Are Your Trees Storm Ready?

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

Hurricane season is brewing. If the winds start to howl and thrash about will you and your house be protected by the trees, or do you have trees with major faults that could fall on your house?

What do you look for to determine if your trees are strong or weak? You can cut your worries in half just by knowing a few important points about tree structure and wind-resistant species.

The strongest tree structure is one with a single trunk and evenly spaced branches. Trees with multiple trunks, especially if there is a sharp V angle between the trunks, have a weak structure and are more likely to split down the V. Of particular concern would be if one side of the V is aimed at your house. A U structure is strong, with joints that are not likely to split.

Next, look at the canopy of the tree. Trees that have been stripped of their inner branches so that only the outer portion of the branch has leaves are more likely to fail in a storm. This type of pruning is called “lion-tailing” as it resembles a lion’s tail with a tuft at the end. All the force of the wind will be directed to a tuft at the end of a branch, more likely causing limb breakage and damage. Proper tree thinning is done from the outside edges of the tree and should not be very noticeable. Lion tailing, on the other hand, removes most or all of the inner branches and is quite noticeable after pruning. It is also improper.

Has the tree ever been topped? This can cause the development of multiple sprouts that are not well attached and can easily break off. Topping and pruning cuts can also cause rot to occur in the tree trunks, making them a likely candidate for failure in a storm. Any dead or hanging branches should be removed. Also look for mushrooms at the base of the tree. They can be root-rotting fungi which will compromise the strength of a tree and affect its ability to withstand a storm.

Another thing to consider is how much total soil area a tree has around it. A small tree – one that is shorter than 30 feet - needs at least a 10 ft. x 10 ft. area for its root system. A tree with a height or spread of less than 50 feet needs at least a 20 ft. x 20 ft. soil area. A tree with a height or spread greater than 50 feet needs 30 ft. x 30 ft. Their distance from a paved surface should be from 2 ft. to 6 ft. to 10 ft., respectively.

The resistance to wind damage can also depend on the species. To find out how your trees rank, you can google this IFAS document: “Selecting Tropical and Subtropical Tree Species for Wind Resistance.” You can also visit this University of Florida website: http://hort.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes/index.shtml.

Palms also need proper pruning for good survival during a storm. Any fronds coming out from the trunk at less than a 90 degree angle should remain on the palm. NEVER prune fronds higher than horizontal. The so-called “hurricane cut” is the worst thing you can do to your palm! It is best to only remove totally dead fronds. Most of our palms have specialized nutritional needs and are generally lacking nutrients when the lower fronds are discolored (yellow) or have brown tips. Proper nutrition is key to having healthy green fronds for the whole canopy.

You may want to consider hiring a professional arborist. Remember that good tree work is worth the investment and that bad tree work can ruin your tree and wind up costing much more in the long run. Use these questions to help you find a qualified arborist: Are you insured for property damage, personal liability and worker’s compensation? Ask to see their insurance form. Are you certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)? What are the procedures involved, equipment used, price and time frame? Get more than one written estimate.
For free University of Florida information about trees and storms the Pinellas County Extension Service is just a phone call or visit away. We are located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo next to the Florida Botanical Gardens and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To speak with a horticulturist call: 727-582-2110 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 9 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm. You can also visit our website at www.pinellascountyextension.org

Butterfly Plant of the Month at FBG

Spare a Few Bidens alba and Spoil the Butterflies ??

By Ellen Mahany, MG

If there were a contest to name the most out-of-control broadleaf weed, Bidens alba, aka beggarticks, aka Spanish-needles, aka shepherd’s needles, aka hairy beggar’s tick, aka romerillo, might well be the winner.

Year around, but especially during the hottest months, Florida gardeners will be pulling, zapping and cursing clumps of this all-too-common, white-daisied nuisance.

On many acres of natural land here at the botanical gardens Bidens alba grows freely among a variety of wild neighbors. However, conscientious volunteers routinely remove this weed from the various cultivated gardens.

**Bidens alba**

Credits: Florida Vascular Plants, USF Seeds Credits: Dan Culbert, UF, IFAS

The most reliable sources warn against using this aggressive native weed in the landscape. Just one plant typically produces 1,205 seeds, known for easily germinating.

In addition, any wildlife or pet or human kind brushing against the two-horned seeds aimlessly spreads the sticky weed seed widely to new territory. Bidens by the way, means “two-tooth,” referring to the shape of the sticky seeds, which cling to skin, fur, or cloth like terrible ticks. This weed is also a host plant for the American Serpentine Leafminer and aphids, both harmful to a variety of vegetables in home gardens.

Continued on next page:
Yet, *Bidens alba* is also considered a wildflower, and one online site sells the plant for three dollars. It is a prime nectar plant for bees and butterflies. This oft-despised upstart is the host plant for dainty sulphur butterflies as well as a nectar plant for **more than thirty-six butterflies**, including several skippers and hairstreaks. Some of the garden darlings are pictured here, courtesy of the Floridata Butterfly Gallery.

Suppose a determined butterfly lover spares a few of these weeds? Can they be controlled? For sure, the plants must be removed before the flowers go to seed. Or perhaps one or two can be hidden in the middle of a plant bed? Or perhaps not? One *bidens* alba can spread to a field full. Realistically, the most determined weed puller can’t eliminate beggar’s ticks. So we should be glad that butterflies sip from this nectar plant or lay eggs on this host plant even if we address *Bidens alba* only in words of four letters.
Happy Father’s Day ... A Stroll With Dad June 16

Article and photos by Joanne Drake, MG

In a recent two hour photo shoot at The Florida Botanical Gardens, in search of interesting plant shots to be used in future Master Gardener Newsletters. I came up with the Shaving Brush Tree,

A photo that would work into an article, just in time for Father’s Day!

Shaving was a chore back in the days of our grandfathers, great grandfathers and fathers before them. Fine brushes were made with sterling or silver-plated handles, some engraved exquisitely. They were also made with wooden handles.

What a better day than to spend some time with dad and/or family at the Florida Botanical Gardens, reminiscing while enjoying the wonderful array of plants.

Relax in the shade on one of the many benches provided for your comfort.

Happy Father’s Day!

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Birdfeeders Don’t Always Feed the Birds!

Black sunflower seeds fill six feeders placed in different locations, in my backyard. This particular feeder (in the photo) is placed right outside our dining room window. We see lots of action!

There is never a dull moment. Occasionally, we do see birds!

Photo by Joanne Drake, MG
It’s been a couple of years since I was told about Trademark Metals Recycling, a local scrap metal business hidden behind a stand of trees on 67th Street N., in Pinellas Park. Inquiring, I found out anyone, not just scrap dealers, as I had thought, could bring in any amount of scrap: truckloads or a bagful. My own accumulation of iron, aluminum and steel items consisted of pails, rusted tools, lawn chairs, carts---junk no one could hope to sell at a yard sale, or place in curb recycling bins. I added a piece of copper pipe left over from plumbing repairs, some bent brass décor and picture frames to my assortment, loaded it all in my van and set off, discovering a whole scrappy sub-culture in the process.

Pulling into the long driveway at Trademark's entrance I joined a line of crusty pickups, flatbed trucks and trailers overflowing with tangled piles of pipes, rods, machinery, appliances, car parts, signs, fencing, window frames, doors, chairs, lawnmowers; you name it. My load was puny in comparison. A greeter walked the line of vehicles requesting picture IDs and noting vehicle tag #s. He recorded the info electronically. Vehicles were directed to one of two lanes: one for those hauling big, heavy items, the other with smaller things which could fit in rolling bins. In the case of heavier loads, the entire loaded vehicle is weighed on a drive-on scale, the scrap unloaded, and the vehicle re-weighed to determine the weight of the scrap. With smaller items, you park, unload them yourself into roomy, wheeled bins, and join the bin line. If you know what different metals you have, it helps to separate them in the bin. An attendant tests with magnets or file scratches to identify the metals. This is important as metals have various values.

Customers I assumed to be regulars appeared with bulging trash bags of aluminum cans, aluminum being one of the more valued metals. Highest in value is copper, then brass. Lowest seems to be steel or sheet iron. New at this, I was getting an education, bit by bit, from attendants and from other scrappers chatting in line. Peeking in their bins, I saw shelving, scratched platters, flatware, fans, bicycle frames…the depleted remains of engaged lives. Items from my bin were weighed separately by kind on a platform scale, and the “buy value” for each metal type recorded by computer. At that point my photo was taken. This is to trace possible theft, so common lately of copper wire/tubing.

I was handed a computer printout receipt with a breakdown of the weight and worth of my different metals, plus their total value, and directed to a nearby building window. The cashier took my receipt, and gave me a copy with a bar code on it, assuming I knew what to do with it. I stood bewildered as she waited on the next person. But coached by friendly scrappers, I scanned my copy under a light at a nearby dispenser and voila! the correct cash, coins included, was ejected.

So ended my first foray into scrap metal recycling. I'm an experienced hand now having been back several times with larger articles; a file cabinet and desk were weighed with my van, unloaded with attendant muscle and hoisted on to a huge outdoor mound of scrap. With a bit of imagination, the mound reaching to the sky could be a metallic hammock, its conglomeration of pipes, frames and rods jutting haphazardly in all angles resembling mangrove roots, bent palm fronds or copper cypress knees.

Workers seem content and customers happy, smiling like me, at the prospect of leaving with a few more dollars than I arrived. Most scrappers are men; women, more of a novelty, based on how considerate and extra helpful the attendants were to me and another female, making the whole venture pleasant and fun. I won't get rich this way, but it feels good to reap a dollar reward for recycling efforts and working toward a sustainable world. Besides, the people watching can't be beat!

Contact Jude at 727-322-6211 or heyjudebagatti@gmail.com
Brooker Creek Reserve Provides New Volunteer and Educational Opportunities

The May Master Gardeners’ meeting offered an overview of Brooker Creek Reserve, the largest natural area in Pinellas County. Its 8,700 acres are composed of 55% wetlands and 45% uplands. This reserve is managed by Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources.

In the Butterfly Room of the auditorium, Lara Miller, Natural Resources Agent, explained the reserve’s importance as a watershed, for flood storage and for ground water recharge. On a shady nature walk, James Stevenson, Extension Specialist, increased our knowledge of the variety of wildlife and plants indigenous to West Coast Florida.

The calendar is full of activities for children and adults and classes offering CEUs to master gardeners. Find volunteer and educational opportunities at [http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/](http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/)

Lara Miller is the UF/IFAS Pinellas County Natural Resources Agent. Lara has her Master’s from UF and has studied Florida Forest Ecosystems for the past eight years. Lara works with regional decision-makers to address natural resource conservation issues as well as the general public and with youth through a 4-H club, the Brooker Creek Explorers.

James is a Natural Resource Program Assistant at Brooker Creek Preserve. James’ background is in Botanical Horticulture and he has worked in botanical gardens in the US and abroad. James teaches a range of programs from Plant Identification to Field Botany at Brooker Creek Preserve. James’ masters degree is from Kew Gardens in London, and the University of Oxford, UK.

Our Foundations Diggin’ the Arts, a highly recognized, profitable and popular event, returned to the Florida Botanical Gardens on Sunday, May 5.

Our second annual collaboration with the leading art institutions in Pinellas County included the Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, the Morean Center for Clay, the Florida Craftsmen, the Dunedin Fine Arts Center, the Dali Museum, The Suntan Arts Center and the Beach Arts Center. The museum-developed activities were for the entire family. Opportunity drawings for hand painted rain barrels, also designed by each museum were available.

Our tireless volunteers

Mary Sweeny and Maradon Harbaugh
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation Update

By Chuck Scaffidi, FBG Foundation President

The next Foundation board meeting is on June 21 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.

More Diggin Photos

Upper Left L to R: Board Members: Pat Dietrich, Gayle Cooper and Mary Sweeny.

Upper Right: Board Member and Membership Chair, Terry Berube

Lower Right: Barb Goss: Truly the queen of the “Ball”. She conceived this wonderful popular event which introduced to our community the County Art Institutions and our beautiful Botanical Gardens.

Thank you Barb!
A SPECIAL OFFERING
FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Generously donated by the artist,
Ms. Kalika Novoa

Beaded Necklace & Earrings ~$495.00
14K gold findings, beads, crystals and enamels on silk cords. A custom shadowbox for display.

Artist’s Biographical Highlights
Custom jeweler, dancer, choreographer, volunteer, world traveler and ardent supporter of the arts, Kalika Novoa currently lives in Indian Rocks. She draws inspiration from contemporary dance, as well as from the glass art of Dale Chihuly to create a “sense of the limitless in my work.”

The Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art have commissioned her works and she has exhibited locally at over 10 well-known galleries. She states, “Ultimately, beauty prevails.” We couldn’t agree more. Please consider this artwork as an investment for a loved one and your beautiful Florida Botanical Gardens! Your purchase will include an annual membership (retail value $100.00) for four people to the gardens.

In the gift shop.
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 Leaves.

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 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!!
**Special Announcements**

**33rd Annual**
**FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER**
**Continued Training Conference**

**October 20-23, 2013**
Embassy Suites Orlando-Lake Buena Vista South
Kissimmee, Florida

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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.

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**GREETINGS!**

Dear Master Gardeners,

Mark your calendars now for the 33rd Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference to be held October 20-23, 2013 in Kissimmee, Florida.

Details will be forthcoming, but as always, the conference will be filled with lots of opportunities to learn and to share information with other volunteers. Come to hear the latest information, meet new Master Gardener friends from around the state and to enjoy all that Central Florida has to offer.

We hope to see you in Kissimmee!

Sincerely,

[Name]
State Master Gardener Coordinator

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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.

**Reservations must be made by Friday, September 20, 2013 in order to receive this group rate. Please be aware the block of rooms may fill before the deadline, so we urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible.** After September 20, the discounted rate is not guaranteed on possible remaining rooms. Please call the Hotel reservations direct line at (407) 597-4000 and identify yourself as a participant of the Florida Master Gardener Conference. If you make an online hotel reservation, please note the **GROUP CODE is: FMG**

[Printable Hotel Information Sheet (PDF)](#)

[Explanation of Facilities Usage Fee](#)
Special Announcements Continued

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program was developed to provide science-based interdisciplinary educational resources that result in the adoption of environmentally friendly landscape practices to reduce water use & non-point source pollution, protect water bodies and natural resources and enhance the lives of Floridians. Master Gardeners who have received additional FFL training in their county can become Florida Yard Advisors and help homeowners evaluate and reduce the environmental impacts of their landscapes.

All conference participants will attend concurrent sessions sponsored by the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program.

Join our mailing list

- MG Marian Cirello

This week is Hurricane Preparedness Week. Hurricane season runs from June 1 - Nov. 30th

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicates this could be an extremely active season. Now is the time for homeowners to prepare.

A new publication, "Florida Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards" has been developed and is free for download from our Solutions for Your Life website: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/disaster_prep/

Michaels, where I work, has started to allow military discounts. Showing a military ID card is what is necessary. Unfortunately, it is only on Wednesday, but it is for 10% of the total purchase. Please pass the word.

Tom Wichman

The Pinellas County Extension Office and UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant will be offering an Introduction to Aquaculture Workshop on Wednesday, June 12th from 10am-4pm.

The Introduction to Aquaculture Workshop is open to the public, and is specifically intended for individuals who have an interest in development or growth of aquaculture related businesses.

Aquaculture extension specialists from around the state, and a representative of the FDACS Division of Aquaculture, will present current information on the status of aquaculture in Florida, pros and cons of specific business ventures, an overview of state regulations, and a discussion of resources available to support these businesses.

The workshop will be held Wednesday June 12th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg. Pre-registration is required and can be accessed at: http://aquacultureworkshop.eventbrite.com

A $10 registration fee includes lunch and materials. For more information, contact Libby Carnahan

June 13th we have a Master Gardener Turf Field Day scheduled at the research center in Citra. This is an all day event running from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The morning will be spent in the field and the afternoon will be spent hearing various lecture topics. This is your opportunity to learn from the specialists and see the research in the field. The pre-registration fee is $20.00. The fee at the door is $25.00. You can register at: http://2013mgturffieldday.eventbrite.com All Master Gardeners are welcome. This is an important topic and we hope you will attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

Tom Wichman

Garden Maintenance volunteer opportunities are now available on Monday, Any 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

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—Friday June 7, 9-12 pm. Vegetable, Herb, and Tropical Fruit Garden Tour by fellow MG Cat Stillwagon. Meeting begins in the Magnolia Rm. Andy’s Help Desk Update will follow and will wrap up with a potluck.

Education Credits—Extension classes:
Please register at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml](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](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/index.shtml)

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/](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/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/). Click the “Registration” tab and then click “Extension Service.”

“Planting Pinellas” blog [http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/](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. Register on-line. [http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com/](http://pce-lawnandgarden.eventbrite.com/)

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.

MGs needed—MG Sally Ervin is looking for help at Lowes: MGs that would like to volunteer at the Clearwater Lowe’s outreach Extension table on Saturdays anytime from 10-2 (can be 1 hr to 4 hrs) should e-mail Sally at servin307@hotmail.com. Lowe’s is located on Gulf to Bay near US19

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! Please let me know as soon as possible if you’d like to learn more as we would like to have a team meeting as soon as we can.

Tampa Bay Home Show at Tropicana Field need a MG volunteer for the July 19, 20 & 21. It starts about 10 am and runs until 6 pm. The greatest needs for volunteers is on Sat., July 20. Contact Sustainability Agent Ramona Madhosingh-Hector to volunteer:rmadhosinghhector@pinellascounty.org
It’s June and the weather is heating up! Soon we will be battling hot summer sun, bugs, humidity, and torrential rains every afternoon. These conditions present several challenges for the gardener, but there are things you can do now to prepare your garden (and yourself) for the heat.

If you use *annuals* in your landscape you probably know by now that many of them don’t tolerate the Florida heat very well. However, there are several annual plants that take our temps in stride. They include salvia, torenia, wax begonia, coleus, and ornamental peppers. 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. Right now is also a great time to plan new *perennial plantings*, including trees, palms, shrubs, and groundcovers. If you have a plan at the ready you can be prepared to install once the rainy season starts- then you won’t need to water as often yourself. Just remember that if you plant something before you go on vacation you should ask a friend or neighbor to care for it while you are gone. For more information on establishing new trees and shrubs: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP11200.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP11200.pdf).

You can also plant some *herbs* that like the heat such as basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. 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).

If you think your new herbs might get lonely out there, don’t hesitate to try your hand at *vegetable gardening*. Our hot temps just won’t work with many of the usual veggies, but there are several crops you can grow here in the summer heat including okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. 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).

Summer (June, July and August are great) is also a good time to *solarize your vegetable garden*, so you can add this to your summer gardening plan. What does that mean? Well, this one prep can help reduce soil pests and even kill weed seeds, making your garden more successful throughout the fall gardening season. Solarizing involves harnessing the heat of the sun by covering the soil with clear plastic and is most effective in the summer months. To solarize, you want to prepare your soil with any amendments such as compost or manures before you begin. Make sure your garden is clear of rocks, twigs, weeds, and other debris. Till the soil to at least 6 inches to make sure the heat will penetrate deeply enough to be effective. The day after a good rain or irrigation is best for applying the clear plastic sheeting over the soil. Lay sheets of clear plastic over the soil and bury the edges to keep it in place. **Clear plastic is the only kind that will be effective**- do not use black. Finally, leave plastic in place for at least 6 weeks. For more info on solarizing your garden, visit “Introduction to Soil Solarization” at: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN85600.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN85600.pdf).

A discussion of summer garden preps wouldn’t be complete without a mention of hurricane season. Now is your last chance to *prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed*. Be sure to hire an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified arborist to do this work- they are trained to care for trees and continually participate in ongoing education to maintain this certification. This can help lengthen the life of your trees and minimize the chance of property damage. To find a certified arborist near you, visit the ISA website tool to locate a tree professional: [http://www.isa-arbor.com/faca/find Arborist.aspx?utm_source=hompageclicks&utm_medium=hompagebox&utm_campaign=IAmA](http://www.isa-arbor.com/faca/find Arborist.aspx?utm_source=hompageclicks&utm_medium=hompagebox&utm_campaign=IAmA).

Last, but definitely not least, **make sure to watch out for your own health in the heat**. Slow down, dress for summer, do not get too much sun, drink water, do not drink alcoholic beverages, and spend more time in air-conditioned places. The University of Florida Extension has a great webpage for heat safety that everyone should read before it gets too hot: [http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/heat_stress.html](http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/heat_stress.html). Be safe and have a great summer!

Theresa Badurek
727-582-2109
[thbadurek@pinellascounty.org](mailto:thbadurek@pinellascounty.org)
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</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Stone Orchids</td>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-345-6733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Club Nursery</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo,</td>
<td>727-397-4438</td>
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<tr>
<td>DragonFly Garden</td>
<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>727-734-4900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earthscapes Garden Room</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
<td>727-786-4859</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esperanza’s Garden Center</td>
<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>727-742-8499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaiian Orchid Connection Note:*</td>
<td>6260 Seminole Blvd, Seminole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours: Tues thru Sat 10:00AM to 5:00PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy’s Korner Nursery Inc. (10% off trees)</td>
<td>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>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>
</tr>
<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
Horticultural Education
• Volunteer Opportunities
• Community Announcements

The Green Leaf

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation

Thank You, Volunteers!!
2013 June Dates to Remember

- **June 7** - Friday 9am to noon update and potluck
- **June 12** - Agriculture Work Shop

Looking Ahead!
- **June 13** - Master Gardener Turf Day
- **July 19, 20 & 21** - Tampa Bay home Show
- **July 26-28** - Annual Caladium Festival visit: [http://www.visitlelakeplacidflorida.com/caladium.htm](http://www.visitlelakeplacidflorida.com/caladium.htm)

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)