

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Sunshine
Spotlight:
Beekeeping**
- **Yard
Calendar**
- **Rain barrel
workshop**



The New Leaf Newsletter: Florida-Friendly Landscaping

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It All Adds Up: Tips for a Low-Cost Yard

Let's be honest –complete and total neglect of your yard means you spend no time and no money on it, but you and your neighborhood likely want your property to look a bit better than that.

Your yard and what you put into it depends on your vision and values. Savings come from smart design and efficient maintenance. The Florida-Friendly mantra “Right plant, right place” again rings true because if you select plants

based on the environmental conditions in your yard, these plants will need less supplemental watering or nutrients. A healthy plant is the best defense against disease or pest stresses. Learn more about selecting the right plant [here](#), then consider these other saving tips:

Little, big plants -Instead of filling a space with many small annuals that you'll have to replace each year, fill that area with a few larger

plants whose foliage and shape you'll enjoy year round. Generally, buying smaller-gallon sized plants at the nursery will be less expensive, so consider buying younger plants that will mature quickly once they're in the landscape.

Propagate with friends – Besides buying smaller potted plants at a nursery, growing plants from seeds or cuttings can be even more economical. Participating in seed swaps or getting cuttings from friends' gardens will likely give you a variety of plants for free. You just have to take the time to raise them up.

Water efficiently –On average, outdoor irrigation accounts for 60% of a homeowner's water use. A Florida-Friendly Landscape can easily reduce outdoor water use by half. Water the correct amounts and only when needed with the help of this free app: <http://smartirrigationapps.org/>

Less grass –Turf is a high maintenance plant choice. Diligent lawn care requires regular watering, mowing, and fertilizer, and possibly a suite of chemicals (herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides). You can replace some of the turf with landscape plants that are drought-tolerant, pest-resistant and fertilizer-free.

Mulch –It's a good investment because mulch cuts down on weed growth in landscape beds by 50%. Free sources of mulch are sometimes possible with tree removal companies, landfills, or fallen pine needles.

Shade strategically –Choose small trees with small leaves and locate them to shade AC units and windows. Tree shade can lower energy costs by 35%.

A yard gone wrong is where costs really add up so take the time to know your conditions and plan accordingly to make the most of your wallet.

The Newest EDIS Articles

Frequently Asked Questions About Citrus Greening for Homeowners

Citrus Greening is still a prevailing bacterial disease that makes citrus trees difficult to grow with prolonged health.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp326>

Starting a Community Garden

This four-page fact sheet outlines the importance of community gardens and how to develop and manage a community garden.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep124>

Insect Pest Management on Turf Grass

Most of us have to deal with this collection of turf pests on our lawns. Get the details with this publication.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig001>

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

Beekeeping Busy with Phil



A hobby that dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians is having a modern revival. Many of today's homeowners are taking up backyard beekeeping. What inspires someone to dress in white linen with a hat and veil to handle stinging insects? Perhaps it's an insuppressible fascination with the highly complex world of bees: their aerodynamics, architecture, social hierarchies and mysterious communication. Another compelling reason is that bees need our help given the myriad of threats they face: fewer nectar sources, parasitoids, and pesticides to name a few. Then we can't forget the honey! Backyard beekeeping can be an engrossing and rewarding hobby. Phil Robertson, a local backyard beekeeper, caught the beekeeping bug ten years ago and has since tried to share his knowledge with residents and youth. Every beekeeper (large and small) must register their hives with the Florida Department of Agriculture ([link](#)). The University of Florida also offers a thorough training on beekeeping with their [Bee College](#). Phil is working on his Master Beekeeper designation. He is presently an Advanced Beekeeper, just one step away from the University of Florida's Master Beekeeper title.

What got you interested in beekeeping?

About ten years ago, I noticed my citrus trees in my backyard were not producing as much fruit as they had in the past. After doing some research, I came to the conclusion that feral honey bees were in decline, and my citrus trees were not receiving as much attention from the honey bees as was needed. I went to a honey bee workshop, bought some bees and my citrus started producing more fruit. AND I discovered raw, local honey. My bees produced honey that made store bought honey seem bland.



Why do you believe in Florida-Friendly

We need to look for ways to landscape that is not so damaging to our resources. Using native plants, and non-invasive exotics that fit well in Florida's climate are ways to encourage this. Being responsible and looking for sustainable ways to use our property seems to be the responsible thing to do.

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

In terms of fertilizer and pesticide use, read the labels and follow the instructions. Look for solutions that are very specific to the problem and are as non-toxic to other plants and animals as is possible. Look for alternative methods of pest control that avoid the chemical solutions. Honey bees and other pollinators are vital to our gardens, and everything that we do in our landscapes should recognize and encourage their survival.

Ready to learn more? Attend Phil's next class!

Introduction to Beekeeping

Tuesday, July 12th , 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 at the Door

Extension Auditorium, 250 West County Home Rd., Sanford



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!

July

Flowering: Firebush, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Southern Magnolia

Wildlife: Nesting shorebirds. Young alligators hatch. Small mammal babies leave den with parents.

To Do: Check trees for hurricane resistance. Last change to prune azaleas. Look for lace bug damage (small white dots) on ornamental plants.



August

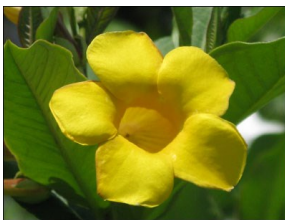


Flowering: Jatropha, Thyralis, Plumbago, Swamp Mallow

Wildlife: First flocks of blue-winged and green-winged teals arrive to winter. Sea turtle hatchlings!

To Do: Check for nutrient deficiencies in plants, especially palms. Remove spent blooms, cut back and fertilize flowering annuals and perennials to extend bloom season into the fall.

September



Flowering: Bush Allamanda, Turk's Cap Mallow, Button Bush, Yellow Elder, Firebush, Plumbago

Wildlife: Manatees start to concentrate in warmer waters. Get feeders ready for

returning birds.

To Do: Continue to monitor lawns for signs of insect damage. Prepare fall vegetable garden.

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

Compost and Mulching

Wednesday, July 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Extension Auditorium, 250 County Home Rd, Sanford.

Learn how to take yard and kitchen scraps and turn them into rich additions to your landscape in this compost and mulching class. FREE. Register at: <http://seminole-compost-mulching-class.eventbrite.com>

Let's Build a Rain Barrel

Friday, July 29 at 2:00–4:00 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm

Extension Auditorium, 250 County Home Rd, Sanford

Rain barrels are great ways to capture a portion of a rain storm and save it for another day. In this workshop, we will construct a rain barrel for you to take home. Cost: \$20.00

Register: <http://rain-barrel-day.eventbrite.com>

<http://rain-barrel-evening.eventbrite.com>

The Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Saturday, Aug 20, 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Extension Auditorium, 250 County Home Rd, Sanford

Learn the full spectrum for developing a Florida-Friendly yard. Plants, water, fertilizers, wildlife, and pests –we'll cover it all in this two hour class! FREE.

Register: <http://ffl-nine-principles.eventbrite.com>

Our Lakes

Wednesday, Aug 31, 6:30 –7:30 pm

Extension Auditorium, 250 County Home Rd, Sanford

We all have an impact on our lakes and ponds in Seminole County. Learn how lakes work and what each of us can do to improve them. FREE. Register: <http://our-lakes.eventbrite.com>

Backyard Habitats

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30—7:30 pm

Extension Auditorium, 250 County Home Rd, Sanford

What potential does your yard have to attract Florida wildlife? This class will teach you about plants and landscape features that should attract birds, butterflies, and a host of other critters!

Register: <http://backyard-habitats.eventbrite.com>

Eco-Paddle on the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River

Saturday, September 24, 9:00-11:30

Wekiva Island, 1014 Miami Springs Dr., Longwood

Learn how to benefit our waterways and see the river firsthand on a canoe tour. FREE. Must pre-register.

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



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Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS



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SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE

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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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