterfly.

*The Milkweed Bug doesn't seem to harm the plant or interfere with the caterpillars*

## Florida Milkweed Plant

*Butterfly Weed; Orange Milkweed*  
*Asclepias tuberosa*



<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fpo49>

Butterfly weed is a member of the milkweed family and the primary food for the Monarch caterpillar.

The plants grow to two feet tall and flowers from July to September. The flower colors are orange, red, and yellow. Other varieties are all yellow.

The plant will not flower freely until well established. The best sites have exposure to sun or partial shade and almost any soil. The plant tolerates dry soil but not heavy soil. Butterfly weed is slow to start growth in the spring. Mark its location to prevent damage to dormant crowns. A taproot makes transplanting difficult. Once established do not disturb butterfly weed unnecessarily.

## Monarch Butterfly and Caterpillar



### Ecology

Larval host to:

- **Monarch butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*)
- **Queen butterfly** (*Danaus gilippus*)
- **Soldier butterfly**, (*Danaus eresimus*).

The monarch is an endangered species. Urban sprawl and aggressive farming have destroyed wild habitats where milkweed mostly grows. Sadly, the latest surveys show that the monarch butterfly population has declined by 90 percent.

- • [Butterfly Gardening class: click to go to page](#)  
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## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of care when it comes to preparing for hurricanes. Compared to many areas of the United States, we live in a fairly high-risk area for storm damage and as a result should be prepared.

### Trees

**Topping a tree** creates a dangerous tree and is illegal. Topping (“hatracking”) is the term used to describe over-pruning a tree by cutting it so badly leaving it with few or no leaves on the branches. Trees should never be topped.

**Thin Trees with a thick canopy.** Remove some interior branches to allow wind to go through the canopy.

[http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/PruningforHurricanes\\_hottopic.shtml](http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/PruningforHurricanes_hottopic.shtml)



Palms do not need hurricane pruning. Palms are adapted to wind storms. Removing fronds is of no benefit and is detrimental to the palm. Even dying leaves benefit the health of the palm. Do not remove leaves until they are completely brown.

This should be a general rule for palm maintenance: Trim only fronds that are completely brown and remove the flower/fruitlet to avoid the mess it creates.

### Around the Garden

- **Trim** and cut back bushy plants and vines.
- **Spindly evergreens** are especially likely to fall in the event of a hurricane.
- **Cut away** any tree branches that hang over the roof: the winds will whip those branches around against your roof and will cause major damage.
- **Prune Trees** that are one sided or leaning, to balance out their weight. Soft ground after a hurricane won't be able to hold an unbalanced tree.
- **Lay things down:** potted plants; trellises (if possible); bird baths; fountains; garden art; statues; gazing balls; flags.
- **Pull up** stakes, remove from plants and lay the plants down.
- **Move** tools, watering cans, mowers, wheelbarrows, BBQ grills, lawn furniture inside, lay them down, or turn them over.
- **Take down** bird feeders and hanging plants.
- **Secure** sheds with straps or tie downs.
- **Secure and Brace** windows and doors, particularly screen doors on decks and porches.
- **Stake** and *securely* support newly planted trees.
- **Disconnect**, roll up and store hoses, electric cords, clotheslines, and ropes.
- **Remove** and store pet houses and lead lines.
- **Block** possible entrances for wildlife – they will be looking for safety, too.
- **Unblock** rain gutters and downspouts.
- **Clear** walkways.
- **Do not sink** any furniture into a swimming pool; this is an old myth and a very bad idea.
- **Share** this list with your neighbors and/or your HOA to protect your home from flying objects from other sources.
- **Hindsight** is a dangerous game. Your family and community are important commodities so handle them with care and consideration.

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## BENEFICIAL BUGS

### Air Potato Leaf Beetle

*Lilioceris cheni*

<http://www.wuft.org/news/2014/10/24/air-potato-beetle-becomes-big-help-to-florida-farmers/>

**Air potato** (*Dioscorea bulbifera* L., Dioscoreaceae)



A non-native, Air Potato has spread throughout Florida as well as in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Because the air potato didn't have any natural enemies in Florida, it was able to overtake native organisms and strangle competing vegetation.

Air potato is on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Noxious Weed List. It is a Category 1.

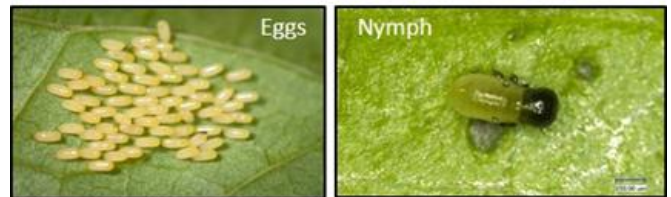
**Plants on this list may not be introduced, possessed, moved, or released without a permit.**

[http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot\\_topics/environment/air\\_potato.shtml](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/environment/air_potato.shtml)

**The Beetle:** *Lilioceris cheni* is a rather large (approximately 9 mm or about 3/8 inch long) orange-red Asian leaf beetle. The beetle is a host-specific specialist that feeds and develops only on *D. bulbifera*.

The USDA-ARS Invasive Plant laboratory, located in Fort Lauderdale, acquired this beetle from China and has begun an ambitious release program aimed at controlling air potato. Permission to release this beetle was from USDA-APHIS was granted after extensive testing demonstrated its host specificity with virtually no risk to other plant species.

Larvae and adults of the air potato leaf beetle consume leaf tissue and occasionally feed on bulbils, thereby negatively affecting plant growth and reproduction. Damage to growing tips inhibits vine elongation and may reduce the ability of air potato to climb vertical structures. At initial



release sites, extensive damage to air potato was evident within three months after the first release.

In 2013 the University of Florida released about 300,000 beetles in 42 counties across Florida throughout 1,000 parks, preserves, forests and conservation lands. Additional releases occurred on private lands by individual certified researchers. Although it is too early to determine the long-term impacts of the beetle on air potato, initial results are very promising. Benefits (of the beetle) include reduced use of herbicide, which is good for the environment; saves money spent by land managers and homeowners to control the vine; and reduction in vine biomass reducing the negative impact the vine has on the environment.

[http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/Air\\_Potato\\_Leaf\\_Beetle.html](http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/Air_Potato_Leaf_Beetle.html)

Biocontrol is free, once it's out there; it is continual, permanent and requires no labor other than the initial releases. Although biocontrol is a slow process and can take several years or more to see the full effect, it still shows the most promise.



*The Air Potato Beetle's removal of the foliage is a great step toward eradication but hand removal of the potatoes will still be necessary until such a time that there is nominal regrowth. With the foliage removed, the work will be easier.*

**CEU credit:** Online course available. [Click here for details](#)

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# Snakes



## SNAKES - Yikes!

**Please! Do not kill the Black Snakes.** They are a valuable and harmless asset to your landscape.

For pictures and complete information on all non-venomous and venomous Florida snakes go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw258>

Black snakes will not hurt you. In fact, they protect you: If you own citrus trees, please note that you are attracting rats that love citrus. Black snakes eat rats.

If a dangerous snake comes onto your property, a black snake will attack it and swallow it whole.

**In general**, snakes like cool, damp, dark areas where they can hide out during the hottest time of day. During the early part of the day, they may move into a sunny spot to warm up. Snakes are most active at dusk and early in the morning. During new construction, natural habitats are disturbed and snakes move into new areas. Snakes like to nest in firewood stacked directly on the ground, old lumber piles, junk piles, flowerbeds with excessive mulch and weedy gardens.

**Myth:** Black Snakes and Copperheads can cross breed producing a poisonous black snake.

The official word: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw258>

Florida's native snake species play important roles in the environment, serving as prey for many native birds and helping to regulate amphibian and rodent populations. Considering the fact that rodents worldwide help to spread 35 known human diseases, we must learn to respect and appreciate snakes for the role they play in our environment. Unfortunately, many snakes threatened by habitat loss caused by development of natural habitats to meet the needs of Florida's growing human population. Additionally, humans kill large numbers of snakes each year as a result of road mortality and persecution.

In the U.S., humans kill thousands of snakes each year, yet only 5-6 people die each year of venomous snakebites. In order for snakes and people to safely coexist, it is important

that Floridians learn to identify, understand, and respect snakes.

## Non-Venomous Snakes

Florida is home to 46 species of native snakes, only six of which are venomous. There are 13 species commonly encountered snakes found in yards, golf courses, parks, retention ponds, or even in garages and houses. This website <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw258> provides information on each species and how to identify it, what it eats, and where it is commonly found in residential settings, as well as insights on behavior and how to deal with each species safely.

Here are two kinds of black snake most common in our landscape:

### Southern Black Racer

ADULT

JUVENILE



### An "incidental" black snake:

**Flower Pot Snake – (*Brahminy Blind Snake*).** *Its name comes from its tendency to lounge in potted plants.*



The Adult is only 2-6 inches long

Snakes elicit different emotions in different people. Unfortunately, the emotions they evoke in many people range from an uneasiness to a deep fear.

Even for people who do not fear snakes, a surprise encounter may be a problem. Often this fear results in the killing of a snake.

The presence of snakes in the landscape is an indication of a healthy environment. Snakes are a unique part of our wildlife and should not be intentionally harmed.

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# FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

**Taryn Sudol**  
 FYN Extension Agent  
 UF-IFAS Extension at Seminole County  
 407-665-5575  
 tsudol@seminolecountyfl.gov  
 www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

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

## Cogongrass

**Cogongrass is neither an ornamental or turf grass.**

One caveat to the “Right Plant, Right Place” principle is invasive plants. It’s a matter of ecology. In many cases, plants from other parts of the world are welcomed, manageable additions to our gardens. However, in some situations these non-native species cause serious ecological disturbances. In the worst cases, invasive plants like purple loosestrife, cogongrass and kudzu ruthlessly choke out other plant life (thus compromising the lives of, insects, birds and fish).

**This puts extreme pressure on native plants and animals, and threatened species may succumb to this pressure. Ultimately, invasive plants alter and destroy natural habitats and reduce biodiversity.**



Invasive plants are capable of growing and thriving in a wide range of environmental conditions and yet they grow so aggressively they overtake other plant life in the surrounding area. Invasive plants become difficult to remove or keep in check. They are not the “right plant” for your space!

Cogongrass, *Imperata cylindrica* is native to Southeast Asia and introduced to the U.S. purposefully as potential forage (it’s not) and accidentally in packing materials (oops) about fifty years ago. This plant is present along roadsides or unmanaged common areas and is becoming a serious problem in Brevard County making it just a matter of time before all of Central Florida will be dealing with this nightmare.

It’s a light green plant that’s 3-10 feet tall. It’s typical to see older, yellowing blades with brown tips mixed into the loose

and compact bunches of grass. It has white, fluffy seed heads but these are not present year round. If you can get up close to Cogongrass, look for an off-center mid-vein with a serrated blade.

Cogongrass is a huge threat to natural areas because it spreads extensively through its rhizomes (there is less certainty how successfully it establishes from seed). Its rhizomes are incredibly thick. An established stand may provide three tons of rhizomes per acre. Due to its rhizomes



reserve, Cogongrass is very difficult to eradicate. Mowing will not affect the rhizomes. Cogongrass burns very hot and is capable of regrowth following a burn.

Currently a biological control is unavailable. A few herbicides are effective; these include glyphosate (Roundup) or imazapyr (Arsenal, Chopper). Most likely, multiple applications will be necessary.

Disking or tilling up the rhizome layer can effectively fragment and destroy the plant. *A combination of mowing, burning, herbicide and disking would be the best strategy for elimination with continued monitoring to prevent re-establishment.*

**In sum, beware of Cogongrass! It is a formidable enemy. If you find it in or near your property, take action before the problem increases in size.**

Learn more about Cogongrass and other invasive plants at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/199>

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## MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

[gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener)

Certified Master Gardeners work through their county Extension office to educate Floridians and provide research-based information about gardening—America's most popular pastime.



**A new certification class is forming now. Classes begin in September. Registration is limited. To inquire about qualification and participation, contact Gabrielle Milch at the Seminole County Extension Service: 407-665-5558.**

### Would YOU be interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

The Florida Master Gardener Program recruits individuals who are interested in gardening and enjoy sharing what they learn with others. The Florida Master Gardener Program started in 1979, when state Extension agents chose to use a “learn and return” model, based on the original Master Gardener program developed at Washington State University in 1973.

The first step is to submit to an application process which includes a background check. Once accepted into the program, participants complete a 50-hour (or longer) training course sponsored by the University of Florida and the local county Extension office.

**In return for training**, new Master Gardeners agree to complete 75 volunteer hours and participate in 10 learning hours within the first year of their certification, then 35 hours volunteering and 10 hours education hours in subsequent years.



“The Master Gardener program, typically offered through universities in the United States and Canada, provides intense home horticulture training to individuals who then volunteer in their communities, giving lectures, creating gardens, conducting research, and many other projects. Contact your county service for some of the best, regionally specific advice you can get on gardening.” [American Horticulture Society http://www.ahs.org/gardening-resources/master-gardeners](http://www.ahs.org/gardening-resources/master-gardeners).



One of the cool things about being a Master Gardener is that you volunteer for activities and projects that interest you while learning other things through the many classes and experiences offered through the program. As Wendy Wilber our new Statewide Program Coordinator says, “Just as there is a, Right Plant; Right Place, there is also Right Person, Right Project.”



As a Master Gardener, there is plenty to do and plenty of choices on how to do it. You are not “just a volunteer.” You are a formidable link between information banks and those who need help. If you want to stay busy, you can do it. If you want your volunteer time spaced out, no problem. The MG Coordinator will work with you to determine a rewarding plan for you.

Read more: [The Florida Master Gardener Program – University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#)

### Doing what you enjoy while helping your community – what could be more ideal?

Contact: Gabbie Milch, Master Gardener Coordinator, Seminole County, Florida: 407-665-5558

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## HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

### Working for you and with you

#### Soil Testing

The University of Florida recommends that you test your soil every season in order to maintain optimal results.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss494>

The Master Gardener Help Desk will test the pH of your soil in the office: \$2.00 per sample.

Call for instructions or request a copy of the brochure that fully explains the proper way to collect samples: 407-665-5550.

For a more comprehensive soil test, the Help Desk personnel will provide you with the requirements, cost and the packaging to send your sample(s) to the University of Florida.

9 am – 12 pm AND 1 pm – 4 pm

407-665-5550

#### Master Gardener Help Desk

An experienced Master Gardener will help solve garden problems through discussion, knowledge and computer research.

Other services include, but are not limited to:

- Plant Problems: bring us a sample of your plant, including the flower and the pest.
- Plant identification and care
- Irrigation questions and solutions
- Bug and treatment identification
- The Help Desk has a wide range of FREE printed copies of University of Florida IFAS publications. Come on in and browse the collection.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

***At this time, we are not equipped to send pictures nor perform house calls.***

#### Classes

The Extension Service continually offers specific classes relevant to the season and needs of the community. Class offerings include:

- Vegetable Gardening
- Micro Irrigation
- Rain Barrels
- Hydroponics
- Organic Gardening
- Container Gardening
- Butterfly Gardening
- Vermiculture (Worm Humus) Farming

See: [Calendar](#)

#### School Gardening

The Master Gardeners have launched an extensive on-site interactive school gardening program. Currently, the gardeners are concentrating working with the students at Goldsboro Elementary School. Other schools planned for 2016. For more information: G. Milch: 407-665-5558.

#### Master Gardener Expo

This yearly event features local expert speakers, plants and supplies, vendors and gardening advice. Lots of fun! Currently held in the spring.

#### Master Gardener Plant Sale

This is an event that residents look forward to each year! This event offers beautiful locally grown plants and generous donations from local nurseries. Traditionally held in the spring at the Seminole County Extension Service Complex.



#### Seminole County Garden Walk

This is a neat opportunity to visit extraordinary private gardens throughout the county. Residents open their gardens to the public for a day. A printed guidebook includes a map of the location of each garden. You choose which gardens you want to see. A Master Gardener stationed at each garden will answer any questions you may have.

If you would like your garden considered, call G. Milch, 407-665-5558.

#### Theme & Demonstration Gardens

- ❖ **Micro Irrigation:** The Florida Friendly Landscaping Florida Native Plant garden and the vegetable garden at the Seminole County Extension.
- ❖ **Butterfly Garden** at the Seminole County Extension complex: This garden includes a pond demonstrating natural filtration and ground bee houses.

#### "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at special events

You will often find this service at local municipal events such as May Day; Arbor Day; Plant Sales; Expos/community celebrations, etc.

If your community or business would like to have an "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at your event, contact Gabbie Milch: 407-665-5558.

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**Your community resource for gardening and landscaping information**

Seminole County Extension  
**Residential Horticulture**  
 250 W. County Home Road  
 Sanford, FL 32773  
 407-665-5550

[www.seminolecountfl.gov/extensionsservices](http://www.seminolecountfl.gov/extensionsservices)

*Located across from Flea World at the intersection of Hwy. 17-92 and County Home Road*

**SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB**

*Free Quarterly Newsletter*

*To receive or cancel e-news, or to receive printed copies, contact:*

[gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov)

**Contributors:**

Gabrielle Milch  
 Taryn Sudol  
 Mary Allen

**Useful websites**

University of Florida IFAS-Extension

<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>

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

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

**To view the monthly planting Calendar online:**

[Florida Gardening Calendar - UF/IFAS](#)

[Extension: Solutions for Your Life](#)

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

**WATERING SCHEDULE**

**Restrictions and Tips**

EFFECTIVE --- March 8, 2015 thru November 1, 2015

THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE MANDATORY IN SEMINOLE COUNTY AND INCLUDE THOSE ON PRIVATE WELLS OR LAKES, ETC. THESE RESTRICTIONS apply to everyone in Seminole County who uses water for lawn and landscape irrigation, regardless of whether the water comes from a private well, surface water or a water supply utility. NO WATERING BETWEEN 10 a.m. TO 4 p.m.. ANY DAY

**Residential customers with ODD Street addresses water on WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY**

**Residential customers with EVEN street addresses water on THURSDAY & SUNDAY**

COMMERCIAL, Non-Residential customers (business, schools, churches, recreational facilities, etc.) water on TUESDAY & FRIDAY.

Watering is allowed at any time with a hand-held hose provided it is fitted with an automatic shutoff nozzle. This applies to all sources of irrigation water.

Personal vehicle washing allowed only if you use a hand-held hose fitted with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

**Watering Tip - DRIP IRRIGATION**

[http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/maintenance\\_and\\_care/watering\\_and\\_irrigation/drip\\_irr.html](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/maintenance_and_care/watering_and_irrigation/drip_irr.html)

Even with the rains this summer, many landscapes may still require supplemental irrigation during the fall dry season.



**Micro-irrigation**, commonly referred to as low-volume or drip irrigation, provides a way of watering plants (with the exception of turfgrass) to maintain landscape quality while saving water. Sounds too good to be true? Well, you can't just install it and walk away, but for the potential water savings, it is well worth the proper planning and maintenance.

And the best quality of all? Micro-irrigation complies with all local water conservation codes and ordinances and is not governed by current water restrictions.

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## SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LIFE

UF/Seminole County Extension Service

### What is Extension?

Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. The University of Florida (UF), together with Florida A&M University (FAMU), administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

**SolutionsForYourLife.com** is a website of University of Florida Extension. They've put all of their expertise in one place to make it easy for you to get what you need. You can explore topics in lawn and garden care, family life and consumer choices, agriculture, community development, the environment and youth development. **SolutionsForYourLife.com** brings you free current, science-based answers. <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/>

## WHAT TO PLANT

### Quarterly Gardening Calendar

#### July

**Bedding plants:** Summer annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, torenia, and ornamental pepper.

**Bulbs:** Butterfly lily and gladiolus can be planted during the middle of summer.

**Herbs:** While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many do well if started from small plants.

**Palms:** Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6–8 months after planting. Nails should not be driven directly into a palm trunk.

#### What to Do

**Trees:** Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist.

**Lawns:** Determine the cause of any lawn problems before taking action. If an insect is the culprit, treat only the affected area. Rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction.

**Vegetable garden:** Use summer heat to solarize the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes 4–6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now.

**Azaleas:** Prune no later than mid-July to protect developing buds for next spring's bloom.

**Irrigation:** Install an inexpensive rain shutoff device to save money by overriding an irrigation system when it rains. Install rain shutoff valve or check that yours is operating properly.

**Pests on ornamental plants:** Inspect the leaves of azaleas and ornamental plants for small white dots that may indicate lace bugs at work. Spray forcefully with water to help control this pest.

**Citrus:** Check citrus trees for damage to fruit or leaves and take action to minimize the effect of insects and/or disease on developing fruit and the overall health of the tree.



## August



**Bedding plants:** The hottest days of summer limit planting now to heat-tolerant annuals, such as coleus, kalanchoe, and vinca.

**Bulbs:** Aztec lily, butterfly lily, walking iris, and spider lily can be planted any time of the year, even late summer.

**Herbs:** Herbs that can be planted from plants (not seeds) include bay laurel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. See: *Herbs in the Florida Garden* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vho20>)

**Vegetables:** Many cool-season crops, such as collards and onion, can be planted now, including a final crop of warm-season vegetables, such as pepper. Tomato can also be planted for the fall garden.

### What to Do

**Lawns:** Apply controlled-release nitrogen to St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass lawns this month

**Palms:** Check older fronds for yellowing as it may indicate a magnesium or potassium deficiency. Apply an appropriate palm fertilizer.

**Vegetables:** Solarize the vegetable garden in preparation for fall planting if not done in July.

**Poinsettias:** Pinch back poinsettias and mums before the end of the month to allow time for buds to form for winter bloom.

**Ornamental plants:** Fertilize plants that show signs of deficiencies. Rapid growth and leaching rains may result in nutrient deficiencies in some plants.

**Bedding plants:** Remove spent blooms, cut back, and fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend the bloom season into the fall months.

## September



**Bedding plants:** If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall.

**Bulbs:** Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of elephant's ear (*Alocasia* spp.) now available.

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil.

**Vegetables:** Plant cool-season vegetable crops, such as celery, cabbage, lettuce, and collards

### What to Do

**Lawn problems:** Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month.

**Perennials and bulbs:** Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment.

**Lawns:** Fertilize bermudagrass with controlled-release nitrogen this month.

**Irrigation:** Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off.

**Citrus:** Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. If the weather has been rainy, do not use soluble nitrogen, as rains will leach it from the soil too quickly.

**Vegetable gardens:** Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose.

*Above all, smile at your success and enjoy the fruits of your labor.*

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Classes, Community Events and CEU courses

Community Classes			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
July 2	10 – 11 am	Butterfly Gardening – FREE - Casselberry Library	Registration required. Call 407-655-1500
July 22	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Compost and Mulching FREE - Seminole County Extension Auditorium	<a href="https://eventbrite.com/event/16332987405">https://eventbrite.com/event/16332987405</a>
<b>APPLY NOW</b>		Master Gardener Training Course Classes are held 1 day per week September 8 thru December 15 (15 classes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deadline for application: immediate</li> <li>Interviews: August 10-14</li> </ul>	Contact Gabrielle Milch: 407-665-5558
August 20	6:00 pm- 9:30 pm	Beginning Vegetable Gardens Registration Required	<a href="https://eventbrite.com/event/17592687201">https://eventbrite.com/event/17592687201</a>
August 22	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Beginning Vegetable Gardens Registration Required	<a href="https://eventbrite.com/event/17592722306">https://eventbrite.com/event/17592722306</a>
Community Events			
Jul 4	5pm- 9:30pm	2015 Celebration Of Freedom Central Winds Park Winter Springs	407-327-6593
Commercial Resources and Certifications			
The Seminole County Commercial Horticulture Agriculture program provides education and training based on the latest research from the University of Florida.			
CEU classes for Fall 2015 <a href="http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionservices">http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionservices</a>			
July 22	Limited Pesticide Training & Testing		<a href="http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/events/">http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/events/</a>
August 14	Surviving Pesticide Training CEU		UF/IFAS Volusia County: \$40.00, includes lunch Email: <a href="mailto:Kstauderman@volusia.org">Kstauderman@volusia.org</a> <a href="http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3359/urlt/Surviving-Pesticide-Training-CEU-Day-8-15-2015flyer.pdf">http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3359/urlt/Surviving-Pesticide-Training-CEU-Day-8-15-2015flyer.pdf</a>
<b>Potato Leaf Beetle 2015</b> Air Potato Management Training Course ONLINE COURSE \$10 workbook fee Available CEU's are available Jan 1, 2015 - Dec 31, 2015. CEU for course: 1			<b>Workbook</b> <a href="http://pesticide.ifas.ufl.edu/courses/airpotato.shtml">http://pesticide.ifas.ufl.edu/courses/airpotato.shtml</a> <b>Agenda</b> <a href="http://pesticide.ifas.ufl.edu/courses/pdfs/Air%20Potato/2015ap-CEU%20Approval.pdf">http://pesticide.ifas.ufl.edu/courses/pdfs/Air%20Potato/2015ap-CEU%20Approval.pdf</a>
<b>FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING</b> GI-BMP Training & Program Overview “Florida Statute 482.1562 states that all commercial fertilizer applicators must have a license from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) by January 1, 2014.” <a href="http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/BMP_overview.htm">http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/BMP_overview.htm</a>			
<b>Who Should Attend:</b> Supervisors and employees in the lawn care, irrigation, pest control, or landscape industry			

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