

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Sunshine
Spotlight:
New Urban
Horticulture
Agent**
- **Cool season
plantings**
- **Rain barrel
workshop**



Zoysia root growth

The New Leaf Newsletter: Florida-Friendly Landscaping

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

FALL 2016

Sod Now for Healthy Spring Turf

A year for turf grass involves many trials and opportunities: Scorching hot temperatures, possible freezes, daily rainstorms, extended droughts, fungus when it is warm and wet, and pests at the ready all year long!

Among these environmental stresses, when do you install sod so that it can establish and thrive? We've been asked this question before, yet we lacked a firm answer. Any time of year could work especially when Central Florida cannot quite follow the sod manufacturers' recommendations from North or South Florida. Grantly

Ricketts, the Commercial Horticulture Agent in Osceola County, sought to fill this gap. How do plugs (small piece of sod) of St. Augustine and Zoysia grass perform when planted in early November?

Grantly installed ten different cultivars of both St. Augus-

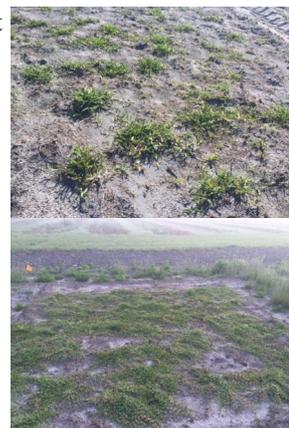
tine and Zoysia grass in early November 2015 at his Extension Office. He measured 30 samples of St. Augustine and Zoysia for root and shoot growth every 30 days for three months. The 2015-2016 winter was fairly mild with a 55° F average temperature. He found that all ten St. Augustine cultivars established at a faster rate than all ten Zoysia cultivars. At the end of the study the St Augustine cultivars' runners increased in length between four inches and 14 inches while zoysia cultivars showed insignificant increase in shoot growth. All cultivars of St. Augustine roots grew by about 4" while zoysia roots increased by about an inch.

Using the fall and winter season to establish root growth is very encouraging. Remember a strong root system creates the most resilient turf. Strong roots mean the turf can better access water and nutrients as

well as survive times of stress. Also remember that for new sod you do not want to fertilize with nitrogen in the first 30 days because the roots will not have the capacity to absorb it.

You'll want to water new sod more frequently in the first 30 days before reducing watering to once a week in the winter and twice in the summer.

New sod is an investment and requires ongoing maintenance. Carefully select the turf that's best for you ([link](#)). If it's St. Augustine, consider starting sod in the fall so that your roots will be healthy and ready to go come spring.



St. Augustine growth
after 3 and 5 months

The Newest EDIS Articles

Ecological Risk Assessment for Invasive Wildlife in Florida

Burmese pythons and Cuban tree frogs are cautionary tales! How do we spot the problem before it starts? Read on!

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw419>

Luffa: an Asian Vegetable Emerging in Florida

Are you ready to grow your own sponges and dish clothes? See if you have the right place for this plant!

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1285>

Coral Reef Conservation for Everyone

Even though coral reefs don't occur in Seminole County, we have an impact and a chance to help. Learn the threats and what you can do for reefs.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fa199>

Learn all the latest UF research at
[Edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

Sunshine Spotlight: Kaydie McCormick Spices Up Our Office!



Stop by and say hello to our new Urban Horticulture Agent, Kaydie McCormick! You might find her studying a yet-to-be-identified leaf, poking at white fly in a petri dish, or helping in the vegetable garden. Besides being your go-to plant guru, she is also our Master Gardener coordinator. Soon after Kaydie started working, she helped congratulate several of our Master Gardeners, who completed ten years of service! While she inherited a strong program, her sights are set on bringing out even more of the potential and expertise of old and new volunteers. Friendly, organized, and efficient, we think Kaydie is up for the task! Kaydie earned her Bachelors of Science from Florida Southern College with a double major in Landscape Horticulture Production and Design. From there, she worked for four years at Rockledge Gardens in Rockledge, FL —first as head of the Annual and Perennial Department, then moving on to the head of the information booth. She knows every inch of a garden and every step it takes to make it succeed. We are so glad she's here to share her knowledge. Welcome, Kaydie!

What got you interested in urban horticulture?

As a kid, my first real taste of horticulture was going to a Hibiscus Society show in Sarasota. My mom saw the sign for it and decided to check it out. I remember all of the beautiful flowers on display, really different from what you'd see in your yard, and they seemed almost like magic. I also worked in our front garden at home because my mom had a bad back, and I enjoyed that. During high school I volunteered at the Ringling Museum in their rose gardens and really fell in love with the whole process of caring for a garden. There is something really calming about working with plants.



Why do you believe in Florida-Friendly Landscaping?

Florida-Friendly Landscapes lead to an easier to manage landscape with less pesticides, weeding, and watering required. Ease of care is always important to me because the summers in Florida are so hot, I want to get yard work done quickly! I also love to see birds, bees, and butterflies in my yard, and the biodiversity encouraged by a FFL really entices them to come and visit.



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

Make a plan before buying plants and planting. You want to make sure you put the right plant in the right spot, and that you can maintain it after placing it in your landscape. It is much more economical to do a little planning beforehand, and your plants will thank you too by growing well!

Contact Kaydie at kmccormick@seminolecountyfl.gov or 407-665-5558.

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. Much of our wildlife action takes place in the water so check out nearby springs and seashores!

November

Flowering: Beautyberry, 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.



WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT!

Grass growth is reduced in cooler temperatures. Now that we're back to Eastern Standard Time we only water one day a week. Even addresses water on **Sunday** and Odd addresses water on **Saturday**.

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:

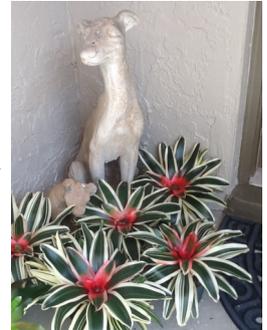
http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/

Upcoming Events

Landscape with Potted Plants

Wednesday, Nov 2, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Extension Auditorium, 250 W County Home Road, Sanford
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. FREE.

Register online at: <http://landscape-with-potted-plants.eventbrite.com>



Turf Alternatives

Wednesday, Nov 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford
Is grass in the past? We'll go over other groundcover options for different areas in your yard. \$5.00

Register online at: <http://turf-alternatives.eventbrite.com>



Compost and Mulching

Saturday, Dec 3, 2015, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Extension Auditorium, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford

Learn how to take yard and kitchen scraps and turn them into rich additions to your landscape in this compost and mulching class. \$5.00.

Register online at: <http://dec-composting.eventbrite.com>

Let's Make a Rain Barrel

Wednesday, Dec 7, 2015, 6:30-8:30 pm
Extension Auditorium, 250 W County Home Road, Sanford
Learn about water savings and build a rain barrel to take home. Cost: \$20.00.

Register online at: <https://rain-barrel-workshop.eventbrite.com>

***Registration is required at least two days before the event. Call 407-665-5560 or email fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov**



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.



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