Tips for Preventing Winter Weeds

By Jane Morse, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County

Of all our gardening tasks, weeding can be the most dreaded. And, unfortunately, weeds can be a problem year-round in Florida. No winter break for us. The good news is that there are some fairly easy things you can do to lessen their severity.

The first step is identification. Do you have grass weeds, broadleaf weeds or sedges and are they annuals or perennials? Figuring that out will help you determine the most effective means of control. Annuals are the easiest to manage, perennials the most difficult. Several websites, including the University of Florida IFAS Extension at http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/questions/weeds.html and http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_book_florida_weeds provide weed identification photos.

There are several methods that can be used together to get the best weed control. These include prevention, cultural practices, mechanical methods and chemical controls. Prevention can be as simple as not bringing weed-infested new plants into the landscape. Cultural practices, such as proper watering, fertilizing and pruning, help keep plants healthy so they can out-compete weeds. Mechanical methods include using mulch, hand pulling, hoeing or mowing. Chemical control is the use of herbicides, which are pesticides that kill plants.

Since annual winter weeds sprout in the fall it is important to mulch plant beds now, if needed. Coarse mulch is better than fine mulch and a two to three inch thick layer is usually plenty for a well-drained area. If using large pine bark, you could go as thick as four inches. If using oak leaves, an inch is sufficient. For areas that don’t drain well, use less. Mulch holds in moisture, keeps soil temperatures even and reduces weeds. Organic mulch also improves the soil’s water-holding and nutrient-holding capacity and releases nutrients as it breaks down. Be sure to keep mulch away from the base of plants. Visit http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Mulch.pdf for more information.

Proper lawn mowing goes a long way towards good weed control. Be sure to mow at the best height for the grass. For example, standard St. Augustinegrass (Floratam is probably the most common) is best mowed at four inches, which helps to shade out weeds, develops a deeper root system for more drought tolerance, and allows grass to recover more quickly from damage. It is also important to mow frequently enough to remove only a third of the height of the leaf blade per mowing so as not to overly stress the grass. For more information on mowing, visit http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh028.

Herbicide selection can be tricky. It depends on whether you are treating a broadleaf, grass or sedge and where the weed is located. Is it in the lawn or in the landscape? Most annual winter broadleaf weeds in St. Augustinegrass are controlled best by atrazine. If you have sedges in your St. Augustinegrass you might be watering too much since they are weeds that like wet conditions. Reducing the soil wetness is a good cultural practice to reduce sedges. Good sedge control (80-89%) by chemicals can be obtained by using halosulfuron or imazaquin (look for these names as an active ingredient on the label) as a postemergence on St. Augustinegrass. Timing of treatments is also important. For more information see this website: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141.

Many broadleaf and grass weeds in landscape beds can be controlled with pre-emergent herbicides which can be applied directly over mulch. Two that are generally safe on most plants are trifluralin and oryzalin. Corn gluten is an organic option.
Always read the label to make sure it is safe to use around your established plants and follow the directions exactly (a federal law) to prevent pollution and environmental or health damage. Make sure to water in the pre-emergent. Don’t apply to wet foliage. Use fall and spring applications. Herbicides begin to break down after 60 days so reapplication is usually needed for season-long weed control.

The Pinellas County Extension’s Help Desk offers walk-in help with your lawn and landscape questions from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo. You can also get help by calling Extension at 727-582-2100, Ext. 1, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For online assistance, visit the University of Florida’s “Solutions for Your Life” website at www.pinellascountyextension.org or www.askextension.com.

Vanishing of the Bees

By MG Debra Black

Honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing across the planet, literally vanishing from their hives. Known as colony collapse disorder, this phenomenon has brought beekeepers to crisis in an industry responsible for producing apples, broccoli, watermelon, onions, cherries and a hundred other fruits and vegetables. Commercial honeybee operations pollinate crops that make up one out of every three bites of food on our tables.

On Aug. 29 I attended a program sponsored by Slow Food Tampa Bay that featured Andy Wolfe, a passionate local beekeeper who calls his Pinellas County homestead “A Taste of Freedom Farm,” and a showing of “Vanishing of the Bees.”

Andy is one of the state’s almost 2,000 registered beekeepers who are producing about 16 million pounds of honey a year.

The fascinating documentary follows commercial Florida beekeepers David Hackenberg and Dave Mendes as they strive to keep their bees healthy and fulfill pollination contracts across the U.S. The film explores the struggles they face as the two friends plead their case on Capitol Hill and travel across the Pacific Ocean in the quest to protect their honeybees.

Filmed across the U.S., and in Europe, Australia and Asia, this documentary examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and Mother Earth. As scientists puzzle over the cause, organic beekeepers indicate alternative reasons for this tragic loss. Conflicting options abound and after years of research a definitive answer has not been found to this harrowing mystery.

According to IFAS, (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN72000.pdf), the following factors might be contributing to CCD:

1. traditional bee pests and diseases
2. honeybee management practices
3. queen source
4. chemical use in bee colonies
5. chemical toxins in the environment
6. genetically modified crops
7. Varroa mites and associated pathogens
8. nutritional fitness
9. undiscovered,new pests and diseases
10. synergisms between the above stressors
By MG Cat Stillwagon

Looking for pointers on adding Florida-Friendly and Florida native plants to your yard to create an attractive landscape that protects water resources and the environment? They can be yours at no cost—along with a relaxed guided tour of the Florida Botanical Gardens—thanks to a new Extension program that kicked off Sept. 13 and will continue periodically over the next six months.

Master Gardener Bob Smith led the inaugural Florida-Friendly Garden Tour. The next one will be in November, so check the Extension calendar for details.

Starting at 9 a.m. in front of the Extension building, participants got a short talk on the history and evolution of the grounds and gardens, then strolled through the native plants garden, past the retention pond and through the butterfly garden. The intent is for homeowners to become familiar with the FBG’s different plants, trees, shrubs and ground covers and, hopefully, be inspired to incorporate them into their own home landscape plans.

Special emphasis is placed on the use of Florida-Friendly and Florida native plants to save water, protect our waterways and attract and retain native wildlife. The tour returned to the main building via the floating deck and the shade garden and ended in the Extension lobby with an informative talk on the function of the Diagnostic Desk and the important role of Master Gardeners and volunteers in the success of the Florida Botanical Gardens. Participants were encouraged to browse and buy in the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop, whose profits support the Gardens.

Look for Florida-Friendly Garden Tour brochures in the building lobby, the Seminole Library, the Largo Library and in calendars of events in local papers.

The November tour will meander through the area in the rear of the building, including the Herb Garden and the Tropical Fruit Garden. Other tours under development will include Andy's Creek, the formal gardens, and eventually the native scrub and pine uplands acreage.

Anyone interested in joining Bob Smith and Cat Stillwagon as tour leaders is encouraged to sign up on the website or to contact Bob at indybun@tampabay.rr.com or Cat at caterina.fox@verizon.net. Volunteers can earn Master Gardener hours for this project - listed as Extension/FBG Garden Tours.

Master Gardeners are encouraged to share their expertise and encouraged to provide talking points or interesting facts about their experiences in the development of the tour areas.

During the first of the new series of Florida-Friendly Garden Tours, leader Bob Smith, right, promotes the use of Florida’s native plants.
FBG Foundation Update

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBG Foundation President

Now that it is cooling off a little there are more and more folks out and about in the gardens, and as I take my daily constitutional I enjoy speaking with them and learning what they think about our efforts. We’ve accomplished so much in recent months that we should all be proud of the compliments our beautiful gardens are receiving. I’m sure the enhancements to the Wedding Garden—the setting of several nuptials this summer—were appreciated.

At the September board meeting the Fiscal 2012 budget was approved with funding for new and continuing projects. Please see me if you are interested in looking at our FY2011 accomplishments and next year’s work plan. This document is the Foundation’s annual report to the County.

Upcoming and very exciting projects will include adding a vineyard garden at the exit from the Palm Garden and three new children’s trail stations. Two of the latter will feature water conservation—one near the retention pond at the vineyard and one in the new public demonstration gardens area. We are always looking for new ideas or help in implementing these projects, so please let me know if you are interested in getting more involved.

Many of you are just now thinking Halloween and Thanksgiving, but the FBGF is already in full Holiday Lights mode. (Actually we’ve been laying our plans since January!) We got rave reviews last year and this year there will be even more lights, new displays and lots of local entertainment so plan to stop by between Nov. 26 and Jan. 1. The Gift and Plant Sale is set for Dec. 11 and fingers are crossed that the weather will be more cooperative this year. It will be held rain or shine and selections and bargains will make it worthwhile to break out the umbrella even if it does rain. The popular Dog Parade—with an opportunity to show off your pooch and win prizes—will be on New Year’s Eve afternoon. As always, more volunteers are needed, so check with me if you would like to have some fun while contributing to the success of the FBGF’s biggest fundraiser.

Another exciting and ambitious project in the works is Diggin’ the Arts, which the FBGF will be presenting next May in partnership with some of the area’s big name arts organizations. Again, we would love to put you to work. Ideas, energy, enthusiasm and creativity are always needed.

As you can tell, there is a lot going on with the Foundation and at the Gardens. Meeting all our goals will take all the people power we can muster. If you love the Gardens, we’re waiting for you. Bring your friends and neighbors. Or get involved and make new friends. You’ll be glad you did.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, I am always happy to have a visit in the Volunteer Office or chat via email (cscaffidi@co.pinellas.fl.us) or at 727-2-2117.

I would also like to mention how lucky the Foundation is to have Honeymoon Island State Park Nature Center Coordinator Tim Marshall managing our website for us at no charge! Thanks, Tim! He has an interesting event coming up which might be of interest to Green Leaf readers.

The Birding 101 Workshop at the Rotary Centennial Nature Center at Honeymoon Island State Park, Dunedin, includes three sessions for just $35: classroom, plus two field sessions on Thursday, Oct 13, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m; Saturday, Oct 15, 8:30 a.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 22, 8:15 a.m. The class is limited to 15 participants, so if you are interested, register right away at http://www.islandparks.org/birding101/.

Tim also notes that the much anticipated Birder’s Guide to Pinellas County by birding authority Ron Smith is now available at the nature center.
Bay News 9 interviews Long Time Master Gardener

By Chuck Scaffidi, Editor

Sam Skemp, MG Class of 1986, has been volunteering for 25 years and remains the extraordinary caregiver of the Wedding Rose Garden.

For his long history with the Gardens and his young-at-heart approach to volunteering he was a recent Everyday Hero on Bay News 9. You can view it at http://www.baynews9.com/article/news/2011/september/313436/Everyday-Hero-went-from-rockets-to-roses

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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 Gardens news between Green Leafs.

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.)

Facebook Fans Share Their 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 and 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.”

Betsy Rizzuto found our Facebook page and posted this picture. Thank you, Betsy, for visiting the Florida Botanical Gardens with these young garden lovers.

Thanks to Shari Bailey for posting these beautiful garden photos. Keep an eye out for your “Best Shots” in future issues.
North Entrance Project Moving Forward

Terry Berube, MG

Back several months ago our Park’s Director, Paul Cozzie asked if something could be done to improve the north entrance to the Extension Building. I was fortunate to be asked to work with Bob Albanese and Theresa Badurek on revitalizing the area in question.

With Bob’s corporate memory, Theresa’s background in landscape design and my desire to make everything look great we moved forward with planning. We decided on two major components. One was to demonstrate a wide variety of ground covers and another to improve and expand the Palm Area. Other changes include a new croton garden, improved irrigation and new fencing.

With a County approval in our hands we were ready to move. Over 1,400 plants were ordered, delivered and placed in the shade house; palm trees were moved from several different areas of the campus; and planting began.

This project has been made possible by so many MGs and volunteers. I’ve included a couple of pictures of the work-a-bees. My particular favorite is of John Best and Ray Marshall digging up a 30 foot palm. Boy did they work hard. After more loads of mulch than we could count, the Thursday Crew planted, and planted , with still more to go!

Under Bob’s leadership the project continues. He always takes time to have a “teaching moment” to make sure we know why and how we are doing what we are doing. What would we do without him? Our plan is to get everything planted within the next couple of weeks so if you want to get out, get some fresh air and dig in the dirt, please come and join the Thursday Crew.

Volunteer Worker Bees
Thursday Crew
Flora Gets a Face Lift

Terry Berube, MG

After too many years in the Florida sun, our little friend, Flora has had to undergo a facelift. Who is Flora you ask? Why she is the symbol for the Children’s Trail and her pretty little face lights up the directional signs throughout the Gardens.

The facelift procedure was undertaken by Pat Dieterich. While not a plastic surgeon, she did a fabulous job. Pat restored over 16 Flora signs; replacing all the old caulking and cleaning them up so well they look brand new. However, the job did not stop there. After much discussion the team decided to improve the directional information in order to ensure that folks didn’t miss any of the station. This is where Emma Eshbaugh took over. As the resident sign maker, Emma engraved new signs that included expanded directions from one station to the next using clearer verbiage and directional arrows. A couple of weeks ago, Pat and Emma met with Richard Berube, handed him a shovel, smiled a lot and asked him to start digging the new holes. All went well and Flora is back out in the Garden guiding children and their families through a discovery of flora, fauna and the

Volunteer Opportunities and Announcements

- **Volunteer Hours for Master Gardeners Only:** We are now able to collect all of your hours in the MG VMS online. All Pinellas County volunteer time can now be tracked in one place. For any non-Master Gardener work, simply choose the following project category: X_NON-MG Pinellas County Volunteer Hours. Some examples of volunteer time that can go in this new category include working at the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop or on the Wedding Garden mosaic project.

  MGs can report all of their time in the new system and will no longer be logging into the County VSP. The system is web-based, secure and user-friendly. You can even jump on from your web-enabled cell-phone if you like. Go to [https://florida.volunteersystem.org](https://florida.volunteersystem.org) and click on the New User tab. For those who are unable to input hours, we will still provide a log book.

  Volunteers, other than MGs, will continue to use the County VSP system and log book next to the help desk. Please adhere to the policy in the box at left.

The County VSP system and procedures applies only to non-MG volunteers.
Heritage Village Collecting Items for Fall Flea Market/Book Sale
The Pinellas County Historical Society is still collecting items for the upcoming Heritage Village Flea Market/Book sale. The sale, held during the annual Country Jubilee on Saturday, Oct. 22, is a major fundraiser for Heritage Village. Clothing, shoes, TVs or computer donations cannot be accepted. Almost all other items are Welcome including books, tools, dishes, silverware, sports equipment, craft items, toys, games, linens, jewelry, accessories, antiques, collectibles, furniture, decorative items, seasonal decorations, house wares and much more!

Donations may be brought to the Heritage Village office any time that the Village is open to the public (Wednesday through Saturday between 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.) between now and the sale. Arrangements may be made ahead of time for special or large drop-offs of items by calling the Historical Society at 727-582-2233 and leaving a phone number so that an appointment can be arranged. Thanks to all for your support of Heritage Village!!
Visit: http://www.pinellascounty.org/heritage/

Heritage Village—Volunteer Daniel Peacock (son of Cindy Peacock) is looking for Master Gardener help with a project in the Garden for the Blind at Heritage Village. It sounds like a great way to explore a plant palette that would enhance the other sensory experiences- not just vision. He needs your creative expertise! If you would like to be a part of this fun and exciting project I will get you in touch with Daniel.

Exciting Changes—coming to our demonstration gardens, including rejuvenating the gardens on the north side of the Extension building. Once the areas are designed, we will be looking for help. If you are interested, contact Theresa Badurek or Terry Berube

The Faith House Community Garden—a permaculture project sponsored and created by The Gaia’s Garden Book Study Group and The Permaculture Guild, St. Petersburg, FL. The project is being designed to benefit the residents and directors of The Faith House, a local halfway house that supports and helps residents in recovery from alcohol and substance abuse. They could use the help of an MG or two if you are interested. Please contact Bill Bilodeau at 488-3163 for more information. The garden is located at 302 15 th St. N. in St. Petersburg.

The Clearwater East Library— is planning a series of presentations on Saturday afternoons in February of 2012. Their theme is Frugal Living and they would love to hear about vegetable gardening and/or low-cost landscaping. They are looking for a Master Gardener to give one 30-45 minute talk about one of these topics You can be creative- they are open-minded and excited to work with us. Please contact me to set this up. This would be a fun way to get started with public speaking if you have been hesitant!

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church— Farmers Market on Oct. 22 nd from 9am-2pm. They have offered us a space to have a booth to represent Extension. It sounds like a fun event with food and fun shopping and even classic cars! If you are interested please let me know. There are 2 MGs signed up already - thank you. Need someone (or two) who can help with tent set-up and take-down that day.

IFAS Extension Program Enhancement Grant—The grant is to create QR codes for the botanical signs throughout the gardens. A QR code is a little barcode that can be scanned with a smartphone or tablet. Once scanned, the phone will be directed to website, photo, video, or other piece of information. Our QR codes will link to the IFAS fact sheet for a particular plant. We will also create short videos in key areas of the garden to serve as a sort of self-guided tour that can be viewed on the phone right there on the spot. This is going to be an exciting project! Of course, to accomplish such a task I am going to need some help. I will need help in creating a list of plants in the garden that have associated IFAS fact sheets. I will also need help identifying key spots that would make good short video locations. Other tasks will include printing the codes and placing them on signs and helping with video production. If you want to be on the cutting edge of education in the gardens- please contact me right away! Theresa
Education

- **MG Update** – October 7, from 9am-12pm. This update will feature our very own horticulturist Bob Albanese talking about pruning small trees and shrubs. Also, Andy will host another diagnostic session to keep your MG skills sharp and timely. This event is also a potluck event, so bring your favorite dish to share!

- **Garden Yard Tour** - Our fall garden tour will feature the home of Lilian Morten. Her address is 7830 Cheyenne Dr in Seminole. Lilian is a member of the Garden Club of St. Petersburg and is a native of South Africa. Her garden reflects a sense of whimsy and her native country. The tour will be on **Thursday Oct 16th** from 10am to noon. Come see a lovely garden & catch up with your fellow MGs. See you there. Phyl Lawson pjlawson@tampabay.rr.com

- **Short promo video all about Pinellas County Extension** - Access it through the MG VMS system in the Newsletters/Documents section. About a minute long, so check it out! Also, if you are giving a presentation you can play this as an opening to showcase all that Extension has to offer the community.

- **6th Annual National Herb Day Celebration in St. Petersburg** - On Saturday, **October 15th from 10 AM to 4PM**, herbalists and lovers of all things herbal will celebrate the importance of botanicals in health and happiness with Herb Day 2011. The free celebration will be held in St. Petersburg, FL and hosted by Acupuncture & Herbal Therapies located at 901 Central Ave. Free and open to the public. There will be lectures, free herb and food tasting, Kava, local herb plants for sale, free film showings and opportunities to visit with various representatives from the local herbal industry to learn about the uses of herbs in health and well-being.

- **The International Master Gardener Conference** – Will be in West Virginia in October. For details, go to [http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/](http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/)

- **Earn Continuing Education Credits** - For more upcoming 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). For instance, 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** - Classes are offered on the second Thursday of the month from 2-3:30 p.m. and from 6:15-7:45 p.m. at the Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Avenue. To register, go to [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/), click on the Take Action “Register for a program tab” and then click “Extension Service.” You may also call 727 582-2100.

- **St Petersburg Community Library MG Class Series** - Classes offered free at the main branch of the St. Pete Library located at 3745 Ninth Avenue N. To register, go to [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/). Click on the Take Action “Register for a program tab” and then click “Extension Service.” You may also call 727 582-2100.

- **Extension Classes**: Visit Extension’s on-line calendar for a list of classes that are being offered free to MGs, volunteers and FBGF members with a membership card. All others pay a nominal fee. You can register on-line.

- **“Planting Pinellas” blog** - Check it out at [http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/](http://plantingpinellas.blogspot.com/)

- **The State Master Gardener Conference-Oct. 24-26** This year the conference is in Orlando at the Royal Plaza Hotel at Disney. It is not too late to catch the discounted early registration. This three day conference is filled with great education, optional field trips, recognition and fun. You will meet MG from across the state and be able to bring new ideas back to your county. Plan to bring the family and take advantage of all the area has to offer. To get the complete schedule and all the information you need, click on the link below. [Http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.htm](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.htm)

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This is another smartphone Tag (QR) technique offered by Microsoft. If you have a smartphone, look at the colorful tag at the left and scan it with your smartphone. It will bring you to the FBG web site.

You will need to download an app at the address shown on the tag. This is a test and we are experimenting with this technology to also identify plants (the IFAS grant) and FBG Foundation memorials. Try it!
In honor of the official recent beginning of fall, this month’s “Plantcetera” is about fall wildflowers. This feature will list a few native wildflowers you may find blooming right now and through the month of October. If you are new to wildflowers in Florida, I would recommend “The Guide to Florida Wildflowers” by Walter Kingsley Taylor. We have a copy at the Help Desk if you want to use it here (it cannot be checked out). Photos and info below are purposefully spare, as I am hoping you will research them further:

I would encourage all of you to get out and find these, and I am offering Master Gardener CEUs to those of you who do. All I ask is that you submit a photo (digital or printed), tell me when and where you found it, and list at least 5 identifying characteristics. This must be a photo taken by you in the month of October in 2011- no old photos please. Points: 1/2 MG CEU for each wildflower, except for the Catesby’s lily which will earn you 1 whole CEU. If you find and document them all, you will earn 3 MG CEUs! Please submit all entries no later than November 15th, 2011.

THERESA BADUREK, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent
Contact me at 727-582-2109 or tbadurek@pinellascounty.org

**Goldenrod, Solidago spp.**

There are several species of goldenrod that can be found in our area. Many of them flower throughout the year, but fall is a particularly showy time for many of them. We have several here in the gardens, but you can find them all over.

**Bur-marigold, Bidens laevis**

Bur-marigold can be found in open wet areas throughout the state. This is a wildflower you may find blooming throughout the year. It is a member of the aster family with yellow ray florets and yellow disc florets. It has long rhizomes and often roots at the nodes.

**Catesby’s Lily, Lilium catesbaei**

Now this one will be a little trickier to find… This endangered native is a very showy lily, but not commonly found. It can be found here in Pinellas County- if you know where to look. Wet areas of a pine flatwoods or a prairie would be a good place to start.

**Spotted Horsemint, Monarda punctata**

This is one wildflower that is definitely blooming right now in the gardens. This is a member of the mint family that can be found on disturbed sites. The flowers range in color from white to spotted purple with colorful bracts below.

**Blazing Star, Liatris spp.**

Blazing star is a common harbinger of fall. There are several of these throughout the state in pinelands and sandhills. Though the flowers themselves are quite small, the stalks can reach up to 3 feet tall or more. Flowers are generally purple to lavender.
Thanks to Local Nurseries, FBGF Members, 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 several 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:

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<th>Country Club Nursery</th>
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<tr>
<td>3611 Tyrone Blvd, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>9850 Starkey Road, Largo,</td>
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<td>727-345-6733</td>
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<td>730 Broadway, Dunedin</td>
<td>816 Alt. 19 N, Palm Harbor</td>
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<td>6001 Haines Road, St. Petersburg</td>
<td>6831 Central Ave., St. Petersburg</td>
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<td>727-742-8499</td>
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<tr>
<td>6095 Haines Road North, St. Petersburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>727-525-9640</td>
<td>450 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor</td>
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<td>1171 Tarpon Springs Rd, Odessa</td>
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<td>727 545-9619</td>
<td>813 920-2153</td>
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<th>Willow Tree Nursery</th>
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<td>4401 49th St. N, St. Petersburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>727-522-2594</td>
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Click on [twitter](https://twitter.com) to get map directions and hours of operation.
Thank You, Volunteers!

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website: http://www.pinellascounty.org/scripts/publish/webevent.pl?

- MG update Friday Oct. 7, 9am-12pm (potluck)
- National Herb Day on Saturday, October 15th, 10 am to 4pm
- Garden Yard Tour Sunday Oct. 16, 10am to noon
- State MG Conference Oct 24-26

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