



# THE SEMINOLE



**Residential Horticulture  
Seminole County Extension  
407-665-5550**

## What grows best?

Many factors influence which plants will thrive in a given location. Heat, cold, and elevation are just a few that can have a big impact. If you're trying to figure out which plants to use in your garden, which plant zone your home is located in is important and is based on various factors. Selecting the right plant for the right place is important.

Most gardeners are familiar with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Hardiness Zone Map. But cold isn't the only factor determining whether our plants will survive and thrive. Particularly during seasons of drought, we are all aware of the impact that heat has on our plants. The effects of heat damage are more subtle than those of extreme cold, which will kill a plant instantly.

Heat damage can first appear in many different parts of the plant: Flower buds may wither, leaves may droop or become more attractive to insects, chlorophyll may disappear so that leaves appear white or brown, or roots may cease growing. Plant death from heat is slow and lingering. The plant may survive in a stunted or chlorotic state for several years. When desiccation reaches a high enough level, the enzymes that control growth are deactivated and the plant dies.

The 12 zones of the map indicate the average number of days each year that a given region experiences "heat days"-temperatures over 86 degrees (30 degrees Celsius). That is the point at which plants begin suffering physiological damage from heat. The zones range from Zone 1 (less than one heat day) to Zone 12 (more than 210 heat days). Seminole County is in zone 10 (150-180 days above 86 degrees Celcius)

Although some plants are naturally more drought tolerant than others, horticulture by definition means growing plants in a protected, artificial environment where stresses are different than in nature. No plant can survive becoming completely dried out. Heat damage is always linked to an insufficient amount of water being available to the plant. Herbaceous plants are 80 to 90 percent water, and woody plants are about 50 percent water. Plant tissues must contain enough water to keep their cells filled with water and to sustain the plant's processes of chemical and energy transport.

Watering directly at the roots of a plant-through drip irrigation for instance-conserves water that would be lost to evaporation or runoff during overhead watering. In addition, plants take in water more efficiently when it is applied to their roots rather than their leaves.

## SPRING 2014

Inside this issue:

Garden News	<b>1 &amp; 2</b>
FYN	<b>3</b>
"Ask A Master Gardener"	<b>4</b>
Teaching Garden News	<b>5</b>
Pest Alert: Red Ambrosia Beetle	<b>5</b>
Events Updates & Services	<b>6</b>

Gabrielle Milch  
Residential Horticulturist  
Seminole County Extension  
407-665-5558  
[gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov)

## HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



**Soil Testing** Tests performed Mon. & Fri.  
Fee \$2.00 per sample  
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm

**Plant Clinic** Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - noon  
1:00pm- 4:00pm  
Bring in a sample

**"Ask A Master Gardener"** Call 407-665-5550  
**Phone Service** Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - noon  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events  
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
IFAS ~ EXTENSION**  
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. 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.

# SPRING TIME VEGETABLE PLANTING

Vegetable gardeners in Florida are lucky to have lots of sunshine and mild winters amenable to growing a multitude of food crops most months of the year. That said, Florida home growers face several challenges that northern gardeners do not. Preparation is key in the success of a Florida vegetable garden. Unlike in many of the northern climates, a willing gardener cannot simply put a seed in the ground and expect it to grow. Taking a few steps before putting in the garden can help ensure a successful outcome. Select a site with at least 6 hours of sun every day. The site should also be convenient for you and located near irrigation. Many plants can be included with ornamental plants. Crop families should be rotated from season to season to minimize pest problems. Be sure to choose seed varieties that are well adapted to Florida's climate and the typical pests and diseases found there. The seeds and transplants found in retail stores may not be appropriate for Florida as they are often ordered in bulk for the whole country. It is a good idea to research varieties before making a decision, and ordering seeds that have the highest likelihood of yielding a good crop in Florida. Make sure to plant warm season crops and cool season crops at the appropriate times or results will be sure to disappoint.

Florida soils in many locations are mostly sand and not very fertile. Most garden beds will need to be amended with compost, manure or commercial mixes to improve water and nutrient holding. Organic or synthetic fertilizers will also need to be mixed into the soil to improve fertility. To determine what kind of soil amendments are needed, have a soil pH test performed. This can be done at the Seminole County Extension Office for a small fee. Add amendments as determined by the pH test, and add fertilizers 4-6 weeks before planting. Till these into the top 6-8 inches of soil. Compost home yard and kitchen waste to use in the garden each season, or obtain free compost from the local landfill, if available.

Irrigation requirements can be reduced by utilizing mulch or organic matter in garden beds, or by placing micro irrigation systems within the garden (for example, drip hoses). Rainwater runoff can also be collected in a rain barrel, but take care not to use roof runoff in a vegetable garden due to potential contaminants (i.e. rodent and bird refuse on the roof can be washed into the rain barrel). Plant early to get crops out of the ground before the torrential rains of summer can drown them (June/July). Overwatering is a common cause of container garden failure, often leading to fungal diseases that can cripple or kill the plant. To avoid this, use the "second knuckle" test when deciding whether or not to water. When a finger is placed into the soil up to the second knuckle, moist soil means that no additional water is needed while a dry medium means it's time to water. Water the plant until the excess runs out of the holes at the bottom of the container. All containers used should have drainage holes.

It is not recommended to use regular insect spraying in the Florida home garden. Instead, integrated pest management (IPM) should be practiced. This philosophy involves adopting cultural practices that minimize pest infestations and using chemical pesticides only as needed and in the smallest amounts necessary to address the problem. Using IPM in a Florida home garden can go a long way to reducing pests and diseases in vegetable and fruit plants. When insect control is necessary, less toxic insecticidal soaps or horticultural oils may be effective and eliminate the need for chemical insecticides. Solarization is an effective way to eliminate nematode problems, as no chemical controls are available for the home gardener. With a little planning, information, and perseverance, the Florida home vegetable gardener can produce a variety of nutritious foods practically year round. Detailed information on vegetable gardening in Florida is available through the University of Florida IFAS Extension.

## PLANT NOW

Calabaza, Cantaloupe, Cassava, Chayote, Cherry tomato, Cucumber, Dasheen, Eggplant, Malanga, Okra, Pepper, Roselle, Snap bean, Squash, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Yam.

Anise, Basil, Chives, Dill, Borage, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet marjoram and Thyme.



## FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

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

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. <b>Water Efficiently</b> | 7. Recycle                       |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately  | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff      |
| 4. Mulch                    | 9. Protect the Waterfront        |
| 5. Attract Wildlife         |                                  |

### The Scoop on Rain Barrels

In March, the City of Altamonte Springs hosted a Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) workshop on rain barrels. In June, the FFL and Urban Horticulture program will deliver three rain harvesting-related programs: one lecture about rain harvesting opportunities and two more rain barrel construction workshops. Construction involves sawing out the lid of the barrel to allow rain flow catchment, protecting the catchment area from insects and debris with a screen, and drilling in a hole for an overflow outlet and a hole for a spigot. Materials include the plastic rain barrel, the screen, the securing bungee, overflow nipple, overflow cap, tape, and spigot. At this point in time, the Coca-Cola Company is donating the plastic rain barrel, thereby significantly reducing the materials fee for the workshop. Equipment includes a reciprocating saw and a power drill with 15/16 bit. During the workshop, use of the power drill is usually the limiting factor. The greatest effort in construction is screwing in the overflow outlet and spigot. With these challenges, patience and perseverance is required of the workshop attendees as well as the encouragement and expertise of any workshop helpers. The end result being, of course, a great deal on a functional rain barrel that could save thousands of gallons of rainwater for reuse -watering plants, removing strain from our waterbodies, and saving water costs. Should you like to attend or help at our next rain barrel workshop, contact Taryn Sudol at (407-665-5575) or email ([fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)).

### Who uses rain barrels?

Rain barrels have diverse benefits. The collected rain water revives plants and reduces strain on the surrounding water bodies. Homeowners rely less on irrigation systems, which saves them money and keeps groundwater in the aquifer. All good things! Yet most homeowners do not have a rain barrel. Why not? If given the opportunity, who's most interested in getting one? In March the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program conducted a rain barrel workshop in Altamonte Springs. Whether it was the topic, time, location, or lower price of the rain barrel, the workshop reached its capacity (n=25) in just a few days and collected a long waiting list. As part of the workshop, participants completed a survey that asked about their habits and intentions. The survey indicated that most rain barrel participants rank water highly among public issues. Most said they conserve water both because it saves them money and helps the environment, while the biggest barrier to conserving more water was that it required more equipment. While some people already harvested rainfall more reported they did not yet. Most people had an irrigation system -about half had it set to manual, while the other half had it automated. Interestingly, those that ran it manually ran it about as much as those who automated their irrigation (once or twice a week). Participants indicated that they intended to change their systems to manual and to calibrate their systems. Those people interested in rain barrels may be interested in other ways to conserve water.

Here is just a few samplings of where to buy Local Food. Many more Central Fl. Farmers appreciate your business and deserve your support.

**South Seminole Farm & Nursery**

Jim Hunter  
2010 E. Lake Dr.  
Casselberry 32707  
407-695-3247  
sseminolefarmandnursery.com

**A Natural Farm & Edu. Center**

23630 SR19  
Howey In The Hills 34737  
352-536-3112  
anaturalfarm.com

**Richard Kann & Family**

21310 Fort Christmas Rd.  
Christmas 32709  
407-512-2004  
hocfarms.com

**Lake Meadow Naturals**

Dale Volkert  
10000 Mark Adam Rd.  
Ocoee 34761  
321-206-6262  
lakemeadownaturals.com

**Local Roots Farm Store**

Emily Rankin  
3201 Corrine Dr.  
Orlando 32803  
localrootsdistribution.com

By supporting your local food system, you are eating the most flavorful ingredients with the highest nutrient while reducing pollution and supporting the local economy.

Seminole County Water Conservation Ordinance #2009-24 states residential homeowners may only irrigate

**one day per week**

- If your house is odd # only on Saturday
- If your house is even # only on Sunday
- Commercial irrigation only on Tuesday
- **No watering** between 10:00am-4:00pm
- Limited to no more than 3/4in. per zone
- Limited to one hour per zone

## “Ask A Master Gardener”

**Q.** Now that spring & early summer have arrived, I notice lots of weeds in my lawn. What is the best way to get rid of them?

First - the best method is the use of management practices that encourage a dense and thriving turf..These include selection of the best turf for your yard (St. Augustine, Bahia, Zoysia, etc.), proper fertilization, watering and mowing. Pests also make turf more susceptible to weeds by creating bare spots and stressing the turf, so they may need to be controlled. It also helps to prevent the introduction of weeds as much as possible by managing weeds in adjacent areas and washing mowers and trimmers after using them to trim weeds.

Existing weeds can be controlled in several ways: if you have only a few it is simpler and takes less time and cost to hand pull or dig them up being sure to get all the root system. Herbicides can be effective if the product label instructions are followed carefully and if you have selected the appropriate product for your type of grass and the kind of weeds you are trying to eliminate (broad leaf weeds, grassy weeds or sedges/rushes). There are also contact products and systemic products that behave differently. See the document referenced below for a description of these types.

Weed & Feed products should only be used when the lawn has uniform weeds throughout. If warranted, it is important to determine if the recommended application rate supplies the amount of fertilizer needed and also the amount of herbicide needed for adequate weed control. If not, it may be better to apply the fertilizer and herbicide separately according to directions. Use of these products requires caution around ornamental plants such as trees and shrubs as they can cause severe injury.

For additional information, on your search engine, go to “IFAS ENH 884”, “Weed Management Guide for Florida Lawns” and/or visit our Master Gardener Help Desk at the Seminole County Extension office. 407-665-5550

Did you want to know; Ideas for butterfly gardens, latest citrus pest, save water?

**Florida School Gardens**

[http:// gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/school gardens](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/schoolgardens)

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping**

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

**Solutions for Your Life**

<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>

**Gardening in a Minute**

<http://GardeningInAMinute.com>

**EDIS**

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







## THE TEACHING GARDENS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY

To educate the community and to encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open  
to  
the public  
during regular  
business hours.  
For more  
information,  
to request a  
speaker, or  
arrange group  
visits, contact  
the garden

The Seminole County Extension Office's Master Gardeners have several "Demonstration Gardens" in Seminole county. All the garden's are teaching gardens for the public. Please come and take advantage of the resource's offered to you!

### **The First garden is located;**

301 W. 7th St. Sanford, Fl. at the Public History Center. It has eleven different gardens that teach a particular subject but integrated in a general garden environment. The gardens are open to the public Monday-Friday from 1:30-4:00 and are self guided tours. If you have any questions you can contact the Master Gardeners at 407-665-5550. Once a month, the 1st Saturday of every month, the Master Gardeners have a volunteer, learn & hands on training for any homeowner that wants to get involved at the Public History Center. Our Master Gardeners will answer questions and show you what you can do in your own yard. We follow FYN 9 basic principles. The dates are April 5, 2014, May 3, 2014 & June 7, 2014 from 9:00am- NOON. Please come and join us for some Garden Therapy! If you have any questions please call the Master Gardeners Help Desk @ 407-665-5550.

### **The second garden is located;**

250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford, Fl. at the Seminole County Extension Center. There are 3 distinct gardens. A Vegetable garden, Waterwise garden and a Butterfly garden. The gardens are to help the homeowner learn about water conservation, resource recycling and pest management. Inside the Extension Center there are lots of publications and a help desk for any questions you might have. The Extension services also does soil samples and identifies pests.

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO  
Saturday, November 1, 2014 at Seminole County Cooperative Extension  
250 W. County Home Rd., Sanford, Fl. 32773



## **Pest Alert: *Red Ambrosia Beetle***

Laurel wilt is a fungal disease that infects trees in the laurel family (Lauraceae). The disease is spread by the non-native redbay ambrosia beetle, a small wood-boring insect. Affected plants of concern include avocado (*Persea americana*), redbay (*P. borbonia*), swamp bay (*P. palustris*), and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*). Some avocado species may be more susceptible than others. Foliage and young stems on infected trees will wilt and become discolored, mainly in the crown. Sapwood below the bark will have black to brown discoloration. Trunks will often have sawdust around beetle entrance holes. (Some of the sawdust may look like toothpicks protruding out of the trunk.) Laurel wilt was detected in the US in 2002 and in Florida in 2005. By 2009, the disease was present in many northeastern and Atlantic coast counties in Florida. In 2010 and 2011, the disease "jumped" several counties and is located in Seminole County now. This pattern of spread indicates that laurel wilt most likely spread to Miami-Dade and Bay through wood products infested with red ambrosia beetles. The disease is now in Central Florida.





## EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd  
Sanford FL 32773  
Located across from Flea World,  
17-92 & County Home Road

— — — — —  
Your Community Resource For  
Gardening And Landscaping  
Information

— — — — —  
[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/  
Coopext/](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/Coopext/)

Cooperative Extension Services  
Seminole County Office

### SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly  
Newsletter

To receive by email  
[gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov)

#### **Newsletter Contributors:**

*Stephanie Powers  
Maggie Teal  
Gabrielle Milch  
Taryn Sudol*

**Seminole County:  
USDA Hardiness  
Zone 9b  
Amer.Hort.Soc.  
Heat Zone 10**

April 11, 2014  
9:00am- 3:00pm

Farm Tours  
Self-Guided tours  
Six farms on the Tour  
\$10.00 Lunch Pre-Registration  
More info. 407-665-5554

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/seminole-county-farm-tour-2014-tickets-10400085937>  
[mlollar@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:mlollar@seminolecountyfl.gov)

April 17, 2014  
5:30pm- 8:30pm

Florida Friendly Landscaping /Arbor Day  
Winter Springs City Hall  
1126 E. State Rd. 434 Winter Springs, Fl.  
Registration required 407-665-5558  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

April 26, 2014  
12:30pm - 4:00pm

Casselberry Earth Fest  
Lake Concord/ Casselberry City Hall  
95 Triplet Dr. Casselberry, Fl.  
Free!!!  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

May 12, 2014  
6:00pm- 7:45 pm

Florida-Friendly Backyard Habitats  
Northwest Branch Library, Lake Mary  
580 Greenway Blvd. Lake Mary, Fl.  
Casselberry, Fl.  
Registration required 407-665-5558  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

May 17, 2014  
9:30am-11:30am

Florida-Friendly Lawn Care  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford, Fl.  
Extension Center  
FREE!!!! Regist. required 407-665-5558  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

June 19 ,2014  
6:30pm-8:30pm

Rainwater Harvesting  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford, Fl.  
Extension Center  
FREE!!!! Regist. required 407-665-5558  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

June 21, 2014  
9:30am - 11:30am

Rain Barrel Construction  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford, Fl.  
Extension Auditorium 407-665-5558  
Pre-Regist & Payment \$20.00 required  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

