Leave the Fronds On!

Jane Morse, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County Extension

Florida has beautiful palms. Until prune-happy tree trimmers get their clippers on them, that is. Just recently I was admiring the Canary Island date palms around a local business - healthy, properly pruned trees with full canopies of nice dark green fronds. When I returned a week later they had been over-pruned into feather-dusters.

As I drive around the county I see over-pruning happening in too many places and it is disheartening. I know I shouldn’t take this personally, but it is rather maddening that after all the articles I have written and all the classes I have taught, our palms are still being “hurricane cut.”

Besides leaving ugly palms in their wake, a hurricane cut has many other negative consequences. For one, the fronds provide a much-needed wall of protection around the palm’s bud. Exposing the bud by removing too many fronds can allow more damage to occur during a storm, potentially causing injury or even death to the tree.

In addition, removing a lot of green fronds deprives palms of food and nutrients that allow them to grow and protect themselves from insects and disease. A weakened palm is more susceptible to damage and death from a storm. Over-pruning also may contribute to reduced winter hardiness.

Despite the long-time and on-going efforts of horticulturists and arborists around the state to educate tree owners, some – including commercial and governmental property owners - are still convinced that the practice saves money and protects houses and businesses. Convincing them that a hurricane cut actually hurts trees - and wallets – is quite a challenge.

If someone tries to talk you into this improper “maintenance,” please – for the sake of your tree – just say “no thanks.” For those of you who now realize that it is best to leave the fronds on palms, a big “thank you.”
Fertilizing is another palm issue that we are continually addressing. Sometimes bottom fronds start to turn yellow and brown and people assume those leaves are soon to die and can be removed. This is usually not the case. When a frond is ready to die it will go from green to yellow and then to brown in a very short time span, about three days. Fronds that remain discolored for longer than a few days indicate a nutritional deficiency. One of the leading causes of palm death is poor nutrition.

Palms in Florida can have many nutritional deficiencies that show up in the fronds. When the lower, older fronds are not evenly green it is usually because they have a macronutrient deficiency, frequently potassium and magnesium. Potassium deficiency can manifest as yellow spots or as broad yellowing with the tips of the fronds turning brown. Magnesium deficiency will cause yellowing along the edges with a wedge shaped green down the center of the frond. The older the frond, the more obvious the symptoms will be. Palms can also have more than one deficiency at a time and symptoms can overlap.

Micronutrient deficiencies are seen in the new fronds. Two of these deficiencies - manganese and boron - can produce bizarre growth. Manganese deficiency can cause the new growth to look frizzled or have dead streaks in the leaflets (individual parts of the frond). Boron deficiency can cause new spears not to open, corrugated-looking fronds, puckering, leaf hooks, crinkling, twisting and even cause the whole head to start growing sideways. Iron deficiency can cause general yellowing of the leaflets with dark green spots and leaflet tip browning.

Palms with any type of nutrient deficiency should only have the totally brown, dead fronds removed. Getting them back to health is all about using the proper palm fertilizer. It’s not the numbers on the bag but the materials used to make the fertilizer that really make the difference. The numbers should be 8-2-12+4Mg plus micronutrients, but, more importantly, make sure the N, K and Mg are 100 percent controlled release and that all the micronutrients are in the sulfate form. Iron is the one exception as you can also use chelated iron. All the other micronutrients must be in the sulfate form. During the Pinellas County summer ban on nitrogen and phosphorus use a 0-0-16+6Mg.

If you can’t use the correct fertilizer, you are better off not fertilizing at all!

Fertilizers should be evenly distributed under the palm canopy (no concentrated lines). If the palms are mixed in with grass or other plants, use only palm fertilizer within 50 feet of the palm. For most yards that would mean using only palm fertilizer, which works for the grass as well. If your palm is exhibiting problems, it can take up to two years to bring it back to good nutritional health.

You can visit this University of Florida/IFAS website for information about palm nutrition and fertilizers: http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/palm_prod/palm_nutrition.shtml, or google: IFAS Ft. Lauderdale research nutrition.

You can also bring samples or pictures of your palms to the Pinellas County Extension Service at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, next to the Florida Botanical Gardens. The Help Desk is open from 8 am to 5 pm. Monday through Friday. To speak with a horticulturist, call 727-582-2110 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm. You can also visit us at www.pinellascountyextension.org.
Butterfly Plant of the Month

Firebush: This Plant Has Purpose

By Ellen Mahany, MG

Three colorful firebushes all in a row stand prominently in the FBG Native Plant Garden. Covered with clusters of red flowers, the firebush (*Hamelia patens*) is a great favorite with many pollinators, ranging from butterflies to wasps to bees to moths to hummingbirds.

At the last Master Gardeners meeting, the guest speaker, Craig Huegel, an expert and author of books on Florida native plants and wild flowers, commented that a plant should have purposes besides aesthetics. It should also provide ecological missions: pollinator services, plant conservation, and pollinator corridors to connect habitats. It should also establish a sense of place, as any plant native to Florida does. Beginning with aesthetic appearance, the firebush qualifies in every category.

It is a larval plant for the Pluto sphinx moth. Among butterflies that may be seen sipping its nectar are various members of the sulphur and swallowtail families, the Gulf Fritillary, the Monarch, and, pictured below at left, the Zebra Longwing. Among the sweat bees it attracts is the beautiful iridescent green Halictid Bee, pictured at right below.

Photo: Vic Ramey UF/IFAS  
Credits: IFAS

When the flowers mature into dark red to purplish-black berries, mockingbirds and catbirds are among the birds that replace the nectar-seekers to eat the fruit.
A word of caution about this plant is that, unfortunately, in place of the native variety, some nurseries sell a South African version (*Hamelia patens* var. *glabra*) with yellow to red orange blooms and smooth leaves. This variety was first introduced to Florida from a botanical garden in Pretoria, RSA. The interbreeding of this variety with the native forms could cause a loss of the native genetic makeup. The native firebush with darker red flowers and hairy leaves is pictured at below left. Compare the non native pictured at right.

On a hot sunny day in the garden, this belle of the ball may be the source of noise from any number of buzzing bees joining silent pollinators to complement the scarlet blooms with dots or inches of brightly moving colors among the whorls of green leaves. As lovely a scene as it provides, this plant is certainly “not just a pretty face,” as Craig Huegel would say. It has important purposes as well. The firebush has it all.

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**Colonel Sam Skemp’s 88th Birthday Celebration**

**Story and photos by Joanne Drake**

A lovely lunch gathering of friends, at Village Inn, took place August 7, to celebrate Sam’s birthday and also the many years he volunteered at Pinellas Extension Service and Florida Botanical Gardens. Many showed a great interest in attending this event organized by Jean Field. Great job, Jean!

It was a rare treat to attend this celebration and be seated at the same table as Sam, a man that has accomplished so much. In 2011, Sam was recognized for contributing more than 20,000 volunteer hours and was awarded for 25 years of service from the U of F/IFAS program.

Many stories were shared about the memories made while working with Sam in the gardens. Great fellowship was felt throughout this day. Sam wore a handsome smile and appreciated being with friends on this special day. More photos on page 8.

Sam eagerly looks forward to hearing from his old friends from Extension.

3600 Oak Manor Lane, Bldg 2, #264, Largo, FL 33774, (727) 489-3247
It was a full house in the Extension’s Magnolia Room. With our economy as it is … a larger number of residents are taking a real interest in growing their own food and most want to learn some organic methods to avoid using harmful chemicals.

The program was also open to the public but we had quite a few master gardeners there to pick up any additional tips that will help them grow healthy fruit and vegetables.

**Enriching the soil** with compost is something we can continue to do all year by adding kitchen scraps to the compost bin or just dig a hole and bury them.

**Preparing the soil** by solarizing the vegetable plot. This is done by spreading clear plastic over the area and leaving it in place a couple months before planting.

**Critter Alert** … One thing I need to check more often is the undersides of leaves. Just picking the critters off with a gloved hand or using tongs and dropping them into a container of soapy water will help.

After the program, I walked outside to view the raised vegetable beds that Theresa mentioned. There were tall eggplant and okra plants with vegetables formed. Along the fence there were Lots of sunflowers to attract pollinators.

By preparing now … we’ll have a good start on a healthy garden and a bounty of home grown vegetables that will taste so much better than any store-bought.

By Joanne Drake MG
OUR "BLOOMING LAND"

By Jude Bagatti, MG

Two cartographers designed a map of America I recently viewed with the official names of states, cities, and landmarks translated into English and re-labeled with their literal meanings. Web site: www.kalimedia.de/Atlas_of_True_Names.html. Some original names are Native American, some are poetic, and some translations are simply baffling. For instance, New Mexico becomes "New Navel of the Moon," and Illinois is the "Land of Those Who Speak Normally." Curiously, an area in South Pinellas right over St. Pete/Gulfport is labeled "St. Rock's Castle". I always thought "Florida" meant "land of flowers," but on this whimsical map it's called "Blooming Land." And bloom it does, as we well know, especially after heavy summer rains.

Mad dogs, Englishmen…and me! That's a roster of dumb or foolish beings out by choice under the oppressive mid-July sun. Canines, at least, are sane enough not to exert themselves in the heat, and lay comatose under shady tables with water bowls at dog friendly cafes. Not me. I had work to do outdoors and a desperation, despite the heat, to get 'er done: the long-postponed clearing of an overgrown backyard corner. Yeah, I was dumb to let those pretty lavender-flowered, but aggressive, passion vines spread, with octopus-like tentacles, in all directions until they threatened to smother everything near and far, including my shed. They'd already conquered some yard art and overtook three pineapple plants. Unchecked, they would soon be on the march across the grass and down the street. And though the Gulf Fritillaries loved that wild, unkempt area, it had to be reined in.

Armed with clippers, water bottle, gauntlet gloves, and shoes with socks to protect my new pedicure, I went forth. Today, I thought, would be just a beginning, a partial thinning. I would focus on the carpet of tall weeds surrounding the vines. Bees buzzed my ears, and on the ground, beetles and bugs scurried off or burrowed deeper in the disturbed earth, while a few big, black fuzzy caterpillars sought refuge from my weeding by climbing the wood fence.

I dug and tug in rhythm with the melodious knockings by a pair of pileated woodpeckers on a nearby power pole, while mockingbirds looked on, ready to swoop down on vulnerable insects on the shorn earth. My toil was interrupted by a startling, but welcome sight, which energized me. A striped grey snake slithered from a layer of weeds and leaves beneath my seat. It paused to cold-eye me indignantly for wrecking its hidden comfort zone before sliding under my shed; it was the high point of my day. (I'm always happy to see snakes in my yard, these garden varieties anyway, as to me, they're signs of a healthy environment.)

Finally, most of the weeds were yanked, but then what often happens with yard work, happened: one thing led to another. Might as well tackle the vines now too, since I'm already dirty and sweaty. The vines flowed in green passion like a sea of leafy waves across the ground….and it was high tide. When I chanced to tread on them, their round red pods made popping sounds. Butterflies fluttered about. I could almost hear the wringing of their wings in distress as I uprooted their nursery sanctuary. Hours flew too. Orange Fritillary caterpillars of varied sizes were feeding on the vines. One by one I gently relocated each to an even larger patch of passion flowers in the front yard. I wasn't going to evict those babies in mid-growth without a food supply. And then, miraculously, the job was done.

Epilogue: The remaining rooted vines I let be are recovering, already sprouting tiny leaves. I will let them grow because, next: that second, bigger passion vine patch out front is invading the sidewalk and needs serious taming. The Fritillaries are abundant there now. When their caterpillar boom lulls, I'll attend to that formidable forest of vines, in what promises to become alternate cycles of front patch/back patch thinning.

Hopefully, by then it will be cooler. Hopefully, by then the backyard patch will be thriving enough to support larva life. And, hopefully, Florida will endure to prove the name "Blooming Land" fits our state for centuries to come.

Contact Jude at 727-322-6211 or heyjudebagatti@gmail.com
Master Gardener Updates ... Most Interesting and Informative
By Joanne Drake, MG

We were at full attention during the August 8th program about wildflowers, given by Craig Huegel. Craig shared so much with us at this update. Some humorous stories of when he was a young boy in the garden. At a very young age he took a keen notice of nature. This curiosity followed him throughout life. He likes to plant in groups and attract pollinators. Some wildflowers, like red salivas will reseed themselves, filling in a bare area nicely. Craig’s front yard is just as full of wildflowers as his backyard. One neighbor doesn’t like his yard and doesn’t appreciate nature as much as he does. Some wildflowers do get out of control once in a while. While he’s working in his front yard, other neighbors stop to chat and enjoy all the colors and get tips:

- Coreopsis … The Florida State Wildflower that appears on License Plates is actually not a native of Florida.
- Blazing Star only blooms two weeks a year.
- Native violets (white) bloom in spring.
- Increase landscape diversity
- What we do is important … matching plants to conditions.

This Master Gardener Update was so interesting and enjoyed by all who attended. I’m looking forward to the next update next month and hope you’ll have a chance to attend.

Andy Wilson’s Plant Identification/Diagnosis Exercises

After our Master Gardener Updates, we usually gather around tables in the front of the Magnolia Room, to see what Andy has found for us to identify. Branches, leaves, insects or other mystery plants are numbered and laid out on the tables for us to test our knowledge. After we’ve had about ten to fifteen minutes to walk around the tables and jot down our thoughts … then Andy approaches the microphone and goes over each, naming them one by one and gives us important information. These exercises are fun! It gives us a chance to converse with other Master Gardeners and use some of the research books he has made available… such as Suzanne is doing in one of the photos. No one is graded on this exercise but it is done to help us identify plants when residents of Pinellas County bring in samples to the front desk.

Sometimes Andy will bring in sample cuttings of plants that are growing on Extension property and he gives the location of where this plant can be found. This is especially helpful for those Master Gardeners giving tours.

After our August 8th exercise, Andy passed out information sheets with website addresses for each plant or insect problem that was part of the exercise. He has done a lot of research for us that is greatly appreciated in making our job a lot easier at the front desk. Thanks Andy!

Listed below are the nine examples we had fun identifying and also helpful information websites.

- Silk Oak, Grevillea robusta: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st285](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st285)
- Potter wasp nest: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN72600.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN72600.pdf)
- Brazilian pepper, Schinus terebinthifolius: [http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/misc/pdfs/SP257/Schinus terebinthifolius(SP257-054.pdf](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/misc/pdfs/SP257/Schinus terebinthifolius(SP257-054.pdf)
- Larger canna leafroller: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag111](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag111)
- Virginia creeper, Partenocissus quinquefolia: [http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/115](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/115)
- Chinch bug: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036)
- Saltbush, Baccharis halimifolia: [http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Saltbush Baccharis halimifolia.pdf](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Saltbush Baccharis halimifolia.pdf)
- Cone of bunya-bunya or false monkey puzzle, Araucaria bidwillii: [http://www.floridata.com/ref/a/arau bid.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/a/arau bid.cfm)
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update
“Make the Florida Botanical Gardens a Healthy Habit.”

By Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation board meeting is on September 19 and visitors are welcome, especially anyone who may be interested in joining the board. By attending a meeting, you will get a better understanding of our organization and goals, and hopefully you will choose to become a board member.

The garden enhancements are only made possible with your membership dollars, money donated at our events, sponsorships and profits from our gift shop. And join the incredible team of hundreds of volunteers who bring a wide variety of skills and lots of energy and enthusiasm that is required to manage and maintain these gardens.

So, many, many thanks to all of our supporters and volunteers who are helping us turn our world class garden vision into a reality!

One volunteer has set an example and challenge for all volunteers to follow. As noted on page 4, Mater Gardener Sam Skemp celebrated his 88 birthday of which 28 of those years were spent volunteering for the Pinewood Cultural Park [http://www.pinewoodculturalpark.org/] home of the Florida Botanical Gardens. During those years Sam gave the County over 20,000 hours of quality time. You will also see MG Jack Moss, 89 years young, in the photo below presenting Sam with a collage of photos of special times and people they were associated with throughout their Emeritus MG careers.

Let me wow you with more facts. Sam was the MG class of 1986 and Jack the class of 1987 accumulating over 10,000 hours of honorable service. Over the years I have written many newsletter stories about both and I remain humbled to have a friendship with two of the most dedicated people I have ever known. My hat is off to you Sam and Jack - Chuck

Following are more photos of Sam’s birthday celebration and presentation by Jack of a photo poster of his many friends:
We're Tweeting Up a Storm

To see what our followers are saying, click on the Twitter icon and follow a couple of simple steps. It's fun, and a great way to keep up with FBG news between Green Leaufs.

Maybe we can even get a botanical conversation going. Share gardening tips. Ask gardening questions. Tell us how wonderful the Gardens are looking. (All "attaboys" gratefully accepted.)

And Share Your Gorgeous Garden Photos

When you visit the Gardens and take fabulous photos of our trees, flowers, herbs, tropical fruits, butterflies, birds, and maybe even an alligator, please share them on our Facebook page. We're getting more and more fans all the time. If you haven't signed up, it's easy to do. Use the link above and click on the f connect symbol. Become a fan today so that you can view visitor photos and comments. You can also share your experience at the gardens on the “Wall.”

Thanks to our Facebook friends

Extension is on Facebook!!
The Early Registration Deadline is September 18th. CLICK HERE to REGISTER and save $35.00!

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<th>Registration Fees</th>
<th>Early Reduced (by 9/18/13)</th>
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**Meeting Site & Hotel Accommodations**

Embassy Suites Orlando-Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, Florida 34746
Phone: 1-407-597-4000
FAX: 1-407-597-4101

Hotel Website

Free Self-Parking!
The Embassy Suites Orlando-LBV South is offering participants of the 33rd Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference, a very special rate of $109.00 per night, with a two-night minimum required, plus 12.5% state and local taxes, for single or double occupancy. Additional adults are $10 each per night. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference dates, based on availability. In order to receive the special discounted group rate you must state that you are with the Master Gardener Conference and include all roommate names in hotel reservation.

The Hotel Reservation Deadline is September 20, 2013.

Visit the conference website for detailed hotel accommodations and reservation information: conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener13/site
Special Announcements Continued

**Micro-Irrigation Basics:** Doris Heitzmann, the Florida Friendly Landscaping™ community outreach coordinator, provides an overview of basic micro-irrigation principles. Participants will learn about the design, installation and maintenance of the systems and how to retrofit from a traditional irrigation zone to micro. The benefits of micro-irrigation and hydrozones will also be discussed. This workshop will cover the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Water Efficiently-Principle. Incorporating micro-irrigation in your landscape can contribute to water conservation and reduced stormwater runoff. Two opportunities to attend this presentation, **September 12**, 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor. Advance registration required. (727) 582-2630; www.eventbrite.com/event/7706942673/eorg.

**Vegetable, Herb and Tropical Fruit Garden Tour:** Explore the vegetable garden and compost demonstration areas at Pinellas County Extension/Florida Botanical Gardens to learn more about growing your own food. See an eye-catching array of culinary, medicinal and aromatic herbs, trees and flowers in the garden and wander the paths between the Egyptian, Mediterranean, Asian and Beverage plantings to learn how the featured plants can be used in your home. Discover the tropical fruits that do well in our Florida climate including many varieties of bananas, figs, papayas, mangoes, avocados, sugar cane and citrus. Learn about little-known fruits that are not usually considered by the home gardener including Jackfruit, Carambola, Buddha’s Hand and Pomegranate. View a diversity of plantings including a wide variety of ground covers, bromeliads, palms and power-line friendly trees that can be used in landscapes. **September 19**, 9 to 11 a.m. Free; tours limited to groups of 4 to 16 people; advance registration required. Pinellas County Extension (727) 582-2501; www.eventbrite.com/event/6241882639/eorg.

**Wildlife Hike:** Join an experienced naturalist as you hike along boardwalks and natural trails at Brooker Creek Preserve. This will be a learning experience for everyone! Come prepared with your binoculars, cameras, and questions! Any questions your hike guide cannot answer will be researched in the Resource Room upon return to the Education Center. 9 to 11 a.m. Free; advance registration required. Brooker Creek Preserve, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

**Wildflower Garden Club:** Join the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and get gardening hands dirty in the preserve’s wildflower garden. Bring garden gloves and hat. Morning snacks are usually provided. Free; advance registration required. September 28, 8 to 10 a.m. Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs. (727) 453-6800; www.brookercreekpreserve.org.

**The Historic Kenwood Garden Workshop** is holding their annual plant sale on Saturday, October 5th at Bula Kafé, 2500 5th avenue N, St. Pete from 9am to 1pm....or for as long as the plants last. Garden Workshop members have grown and raised all the plants for months from cuttings or divisions from their own gardens. All proceeds from the sale benefit local charities. Cash or check only. A wide variety of plants will be available, including tropical, natives and succulents. Garden Workshop members will be available to answer your gardening questions.

**Garden Maintenance** volunteer opportunities are now available on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The current teams work throughout the FBG. Duties include mulching, weeding, trimming, and adding new plants to the landscape. This is a great opportunity to learn while doing. If you are interested, contact **Terry Berube** at tberube@tampabay.rr.com or 727-501-3787.

**Volunteer Incentive Limitations**
One (1) annual permit per individual volunteer for one hundred (100) documented volunteer hours contributed in the Department of Parks and Conservation Resources during the fiscal year of October 1 to September 30. Family members may not combine hours to qualify. Additional permits may be purchased.
Education

MG Update- Monday September 9, Citizen Scientist Workshop, presented by UF/IFAS Natural Resource Extension Agent Lara Miller. 9am-noon with potluck to follow. Training to engage volunteers in the collection of local ecological information; and introduction to Nature Notebook, a project of the USA National Phenology Network. Class will include both an indoor and outdoor component so please come prepared to make some observations outside.

Education Credits-Extension classes:
Please register at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml
MGs can earn up to four continuing education credits. Modules at:
http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml
One CEU can be earned by studying the plants and earning a passing score of 80% on the “Test Yourself” feature. Once a score of 80% has been reached, print the page and submit it to the volunteer office.

Palm Harbor Library MG Class Series- Free classes every second Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:30 PM and 6:15-7:45 pm at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave. To register http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/
click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

St Petersburg MG Speaker Series- Held at the Garden Club of St. Pete. 500 Sunset Dr S, St Pete http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/. Click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

“Planting Pinellas” blog http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/

Extension Classes and Tours- Visit Lawn & Garden - Pinellas County Extension on-line calendar for a list of classes where most are being offered free or at a discount to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members with a membership card. Also, sign up for a garden tour.
Special discount offer for Rain Harvesting Workshop

Help Desk- Please look at the VMS help desk calendar and see if there is a time that works for you. If you are a regular at the help desk please be sure you are signing up to avoid scheduling confusion.

Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

Community Beautification Project- is being planned for Bartlett and Campbell Parks in St. Petersburg. One of our own MG Trainees, Kristy Ferrell is helping design some new planting plans for these parks and we need a few MGs who want to get involved and help on planting days to show local residents how to plant and maintain their beautiful new landscape areas. MG Debra Black has now joined the team- but we need more! This project is the brainchild of community activist Coy LaSister of Assisted Living Community Gardens, Inc. Mr. LaSister envisions involving local residents in the care and maintenance of gardens to enhance their community while teaching them about gardening and horticulture. This would be a wonderful hands-on way to impact an underserved community that really needs help! If you’d like to learn more contact Theresa Badurek at Theresa Badurek at tmgwaves@ufl.edu .
In the fall the weather will begin to cool and the rains will slow down. (Hard to imagine these days, isn’t it?) These conditions present several challenges for the home gardener, but there are some things you can do to prepare your garden (and yourself) for the cooler, drier weather.

If you use **annuals** in your landscape it may be time to replace some of the summer annuals. In early fall (Sept.-Oct.) try plants like ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia to give your landscape color into cooler weather. Then once temperatures start to cool (Oct.-Nov.) you can plant petunia, pansy, snapdragon, dianthus, and alyssum. When shopping for annuals choose compact plants with healthy leaves, good color, and lots of flower buds (they don’t have to be in bloom at the time of purchase). For more information about gardening with annuals in Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG31900.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG31900.pdf).

Since annuals are seasonal they should make up focal areas in the garden, but not too much space, as they require a lot of energy and resources for such a short life-span. Lots of **bulbs** like to get their start in these cooler months. Plant agapanthus, amaryllis, and lilies now for blooms next spring and summer. Divide and replant **perennials** and **bulbs** that have grown too large- be sure to do this by November so they can become established before the weather turns colder. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment. For more information about dividing and propagating plants: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg108](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg108).

Plant **herbs** that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. Later in the fall when the weather is cooler try parsley, cilantro, garlic, and thyme. Since some herbs are annuals and some are perennials remember to group them accordingly so you won’t be disturbing the perennials when replanting the annuals. Many herbs are also suited to planting in containers- but you must remember that those plants in containers will dry out faster than those in the ground and will need more irrigation attention. For more information about growing herbs in your Florida garden: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02000.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02000.pdf).

In this cooler weather (Oct.-Nov.) you can plant cool-season **vegetable** crops, such as celery, cabbage, lettuce, collards, and many others. For more information about vegetable gardening in Florida, including suggested crops and their planting dates: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02100.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02100.pdf).

In September or October, fertilize your **citrus** with a balanced fertilizer. Many early season citrus varieties will be ready for harvest starting in October and November, such as ‘Navel’ and ‘Hamlin’ oranges, ‘Marsh’ grapefruit, ‘Orlando’ tangelos, ‘Meyer’ lemons, and more.

**If necessary, fertilize** our St. Augustinegrass and bahiagrass lawns with a fertilizer containing at least 50% slow-release nitrogen and no phosphorous in early October. Do not use a “weed and feed” product. No lawn and landscape fertilizer containing nitrogen can be used in Pinellas County before October 1st. (For more info on the Pinellas County Fertilizer ordinance: [http://www.pinellascounty.org/PDF/Fertilizer-Ordinance-Brochure.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/PDF/Fertilizer-Ordinance-Brochure.pdf).) As the weather gets cooler the turf will not need as many nutrients so this is best applied in early October.

Enjoy planning for this cooler season soon to come

**Theresa Badurek, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent**
**Thanks to Local Nurseries, FBGF Members and MGs Can Save $$ When Beautifying Yards**

One of the benefits of Foundation membership and being a certified Master Gardener is getting a 10 percent discount at many local nurseries. Just present your FBGF membership or MG card. We will continue to contact nurseries in the area to secure additional participants. Support our friends at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Stone Orchids</td>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-345-6733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Club Nursery</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo,</td>
<td>727-397-4438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DragonFly Garden</td>
<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>727-734-4900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthscapes Garden Room</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esperanza’s Garden Center</td>
<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian Orchid Connection</td>
<td>Note:* (10% off all purchases)</td>
<td>6260 Seminole Blvd, Seminole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy’s Korner Nursery Inc.</td>
<td>(10% off trees) 6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jene’s Tropicals</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-344-1668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Harbor Nursery &amp; Landscaping</td>
<td>(10% off cash and carry) 450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole Nurseries</td>
<td>6230 102nd Ave. N, Pinellas Park</td>
<td>727 545-9619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summerwood Gardens, Inc.</td>
<td>1171 Tarpon Springs Rd, Odessa</td>
<td>813-920-2153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twigs and Leaves</td>
<td>2131 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-822-5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcox Nursery</td>
<td>12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo</td>
<td>727-595-2073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel’s Garden &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>5063 Dartmouth Ave, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-321-4599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunscape Plant &amp; Tree Nursery</td>
<td>4730 CR 16 St. Petersburg, FL 33709</td>
<td>727-347-2915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Only FBG Foundation membership applies

In order to make sure that the nurseries participating in our FBGF members discount program are located where our members live, we would like to expand the list you see here, especially in the southern and northern parts of the county. But we need your help in scouting this out. Next time you visit a local nursery that is not already on our list, ask if they would consider offering a discount to our members. You can tell them that other nurseries have been very happy with our partnership. If they agree, please let us know so we can contact them and set up the program. Please note that the big box stores such as Lowes and Home Depot do not offer discounts. We appreciate your help.
Thank You, Volunteers!!

2013 September Dates to Remember

- **Master Gardener Update**—September 9, 9 am to noon
- **Micro Irrigation Basics**—September 12, 2 to 3:30 pm and 6:15 to 7:45 pm
  Palm Harbor Library
- **Vegetable Garden Tour**—September 19, 9 to 11 am

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library—Wednesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM
Master Gardeners offer diagnostic services along with information about identifying plants, treatment for insects and ideas for Florida-Friendly landscaping.

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6)