



THE SEMINOLE GREENHOUSE



Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550

January - February - March

Take Some Time Off From Lawn Care

Many areas in central Florida have experienced some cooler weather and some areas may even have had frost. This means that warm season lawn grasses are dormant for the winter. December and January are months you can take a break from lawn care. Nitrogen fertilizer on dormant turfgrasses can lead to increased chance of winterkill and fungal diseases such as large patch. Nitrogen applications during this time also have a greater potential for movement into groundwater. Large patch disease can come and go throughout the winter if the weather is mild. Damage from large patch will slow spring green-up, and affected areas will remain unsightly until warmer spring weather conditions allow for turfgrass recovery. Fertilizer applied too early will feed the winter weeds, and fertilizer applied too heavily will result in lush growth that is more susceptible to injury from late frosts or large patch disease.

Centipede, St. Augustine, Zoysia, Bahia and Bermuda grass are called warm season grasses because they grow during the warmth of summer but go dormant during the cool of winter. When grasses slow down and go dormant, they should be allowed to rest until environmental conditions exist to stimulate their growth. During the winter, nitrogen fertilization should not be applied on home lawns unless they are overseeded with ryegrass. Wait until spring to establish any permanent, warm season turfgrass from seed. Sod can be laid during winter if absolutely necessary, but remember to keep it moist to prevent it from drying out and dying. Establishment is best left until midspring, well after spring green-up. Warm-season turfgrasses may show signs of green-up in by early to mid-March in some areas. Do not push turfgrass growth with fertilizer. Let the grass green up gradually, and do not fertilize until after two or three mowings in early spring.

Although many home lawns do not require regular mowing now, be sure to keep the leaf litter off the turfgrass. Leaves capture moisture between themselves and the turf that may create insect and disease problems. Once raked up, you can always use the leaves or needles as mulch in the shrub or flower beds. Two to three inches of mulch over the plant's roots will also help prepare your plants for cold weather.

Homeowners who overseeded their lawns in October and November should follow recommendations on ryegrass fertilization. Please refer to *Figuring Out Fertilizer for the Home Lawn* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep221>). A second fertilizer application can be made approximately 60 days later. To reduce the damaging effects of fungal diseases, be sure adjust your irrigation for dormant conditions. Please follow the Seminole County Water Ordinance.

WINTER 2015

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Gabrielle Milch
Residential Horticulturist
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5558
gmilch@seminolecountyfl.gov

November 3, 2014 — March 8, 2015

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

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS ~ EXTENSION

<http://soilutionsforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.com>

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.

WEED CONTROL

Grooming a gorgeous lawn requires persistence and patience as you work to eradicate weeds. Hand pulling early when the weeds are minimal is always a challenge. Herbicides are key weapons in the lawn weed control arsenal. Two types of herbicides are commonly used: pre-emergent and post-emergent. The names describe when the herbicide kills weeds. Pre-emergent kill weeds before sprouts emerge from the soil. Post-emergent decimate actively growing weeds that have already emerged from the soil.

Pre-Emergent: these herbicides don't stop weed germination, but rather interrupt the process before sprout pushes through the soil. A common example of a pre-emergent herbicide is a crabgrass preventer, which prevents crabgrass seeds from establishing new plants.

- ♦ With pre-emergent herbicides, it's vital to treat the entire lawn area. If you miss a spot, weeds can sprout there
- ♦ Most pre-emergents require watering in, even liquid forms applied using a hose-end sprayer. With liquid herbicides, the volume of water used to disperse the weed killer is not great enough to wash the material into the soil, where weeds seeds lie waiting to germinate. That is why it is very important to water the product in.
- ♦ Use caution when applying pre-emergent herbicides to newly seeded lawns or to areas you plan to seed. Read all labels carefully. The label also states how long to wait after application before sowing seeds.

Post-Emergent: These herbicides tackle both perennial and annual broadleaf weeds (weeds with leaf shapes that don't resemble grass), and some even control grassy weeds (weeds that resemble grass). Choose post-emergent herbicides to control existing weeds in a lawn. It's an ideal herbicide for spot-treating lone offenders.

- ♦ Young, actively growing weeds die most easily and create less of an eyesore than mature weeds, which might require repeat applications for complete kill.
- ♦ Inspect the lawn frequently (while mowing is a good time) to look for new weeds that have germinated and require treatment.

For both pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides, timing is critical. While post-emergent herbicides kill weeds at any point in the grow cycle, you'll have the best success spraying young, actively growing weeds. Mature weeds may require repeated applications for total kill. With pre-emergent herbicides, you'll want to apply the chemical prior to the time the weed seeds start germinating. If you apply too early, these herbicides will have degraded and are useless when seeds start to germinate. Most pre-emergent crabgrass killers remain active in soil for six to eight weeks. Weed seed germinate occurs when soil reaches the correct temperature. Other ways to gauge application time include bioindicators, such as plants whose growth signals the correct time for applications. Another option is to time applications based on the calendar. For example, if you typically apply a pre-emergence herbicide in mid-April with success, than continue that routine.

You can avoid the issue of proper application timing altogether by purchasing a weed control product that combines both pre- and post- emergence herbicides. This type of product kills existing weeds and keeps them from returning for as long as six months.

For more information go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> and search for Publication #ENH884

Free Mulch!

Instead of throwing your leaves in the trash, rake them, then spread them under the trees and shrubs, around flowers and vegetables as mulch. If you are concerned that they may blow back on the grass, water them down or put some soil on top of them. All the nutrients in those leaves will do wonders for your plants. It will hold the moisture in the soil and prevent it from getting so cold in the winter and so warm in the summer. As the leaves rot, the organic matter feeds worms and many beneficial micro-organisms in the soil that will make your garden much more productive. Many people don't believe this, so the rest of us can bring home their bags of leaves and use them in our own gardens.



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

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

How To Talk To Your Neighbors

If you have adopted Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices in your yard, you've likely seen a healthy response in your plants and trust the environmental benefits these practices provide. As an FFL believer, perhaps you want to spread the word! Especially when you see something done wrong: sprinkler systems running at the wrong time of day, grass clippings being blown into the storm drain, or pet waste right by the neighborhood pond. How do you approach a neighbor who you may not know well with criticism? First things first, try to get to know them better. This might start with a wave and progress into a hello. Spending time in your own yard, where you can be seen working, is good exposure and may lead to conversation. Attend neighborhood meetings or events. It's a chance to get to know people and also an opportunity to raise your concerns. Maybe water restrictions can be listed on entrance/welcome signs or pet waste bag dispensers can be installed. Volunteers with Seminole County Stormwater Division can add signage about preventing waste from entering storm drains. Second, when you see an inappropriate landscape behavior, consider what the person's intention was. If you can guess why they're doing it, you may also anticipate the solution. This is important because with this background, you can approach the issue with a "how can I help?" attitude. In essence, it becomes less about the behavior and more about how you deal with the person -who likely doesn't realize the environmental effects his or her practices have. While all neighborhoods have their own dynamics and people respond to things differently, wouldn't you like to feel as though you've just learned good advice rather than been scolded? Talking one on one is a very effective means of behavior change so long as it's between friends!

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Taryn Sudol FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 tsudol@seminolecountyfl.gov or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. Check www.FloridaYards.org



We will help with your gardening and landscaping questions.

Monday - Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm
407-665-5550

A word about "organic" pesticides. Beware just labeled "organic" (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually break down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

Environment-Friendly Spray
1 gallon water
2Tbsp dish soap
(without degreasers)
2Tbsp vegetable oil

Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water, if so water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

Homemade Fungicide
1 gallon of water
4 teaspoons of baking soda
1oz. Horticulture oil
(1 1/2 Tbsp)

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

Test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two; inspect the plant for damage before spraying the entire plant

"Ask A Master Gardener"

407-665-5550

Q. How do I know if I have citrus greening in my fruit trees?

A. Citrus Greening- Huanglongbing (HLB) or Yellow Dragon Disease- around since 1800's in southern China

There are three forms of the disease Asian, African, and American- American recently found in Brazil, only Asian form found in US. **Bacterial disease** cause by two species of **psyllid insects - the Asian (Diaphorina citri kuwayama)** one impacting FL and African that reduces production destroys economic value of fruit and kills trees. Once a tree is infected there is no cure and typically dies within 2 years. This infection is not known to be spread by wind or rain or through contact with people of tools.

2005 September USDA and APHIS confirmed it in Pumelo
Symptoms:

Foliage blotchy mottling of leaves and leaf yellowing
May cause small narrow leaves and stem on new growth
Twig dieback
Poor flowering
Stunted growth
Fruit is small and misshapen
½ green fruit 1/2 brown spots
Fruit tastes bitter, medicinal, and sour

For more information on this disease go to
www.ifas.ufl.edu and search Citrus Greening

Recycle Your Christmas tree

After the holidays, don't throw away your real Christmas tree. Real Christmas trees are biodegradable which means they can be recycled or reused. Always remove all decorations from the tree before recycling. Here are some recycling tips:



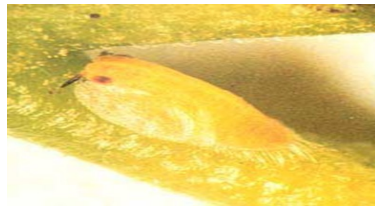
- ◆ Curbside recycling on the day they pick up landscaping debris in your area.
- ◆ Christmas trees make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially for lake and river shoreline stabilization. Sink the tree into fish ponds, trees make excellent refuge and feeding area for fish.
- ◆ Place the Christmas tree in your backyard or garden and use it as a bird feeder and sanctuary. Place fresh orange slices or strung popcorn that will attract the birds. They can sit in the branches for shelter while eating. Within a year the tree will become brittle. You can break it up and use in your compost pile or as mulch.
- ◆ You can use your tree as mulch if you have a chipper.
- ◆ Use the shredded tree as a renewable and natural path. The material that fits the environment.
- ◆ You could get a live tree next year and plant it after Christmas. Plant immediately after Christmas. Living trees have a better survival rate in mild climates.



Pest Alert: *Citrus Greening*

Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening) is caused by a bacteria. This bacterium comes from the mouth parts of small flying bugs called an asian citrus psyllid. Citrus Greening has seriously affected citrus production in a number of countries in Asia, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and the Arabian Peninsula, and Brazil. Wherever the disease has appeared, citrus production has been compromised with the loss of millions of trees. In August 2005, the disease was found in the south Florida region of Homestead and Florida City. Citrus Greening has been found in commercial and residential sites in all counties with commercial citrus. Removal of diseased tree is recommended.

The early symptoms of Citrus greening appear on the leaves. The leaf veins yellow and look blotchy. The blotchy mottle symptom is the most diagnostic symptom of the disease, especially on sweet orange. Leaves may be small and upright with a variety of chlorotic patterns that often resemble mineral deficiencies such as those of zinc, iron, and manganese. Some leaves may be totally devoid of green or with only green islands. Root systems of infected trees are often poorly developed and new root growth may be suppressed. Early symptoms of yellowing may appear on a single shoot or branch. The yellowing usually spreads throughout the tree over a year, especially on young trees, and affected trees may show twig dieback, causing the productivity to decline within a few years. Fruit are often few in number, small, may be lopsided with a curved central core, and fail to color properly, remaining green. Many fruit drop prematurely from afflicted trees. A yellow stain may be present just beneath the peduncle (stem) on a cut fruit. The affected fruit often contain aborted seeds and have a salty bitter taste. Scouting for the disease should be done four times a year. If you currently have greening in your yard trees or a grove close by, scouting more than four times a year is recommended. The symptoms are most easily seen September through March. It is difficult during the spring flush to recognize the disease. You can bring branches in to the Extension Plant Clinic for help diagnosing the disease. There is no cure for the problem at this time. Much research is being done and hopefully a cure will be found.



BEARS

If you see a bear in your community remain calm and stay away from the bear. The mere presence of a black bear does not necessarily represent a problem. The bear is most likely passing through and, if it doesn't find food it will simply move on.

DO NOT FEED THE BEAR

Bears usually avoid people but garbage or pet food left outside can easily draw bears to your home. Once the bears get hooked on human food sources; bird feeders, pet food, compost piles, beehives, small livestock, chickens, rabbits pigs. They keep coming back. It is this access to non-natural foods that can lead to dangerous situations for people. These bears may have to be destroyed if the problem persists.



IF YOU HAVE A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Remain standing upright

Avoid eye contact

Back up slowly and speak in a calm, assertive, assuring voice

Make sure the bear has an escape route

Do not RUN from the bear

If you experience bear problems, please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at

352-732-1225 or go to www.floridaconservation.org/bear





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

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

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

Cooperative Extension Services
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly
Newsletter

To receive by email

gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov

**Newsletter
Contributors:**

*Stephanie Powers
Taryn Sudol
Maggie Teal
Gabrielle Milch*

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

Greetings,
Thank you for taking the time to read
The Seminole Greenthumb Quarterly
newsletter. Many exciting things are
happening at the Extension Office and
we hope to provide you with UF IFAS
research based information on your
horticulture questions. Please bring in
a sample to our volunteer Plant Clinic
or bring a soil sample by to get
analyzed. We hope you have a great
spring and keep growing!
Sincerely,
Gabrielle Milch

EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

January 17, 2015
9:30am - 11:30am

Weed and Pest Control
Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Register 407-665-5575 Free!!!
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

January 17, 2015
10:00am - NOON

Organic Seed Garden
Sprouting seeds for Spring
Public History Center
301 W. 7th St. Sanford
Pre reg. required \$25.00 407-936-1679
publichistorycenter@ucf.edu

February 3, 2015
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Landscaping for shade
Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
FREE!!! 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 19, 2015
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Fla. Vegetable Gardening Class
Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Pre- Reg. required \$10.00 a class
407-665-5558
gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov

February 28, 2015
9:00am - 12:00pm

Fla. Vegetable Gardening Class
Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Pre- Reg. required \$10.00 a class
407-665-5558
gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov

March 8, 2015
10:00am - 4:00pm

Sweetwater Garden Fair
Wekiva Springs Rd & Fox Valley Dr.
10th Anniversary
Guest Speakers Vendors FREE! FUN
Jill Ogden 321-972-2688
info www.swogc.org/garden-fair-2015
ogdenjill@yahoo.com

March 28, 2015
9:00am - 2:00pm

9th Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
Seminole County Centennial Celebration
Hwy 17-92 and County Home Rd.
In Front of the Seminole County Museum
Great deals on landscaping plants!!!
407-665-5550
gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov

