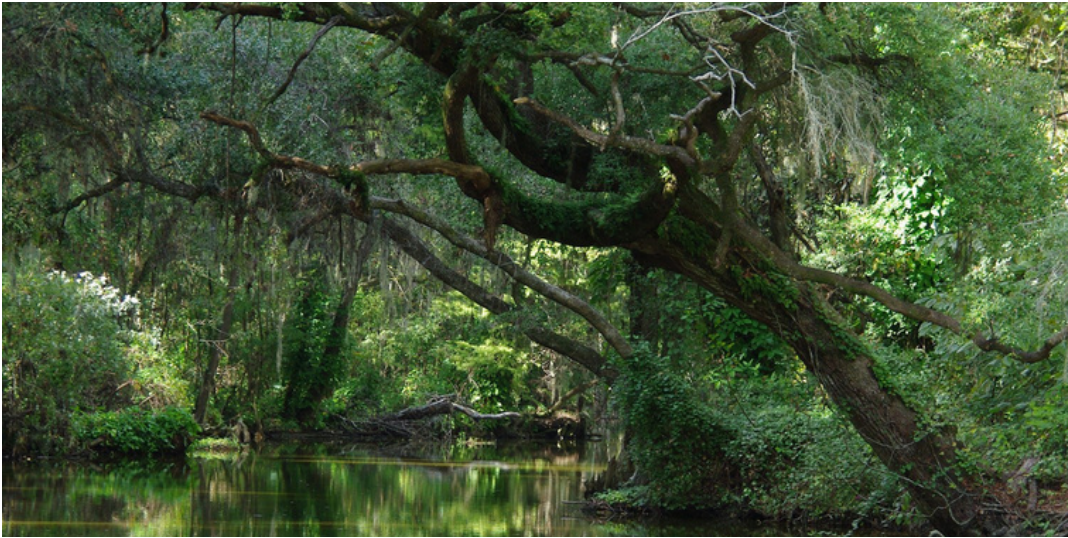


Know, Sow, Grow newsletter

UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County

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JOIN THE GREEN EXPO ON A SUSTAINABLE JOURNEY - PLUS AN EXCLUSIVE GARDENING OPPORTUNITY

By Judy Jean, Extension Agent, Urban Horticulture

Are you ready to dive into a world of sustainability, learning, and greener living? Flagler County's eagerly awaited Green Expo is just around the corner, and it's bringing a day of knowledge, inspiration, and connections with experts in the field. Get ready for an unforgettable experience on September 14 at the Flagler County Fairgrounds Cattleman's Hall.

EXPLORE SUSTAINABILITY IN STYLE

The Green Expo promises a vibrant exploration of sustainable living like never before. Imagine immersing yourself in discussions about water conservation, energy efficiency, and the art of sustainable gardening all in one place! With the support of UF/IFAS Extension, the St. Johns River Water Management District, Flagler County Professionals, the City of Palm Coast, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, this event is your chance to embrace greener choices with style.

EDUCATION MEETS FUN

Prepare to engage in enlightening discussions by seasoned sustainability pros. Whether you're a curious resident, an HOA board member, a manager, or a green industry enthusiast, there's a treasure trove of insights waiting for you. The Green Expo's educational sessions will take you on a captivating journey through topics that truly matter, empowering you to make eco-friendly choices in your daily life.

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, AND TAKING ACTION

The Green Expo goes beyond the realm of learning. It's all about fostering community engagement and leadership. If you're a community leader ready to make

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Master Gardener Volunteers**

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Our Mission

To assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

Our Vision

To be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida.

Opportunities continued from page 1

a positive impact, the Green Expo equips you with solid, science-based knowledge to tackle environmental issues head-on. Here's the exciting part: this event is about presenting facts, not pushing any particular agenda. It's all about providing you with the information you need to make informed decisions.

Green Expo: Thursday, September 14 - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Flagler County Fairgrounds Cattleman's Hall - Free Admission.

CALLING ALL GREEN-THUMBED ENTHUSIASTS!

Now let's talk gardening! If you've got a green thumb and a heart that beats for plants, we've got a special opportunity for you. The Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) class applications will be open September 1 - October 31. This is your chance to take your passion for gardening to new heights! Classes are set to begin January 11, 2024, running through April 18. Every Thursday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, you'll get to dive into the world of gardening with three exciting field trips along the way.

Ready to get your hands dirty and learn about gardening? Apply for the MGV class today: <https://tinyurl.com/FlaglerCountyMGV>

MORNING AND EVENING CLASSES: A GARDENING DELIGHT!

The Flagler County Master Gardeners are offering both morning and evening classes at the Palm Coast Community Center. This new addition, driven by public demand, makes it even more convenient for you to join the gardening adventure. For those intrigued by this opportunity, contact the Palm Coast Community Center at [386-986-2323](tel:386-986-2323) for details.

JOIN US AND BE PART OF A GREENER FUTURE

Are you excited yet? The Green Expo is not just an event; it's a celebration of shared enthusiasm and a commitment to a better planet. Whether you're attending the Green Expo or considering the MGV class, you're stepping into a journey toward a sustainable lifestyle that starts right here.

PHOTO: Mount Dora Canal, E. Rourke MGV

PALM COAST COMMUNITY CENTER CLASSES

Beachside Gardening

- September 26 - 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- September 29 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall/Winter Edible Gardening

- October 24 - 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- October 27 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Seed Saving

- November 28 - 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- December 1 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pruning

- December 12 - 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- December 15 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



THE SECRET TO SUCCESSFUL GARDENING IN FLORIDA: RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

By Mary Ellen Setting, MGV



Gardening can be challenging in Florida regardless of your planting expertise and number of years you've lived in Florida. The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) has developed the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program (FFL) to help residents and business owners create and maintain beautiful yards using research-based, environmentally sustainable landscaping practices. The program is also designed to address pollution and disappearing habitats.

Part of having a Florida-Friendly landscape is following principal #1: Right Plant, Right Place. To achieve a healthy, low-maintenance home landscape you basically need to put the right plant in the right place. This means selecting Florida-Friendly plants and turfgrass that are suitable for our climate (Flagler County is USDA Hardiness Zone 9A and 9B along the coast), match a site's soil, light, water, and climate conditions, fits the available space when the plants reach mature size, and are not harmful to the natural area (like invasive plants). Plants placed in the correct soil type and pH require fewer added nutrients. You can buy quality plants that welcome wildlife and offer a diversity of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Once these plants are established, they will require minimal amounts of water, pruning, fertilizer, or pesticides.

For help selecting the right plants for your landscape, refer to the UF/IFAS sites below:

- Principle 1: Right Plant, Right Place <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/9-principles/principle-1-right-plant-/>
- A comprehensive list of plants and their optimal growing conditions https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/FFL-Plant-Guide_v03222022_web.pdf
- Information on a variety of plants by region and type <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/florida-landscape-plants/>
- The 9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/florida-friendly-landscapes/the-nine-principles.html>

By following these principles, you will be able to be more successful and less frustrated with your efforts, gardening will be easier, and you will create a beautiful landscape that is also environmentally friendly, saves time, and money.

PHOTOS

Left: Wrong place, UF/IFAS

Right: Principle 1 landscape: UF/IFAS



PERMACULTURE

By Sharon Smith, MGV

Permaculture is a method of gardening that takes its cues from nature to enhance and improve the land by optimizing what nature has provided. The goal is a self-maintained habitat by making maximum use of sun, shade, water resources, and wildlife, with modifications and improvements, creating a flourishing natural ecosystem.

In 1929, Joseph Russell Smith wrote about his concerns regarding clear-cutting and the resulting erosion in the eastern hills and mountains of the U.S. In the 1960s, Bill Mollison wrote, "Permaculture is a philosophy of working with rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless action:

of looking at systems and people in all their functions rather than asking only one yield of them; and of allowing systems to demonstrate their own evolutions."

To create a successful permaculture, landscape layers are needed. These layers are trees, understory, ground cover, soil, fungi, insects, and animals.

Guilds are another component of permaculture. Guilds serve to deal with specific problems. Some guilds could function by attracting beneficial insects, others can serve as windbreaks to prevent injury to the landscape.

Each permaculture will look very different. It depends on your locale and environmental factors. It is also based on three ethical building blocks:

- 1) Care of the earth
- 2) Care of people
- 3) Setting limits to population and consumption

If this sounds interesting, there are many websites with information as well as YouTube videos. This overview is based on a Wikipedia article. In the Winter newsletter, I will explain the 12 design principles utilized for designing a permaculture garden.

PHOTO

Permaculture example: UF/IFAS

EUROPEAN FAN PALM: A COLD HARDY, SMALLER PALM

By Kathi Wright, MGV

The European fan palm, *Chamaerops humilis*, is a great choice for Flagler County homeowners looking for a smaller singular or multi-stemmed palm. It's hardy in zones 8-11, so those occasional very cold winter nights don't phase this compact palm. Although the IFAS article says it's not salt tolerant, mine has survived more than 20 years of living a block off Flagler Beach.

European fan palm is drought tolerant and low maintenance after it is established. You'll want to prune dead fronts and keep the basal suckers thinned to maintain the number of trees you desire.

If you lost pygmy date palms, *Phoenix roebelenii*, in last year's cold snap and aren't sure what to replace them with, consider the European fan palm.

PHOTO

European fan palm, Kathi Wright

RESOURCE

European Fan Palm: <https://tinyurl.com/European-Fan-Palm>





INVASIVE PLANTS

By Mary Ellen Setting, MGV

Weeds are simply plants growing in the wrong place where they are not wanted, but invasive plants are harmful to Florida's ecology. An invasive species is any species that is not native to a particular area, that has been introduced, intentionally or unintentionally, by human activities, and causes harm or is likely to cause harm to the environment, the economy and/or human and animal health. Invasive plants negatively impact the environment by spreading so aggressively they shade out, overtake, or displace beneficial native plants. They not only drive out native Florida landscape plants, but they also reduce plant diversity in the natural ecosystem, change habitats and reduce food sources for native wildlife.

Approximately 130 invasive plant species currently impact Florida. The plants become invasive because they profusely produce seeds early in the growing season (ahead of natives), grow rapidly, lack natural predators so their growth goes unchecked, resist management efforts, and tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. Invasive plants have been introduced as landscape ornamentals, aquarium plantings, agricultural crops, and by accident. Seeds and spores can be spread by birds, animals, wind, and yard trimmings. Some of the most common invasive plants are air potato, Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, camphor tree, mimosa, Chinese tallow tree, silk tree and coral vine.

Wondering how to know which plants you should avoid planting in your landscape because they are invasive? The [Florida Invasive Species Council](#) maintains a list of invasive plants that have been documented to cause ecological harm in Florida, as well as non-native plants that have increased in abundance but have not yet been shown to cause harm and should be watched. The list is revised every two years. Invasive plants are termed Category I invasives when they are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. Category II invasive plants have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.

Other good resources are the [UF IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas](#) and the [Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants | University of Florida, IFAS](#).

As a gardener, you can help reduce invasive plant species by planting native plants that are adapted to the local environment or non-native plants that are not less likely to become invasive. You can also learn to identify invasive plants and remove them from your garden. If you have invasive plants in your garden, do not compost them or dispose of them in the trash. Instead, put them in a plastic bag and dispose of them in the landfill.

PHOTOS

Top Left: Brazilian Pepper, UF/IFAS

Bottom Right: Air Potato, UF/IFAS

REFERENCES

Weeds and Invasive Plants: <https://tinyurl.com/mwe4k5py>

Potential Impacts of Invasive Plants:

<https://tinyurl.com/3pxzaj6u>



THE REID GARDENS

By Sharon Smith, MGV

The Reid Farm in Deland, FL, is a local example of a permaculture. The farm is two acres, and over several years has been converted to a food forest. There are hundreds of fruit trees. For example, there are 25 varieties of banana trees. There are multiple varieties of bamboo to provide a break from the wind and to shade the south side of the garden. Marigolds and other plants are grown to discourage insect activity.

The farm is open to visitors on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On the last Sunday of the month, there is a class on creating a food forest through permaculture. This includes a garden tour, tasting of produce, and a chance to buy trees and plants from the retail nursery.

Lonny Reid, the owner of The Reid Farm, is very passionate about this form of gardening and has a wealth of knowledge, much obtained by trial and error. The class was attended by 8 people and lasted two hours. There was plenty of time to ask questions and get a feel for how a yard could be converted to a food forest over time. The transition seems so simple, but the reality is that it requires thoughtful planning and attention to sun patterns and the terrain.

I asked Lonny about his mission and vision. "Helping people grow food is what makes my heart happy. I feel that healthy, organic food should be available to everyone, and my goal is to empower people to take back their independence and escape a broken and outrageously expensive food supply by growing climate appropriate, perennial vegetables and fruits."

Visiting The Reid Farm is a joyful, inspiring experience. There is a website (<https://thereidfarm.com>) and Facebook page with more information.

PHOTO

Lonny Reid, by Sharon Smith



PLANT SALE THANK YOU

By Kathi Wright, MGV

Huge thanks to our supportive community that helped make our Father's Day plant sale a success! We truly appreciate those who braved the rainy Saturday to purchase plants. We reached our goal and have already invested in our Demonstration Gardens and educational programs. Our next planned plant sale is March 2024.

PHOTOS

Plant sale, George Carfagno





ONGOING EVENTS

Plant Clinic at the Flagler County Public Library in Palm Coast the last Saturday of every month from 9:30 - 11:30 am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We've added evening sessions to our Palm Coast Community Center Horticultural Workshops. See the schedule on page 2 of this newsletter. Hope to see you there!



The Green Expo is September 14 at the Flagler County Fairgrounds in Cattleman's Hall, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, and admission is free.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Stay up to date with Master Gardener events and read educational information to help you have success with your landscape and garden.

Follow UF IFAS Flagler County Master Gardeners on Facebook!

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8srfaw>

YOUR MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

We're excited to be taking applications from September 1 - October 31 for a new class of Master Gardeners. Classes will start January 2024.

Apply today at <https://tinyurl.com/FlaglerCountyMGV>



If you have any plant-related questions or need gardening advice, don't hesitate to reach out to us. Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteers are a great resource for home gardeners and can provide valuable info and guidance on topics such as soil health, pest management, plant selection, and more. We are trained volunteers who have a passion for gardening and can provide advice on a wide range of topics. If you need help, stop by or reach out to your local Master Gardeners.

Helpful Links

Flagler County Extension: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/flagler/>

UF Solutions for Your Life: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Florida-Friendly Landscaping: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

UF Master Gardener: <https://tinyurl.com/nhk2z2eh>

Know, Sow, Grow Past Issues: <https://tinyurl.com/yc67dfwk>