

Spring 2016

SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

GreenThumb
Seminole County
Quarterly Horticulture
Newsletter

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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."
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Dec. 28, 2015. SANFORD, FLA. – Emergency management officials in Seminole County and throughout Central Florida are closely watching the tornado and severe weather events in Texas and throughout the Midwest. Many are concerned this may be a sign of things to come. The historic El Nino weather pattern has caused officials to think the scenes currently showing on television may be in the State of Florida before the end of the spring. History has shown serious tornadoes are common during El Nino.

Emergency managers developed the "The Great Tornado Drill" public outreach activity to encourage individuals to plan and practice their tornado response plan. "The Great Tornado Drill" will take place on Wednesday, January 6th at 10:00am. This drill was primarily for testing the Weather Alert System and the special devices for that purpose.

Now/Today is the day to identify a "safe room" at work and home. This room should be an interior room on the first floor of a home with limited doors and windows. If in a high-rise or business, go to an interior room or hallway on a lower floor and do not use the

elevator. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

Early Spring Activities



Build Birdbaths and feeders

Surface water sources such as puddles, raindrops on leaves, and dew on grass provide much of the water used by wildlife. Animals also get water from the foods they eat. But clean, fresh water that's accessible to

wildlife can often be hard to find, especially during a drought. Birdbaths and small ponds are excellent ways to provide water for animals. And they can beautify the landscape, as well.

Birdbaths are the most popular way to provide water for small wildlife, and the most important. They can be homemade or commercial models.

Place birdbaths so that predators can't sneak up on unsuspecting users. Keeping brush cover nearby offers protection and perches where birds can preen. Just be sure not to have low shrubbery too close: cats will use it for ambushes. In general, the lower the birdbath, the more open space there should be around it. Placing it near a garden hose will make it easy to keep filled.

Water in a birdbath should be no deeper than two to three inches in the middle, and the sides of the bath should slope



gently so birds can easily climb in and out.

Birdbaths are available in materials as varied as concrete, terracotta, and plastic. Concrete models are expensive and cumbersome, but provide excellent footing for birds and will not budge in severe weather.

Keep the water in birdbaths clean and consistently available. Dirty birdbaths can spread lethal diseases among birds. But do not use bleach or other chemicals to clean your birdbath; just scrub it with a textured sponge every few days.

Select a shallow basin that has a rough surface and gently sloping sides, so birds will have sure footing; Birds prefer baths with textured bottoms for firm footing. You can cover smooth bottoms with pebbles or sand or flat marbles.

You can choose either a ground level or a pedestal-style basin. Ground level basins mimic natural water sources but can leave birds at risk.

Placed in a partly shady or dappled spot, your birdbath provides our feathered friends with a place to rest, drink, and bathe. The best spot is near a tree, so that birds can make a quick getaway.

You can take it up a notch by adding a small fountain or other water moving system – it is music to their ears.

Photo Credits: Pinterest



Cover underside of an Elephant Ear leaf with concrete.

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Soil Testing

Why Soil Testing Is Important

Good plant growth often requires the application of lime and fertilizer. Soil testing enables you to find out the makeup of your soil and helps you determine how much lime and fertilizer you need to apply.

Nearly 150 years ago, scientists developed chemical tests to assess the concentrations of plant-available nutrients in a soil sample and then to use that assessment to make recommendations for supplemental fertilizer.

When originally developed, the goal of soil testing was to enhance a farmer's crop yields by identifying productive soils. **Today, crop productivity is still a goal, but another goal is to avoid excessive fertilizer applications and, thereby, protect the environment.**

What to Know About Your Soil

To find out what you need to do to improve your soil's quality; you should know each of the following attributes of the soil:

- Current pH levels of your soil
- Fertility levels of the principal nutrients
- Type and quantity of lime your soil needs
- Nutrients needed through fertilizer
- Amount of fertilizer your soil needs



If you do not have this information, a soil test may help.

Limitations of Soil Testing

Soil testing can let you know where your soil needs treatment or improvement. However, a soil test **cannot do any of the following:**

- Tell you what to plant
- Prevent poor crops caused by drought, disease, insects, too much water, or other problems
- Substitute for proper cultural practices
- Replace good management

How to Take a Soil Sample

For turfgrass, collect soil samples for predicting fertilizer needs from the top six inches of soil because the top six inches is the part of the soil typically tilled and contains a



large portion of the nutrient-absorbing roots.

Be sure to send/take samples to the lab well before it's time to amend so that you can use the results to determine what kinds of fertilizer to buy. Lime may need up to six months to produce the full effect in raising the soil pH.

Do not sample areas that are too small for fertilizing or liming separately. Do not sample unusual areas, wet spots, feeding areas, burn piles, old fencerows, sand boils, and other problem areas.

There are several choices for soil testing.

- **Do it yourself kits or strips:** will give you a good idea of the soil's pH.
- You can also purchase an electronic testing stick that many consider quite useful.
- **County Extension Service:** The Seminole County Master Gardener Desk will test for pH with highly sophisticated testing equipment for an accurate pH reading. Cost: \$2.00
- **The University of Florida** offers a complete soil test that includes the kit, instructions and mailing bags for a fee of \$7.00. Kits are available at the Seminole County Extension Service.

Sources: Turfgrass: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss317>

Soil Testing:

http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/soil_testing.shtml

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Equipment Prep

... And you thought you could sit this out – nope! The payoff will make your life easier and save cash spent on treating landscape diseases.

Clean your mower after each trip around the yard.

This year, start a new habit. Clean your equipment after each mowing. It will save you the cost of treating lawn diseases – or having someone else treat your lawn later.



Edwin Budding from Gloucestershire, England, invented the wrought iron lawn mower in 1827.

Another reason? If a section of your turf is manifesting a disease, using the mower on another section of grass will spread the problem. Does your lawn service arrive at your property with clean mowers? You might want to ask them. You don't want someone else's problems.

A well-maintained lawnmower uses less gas, has cleaner exhaust, and will last longer. Lawnmower maintenance is very similar to car maintenance, so if you own a car, chances are most of these tasks are familiar to you. This also applies to your edger and tiller.

Dull mower blades tear leaf blades, stressing the grass and making it more vulnerable to pests and disease.

Get Your Tools Ready

The first of the year is a great time to clean up and fix up, before plants really get growing. Start by taking stock of your equipment. Toss the pieces and parts that you will never fix or are beyond repair. Next, check each type of tool and perform maintenance the proper maintenance.

Use a wire brush on all your hand tools then wipe them down with WD-40 and a rag. If there's rust on any of your metal tools, soak them in white vinegar for several hours to help release the rust. If the wooden handles have splintered, give the handle a light sanding with sandpaper, then rub the wood with linseed oil.



TIP: Store your hand tools in a gallon bucket of clean sand to keep your tool clean all year round.

Pruners and Shears

Spray WD-40 at the joints of pruners and shears and check the blades. If the blades are sticky, use alcohol to clean them. Sharpen the blades with a whetstone or file. **TIP:** To ensure that you don't miss any part of the blade, use a dark marker to color the blade, and sharpen until all the color is gone.

Flower Pots and Seed Trays

Before you start new seeds and container gardens this spring, it's a good idea to clean your pots and seed trays. Cleaning the containers will get rid of potential diseases or mold hanging around from last season. Use a mild solution of bleach and water, then a wire brush. When you are finished scrubbing or soaking, rinse the pots well to remove the bleach.

More Information:

Mowing your Florida Lawn

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/lawns/lawn-care/mowing-your-florida-lawn.html>

Mower Care and Safety

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/tools-and-equipment/lawn-mower-care-and-safety.html>

Photos:

<http://www.oldgardentools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/catablog/originals/Lawnmower%20History%20%20A.jpg>

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Perennial Peanut

Arachis glabrata

Some of you may have noticed the very green, yellow flowered ground cover around the flagpole and filling the entire planting bed at the Extension office. It is Perennial Peanut: "Alfalfa Queen of the South."

Originally, commercial farmers used it for hay and grazing. Livestock (horses, beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, gestating sows, deer, rabbits, poultry, turkeys, and ostriches) readily eat it. So don't be surprised when an errant wild turkey finds its way into the patch at the Extension Office.

Perennial peanut has recently shown promise as an ornamental groundcover due to its high resistance to drought, nematodes, and pathogens and its minimal fertilizer needs. This translates into savings in water, energy, dollars, and reduced impacts to the environment.

It is not only beneficial to the environment since it requires no supplemental nitrogen or phosphorus fertilization or pest control, but it also is aesthetically pleasing, can be walked on, **and has edible, peanut flavored flowers.**

Due to rapid urbanization, water has become a precious commodity in Florida. Water management districts are encouraging the implementation of year-round water restrictions and the use of drought tolerant plants, of which perennial peanut is a good candidate. Perennial peanut has potential landscape uses as a groundcover in home landscapes, road medians, driveways and parking lot islands, golf courses, along berms, septic tank mounds, and canal banks. Perennial peanut is also useful as a buffer to waterways prone to stormwater runoff.

Perennial peanut grows from 1/2 to 1 1/2 feet tall, with sod-forming growth and extensive root/rhizome mass. It has four leaflets per leaf and bright yellow to orange flowers.

Plant Perennial peanut to a depth of 1–2 inches. A common mistake is planting too deep.



Planting Time

Traditionally, Perennial Peanut was planted from January - April when it is not actively growing. Unfortunately, this is the time of year when there is limited rainfall throughout Florida.

Perennial peanut can be successfully established anytime if irrigation is available, or during the summer rainy season (June - August) in Florida.

Normal spring rains are important for proper root and top development. When soil moisture is low, a percentage of shoots will die due to lack of supporting roots.

Water, fertilizer, and weed control are all important inputs that can maximize plant density *during the first growing season*. Irrigation during this initial development period provides insurance against plant loss or complete planting failure.

Once a root system has developed, irrigation is not required. However, to maintain a strong vegetative cover, irrigation will be required during periods of low or no rain.

Mowing is not required, but does enhance the appearance. Mowing stimulates new vegetative shoots, making a thick canopy and encouraging flowering. Mowing at 3 to 4 inches every 3 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. Mow whenever weeds are shading the perennial peanut. Mow weeds at a level just above the foliage of the perennial peanut.

Weed control is the major management problem during establishment. Eliminating competitive weeds ensures greater survival during the dry months before the summer. Keeping the perennial peanut canopy clear for maximum sunlight penetration is critical to proper development and speeds establishment. Mowing is the least expensive weed control method.

References: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep135>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag329> (commercial)

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What to Plant Calendar

January, February and March

Note: when visiting a nursery, do not be tempted by those beautiful plants grown in a controlled environment and are not yet in season. Let the nursery care for them until the real world is ready to welcome them into your landscape. This brief list below gives you a realistic beginning for your spring garden. For a complete listing and advice on preparation visit: Central Florida Gardening Calendar: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep450>

January

Bedding plants: Plants for your garden during the coolest months include dianthus, pansy, petunia, viola, and snapdragon.



Bulbs: Crinum, agapanthus, and gloriosa lily bulbs. Provide a layer of mulch to protect from cold temperatures.

Camellias: Select and plant camellias this month. Visit local nurseries now for the best selection of colors and forms.

February

Bedding plants: Plants that perform better in the cooler months include petunia, pansy, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. Protect from frosts and freezing temperatures.

Bulbs: Some to try include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. Provide adequate water for establishment and protect from cold weather with mulch.

Azaleas: With azaleas in full bloom this month, now is a great time to select varieties to add to the landscape.

Vegetables: Begin planting warm-season crops this month. Bean, pepper, cucumber, tomato, and squash can be started while temperatures are cool.

March

Annuals: Replace declining winter annuals with varieties such as Angelonia (summer snapdragon), Gazania, and Salvia that will provide color now and into the summer months.

Bulbs: Plant Caladium for a showy tropical display all summer.

Herbs: In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden.

Vegetables: Plant warm-season crops, such as cucumber, eggplant, and summer squash.



Salvia



Caladium

For complete information on vegetables, turf and flowering planting times and care, go to the Central Florida (yearly) Planting Calendar:

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

THE GOOD AND THE SAD



After a decade of battling the highly destructive citrus greening bacterium, researchers with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences have developed genetically modified citrus trees that show enhanced resistance to greening, and have the potential to resist canker and black spot, as well. **The Sad part:** *However, the commercial availability of those trees is still several years away.*

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Establishing Shrubs

Are you considering planting shrubs this spring?
Maybe you should wait a while.

The Situation



Most shrubs purchased from a nursery grow in a container. Instead of the roots spreading out naturally, roots of container-grown plants grow around and down the sides of the container. This confinement results in a dense root system that dries quickly after planting.

Nurseries apply irrigation daily to keep the container-grown plants healthy.

To maintain this same health status once planted in a landscape, shrubs require daily irrigation applied directly to the root ball until their roots grow into the surrounding soil.

In prolonged the dry weather in the spring and fall—March, April, May, October November and maybe December, planting shrubs can be a challenge. You must give each shrub at least a gallon of water every day.

The Solution

Plant during the rainy seasons: June, July August and September – maybe October or be prepared to hand water for up to six months. No, you cannot just turn on your irrigation system every day. You will kill by drowning many of your other plantings.

Before planting, remove the plant from the pot and gently loosen the roots from the circular growing habit. Don't force the larger roots as they might snap off. Irrigate daily. Note: irrigating newly planted shrubs for only one or two months could result in stressed plants and plant death unless regular rainfall follows.

Use a hose or low-volume irrigation device such as drippers, bubblers or spray-stakes that efficiently apply water to the soil and establishing plants. Overhead irrigation wastes water and money since most of the water

is applied to the soil between the root balls where aren't many roots in the first couple of months.

The reference at the end of this article provides useful watering tables.

Drought-sensitive shrubs—such as holly fern and wild coffee—may need more frequent supplemental irrigation, whereas, drought-tolerant shrubs, such as Burford holly, may need very little. Although not a shrub, a Little Gem Magnolia tree can take up to one year to start new growth.

Always read the information attached to the plant *while still at the nursery* so that you can make an informed decisions.

Once the shrub shows new growth, you are on your way. Continue with your regular watering schedule as outlined from the Seminole County Water Department but keep an eye on the new plantings. Hand water when it shows signs of wilting but before the leaves get crispy.



A properly planted and tended shrub will live for a very long time. Care at the time of planting is worth the effort.

University of Florida, Publication #ENH1130

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep391>

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Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program

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

What's your Water-saving Personality?

We're all different. We have different yards, different gardening styles, different ways we like to spend our time, and, luckily, there are different things we can do to be water-conscious.

It's every homeowner's responsibility to water their lawn that "just right" amount. *Remember: over watering doesn't benefit your plants; instead, that water is lost to the soil.* Depending on how you water now, you can cut irrigation by 75% and still have a suitable green lawn. So, since we are all different, what's the best way for you to save water?

If you don't particularly like your turf and are willing to try a different groundcover ...

- Consider landscape beds or a different groundcover (Asiatic jasmine, perennial peanut, sunshine mimosa, etc.) instead of turf grass. Turf requires regular irrigation –twice a week in the summer, once a week in the winter. Landscape plants and other groundcovers typically thrive on rainwater only and do not need supplemental irrigation.
- You can install micro-irrigation which is far more efficient than sprinkler system to establish your new bed and turn it on only when your plants are suffering through prolonged drought stress.

If you don't make turf your priority and you don't want to spend time or money on it ...

- Turn off your irrigation system. No, that doesn't mean your grass will immediately die. It means that our weather usually can take care of our grass. During the rainy season, our grass gets plenty of water. Our dry season is during the cooler months when turf needs less water any way. Don't let the irrigation system run

except when you see signs of drought stress (leaf blades folding together, grass not perking back up after you walk across it). Keeping it off and only turning it on as needed is saving you tens of thousands of gallons.

If your turf is important to you and you want to set it up right ...

- Calibrate your system, set the irrigation timer appropriately, and make sure the rain sensor is working. *You want to ensure your system delivers ¾ inch of water twice a week in the summer and ½ inch once a week in the winter.*
- Calibrating your system will tell you how long to run the system to apply that amount. Set out 6 -10 tuna cans per zone. Run that zone for 15 minutes then use a ruler to measure the amount of water collected on average, then calculate the how much more time is needed to collect ¾ inches or ½ inches. For extra help, check out "Water Efficiently" at www.fyn.ifas.ufl.edu
- Check your rain sensor regularly so your system won't run when it's raining!

If you like apps and are comfortable making adjustments to your irrigation timer ...

- SmartIrrigation Turf is a free app created by UF that will calculate then notify you how long to run your irrigation system during the different seasons. It will also notify you if rainfall is very likely and you should turn the system off. Check it out: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae499>

If you want a healthy and water efficient yard but you don't want to think about it every day...

Get a smart device that will do the thinking for you. You can choose a Soil Moisture Sensor or Evapotranspiration Controller. Either of these will make sure your system turns on ONLY when it needs supplemental watering. In the rainy season, this saves you 70% on irrigation. They cost around \$150 to purchase and install, but will save water, utility costs and time.

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Colors Create the Mood

Nichelle Demorest
UF Extension Agent



I pledged I would never walk into a wonderfully stocked garden center in the spring again, at least not without a plan in hand. What a gardener's delight, that expanse of riotous color, form and texture! As a gardener yourself, you know how the unprepared gardener can be pulled in by the excitement of the visual senses, otherwise known as spring fever. Well, I suffered from spring fever in the garden center [yesterday] and ended up with a conglomeration of plants and nowhere to put them yet. Not only is the garden plan non-existent, the soil that will be home to the plants' tiny little roots has not even been prepared!

Before you step into your favorite garden store this spring, make your plans for that new dreamy flowerbed. To lesson your work and increase your enjoyment, make sure that you buy plants that are well suited to the site of their new garden home. Check out how much sun the new flower bed gets, if the soil is more often dry or moist, or if there will be reflected light and heat from nearby pavement or walls. When you actually make your plant choices for the area, make sure they all have the same cultural requirements – Right plant, Right place.

Mix different plant shapes, leaf textures and sizes to help make your garden appealing. Your eye will follow around the garden, stopping to enjoy all the surprises and differences that you have planned. Use odd numbers in groupings and place taller groups to the back of the viewing area and shorter ones to the front. The different groups should flow naturally in and around each other instead of growing in straight and boring rows.

Decide what your garden can do for you, not what you can do for your garden. Would you like to view it in the evening twilight because of your work schedule? Try using white flowering plants and plants with variegated green and white foliage. The flowers seem to glow in the



darkening shadows of dusk, offering a calming and tranquil setting for relaxation at the end of a busy day.

If you like fun and energizing sunny gardens, try shades of yellows, oranges and reds. You

can plan a garden with different shades of just one color, or mix with three or four colors in a pleasing color scheme. Yellow and orange flowering plants show up well from a distance, too. They have a way of pulling the background forward, making distant things look closer to the viewer. Yellows and oranges can also perk up a shady spot, along with touches of white.

Shades of purple, blues and pinks are 'cool' colors and can make a hot day seem a little more comfortable. We tend to unwind and relax in a cool color garden. These colors, however, seem to fade into the scenery if used in the distance or in the shade. They need some interplay of light to reflect soothing color to your eyes. Green fits into this color palette, also, so this 'cool' color garden would be an ideal home for some of your favorite foliage plants.

I love to see a surprise in any color schemed garden. An orange blossom appearing in the midst of a blue garden is a pleasant unexpected contrast, even adding a little comic relief to a quiet, somber garden. Blossom hues that vie with each other for our attention are also attractive in an energetic garden. Use shades of purples with oranges, blues with yellows, or reds with yellows to make a lively garden. The use of colors can shape the mood of your garden spaces.

This is a reprint of a 2009 article by Nichelle Demorest, Environmental Horticulture Agent III, Columbia County UF Extension and printed in the Lake City Reporter.
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Graphics Credit:
Gail Hansen UF Extension

More info:
Monochromatic Gardens:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep425>

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SAVE THE DATE!



6th Annual

Seminole County Gardening Expo

Saturday, March 5, 2016

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

250 West County Home Road, Sanford



Featuring:

- Organic Vegetable Garden Demo
- How to Clinics
- Plants & Garden Products
- Ask the Experts
- Prize Drawings
- Food & Drinks
- Kids Gardening Area
- Presentations
- And Much, Much More

For More Information & Schedule of Events,
Please Call (407) 665-5550.



PRESENTED BY:



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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

March 5, 2016! Come one – come all. This yearly event features local expert speakers, plants and supplies, vendors, the country music group, Leftover Biscuits and gardening advice. Lots of fun! Check out the newly renovated, child friendly, Butterfly Garden and the tasty Vegetable Garden.



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 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, Butterfly garden and the vegetable garden at the Seminole County Extension.
- ❖ **Butterfly Garden** at the Seminole County Extension complex: This garden includes a small pond 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

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

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 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.com>

To view the complete 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 --- November 1, 2015 thru March 13, 2016

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 SATURDAY

Residential customers with EVEN street addresses water on SUNDAY

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

NO WATERING BETWEEN 10 am. TO 4 pm. ANY DAY

These restrictions are mandatory in Seminole County and include those on private wells or lakes, etc.

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.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Classes, Community Events and CEU courses

<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/extension-services/>

Community Classes			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
<p><i>By Appointment:</i> A good presentation that can be offered by the Homeowner's Assoc.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">FREE WATER CLINIC Learn to lower your water bill http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3353/urlt/WaterClinic.pdf</p>	<p>Call 407-665-5575 or email to schedule your free water clinic: Fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov</p>
January 6	10:00 am	The Great Tornado Drill public outreach activity to encourage individuals to plan and practice their tornado response plan.	407-665-5550
Community Events			
March 5, 2016	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	SEMINOLE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EXPO!	407-665-5550
COMMERCIAL			
<p>The Seminole County Commercial Horticulture Agriculture program provides education and training based on the latest research from the University of Florida.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CEU classes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/extension-services/commercial-resources/</p>			
<p>New Option for Earning CEU's</p>			
<p>Do you need to renew your license? Search for upcoming classes or earn some quick, last-minute CEU's. You can search for training classes, including correspondence and online at the State Pesticide site. Some of the web sites do require a fee, and some require taking a quiz, all are approved by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://ceupublicsearch.freshfromflorida.com/</p>			

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