

Your UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers hope you enjoy these articles and welcome all feedback and article requests!



History, mythology, literature, poetry, and religion have many references that talk of the beauty and elegance of the Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*). It was originally named the “Bermuda lily” when brought to England in 1819 from Japan then to Bermuda in the late 1800s. But it eventually became Easter lily when brought to Philadelphia and marketed as the flower for Easter. Production started commercially in the United States after World War I. By 1945, there were more than 1,000 growers in Oregon and California. Currently there is a region in coastal areas of Oregon-California known as, *Easter Lily Capitol of the World* and produces high quality, healthy bulbs.

When purchasing a lily plant be sure there are healthy, dark green leaves all the way down to the soil. The best situation would be to have no open buds or a few partially opened buds. Remember, the higher the bud count the more blooms you will have. If the potted plant is wrapped in foil, be sure to punch a hole(s) in the foil and place it on a saucer. This way the plant will drain and avoid becoming waterlogged, which leads to root rot. Give the plant bright but indirect sunlight. It is also helpful to remove the yellow anthers before pollen starts to shed. Water the plant when the soil is dry. Keeping the plant moderately moist and at cool temperatures should ensure lasting blooms. But don't worry, when the plant finishes blooming, it can be planted outdoors.



You can plant the lily outside when it is done blooming or even while still blooming. Be sure to place in a sunny location with mulch to keep the roots cool. As the plant begins to die back, cut the plant to soil level. Around January, the plant will begin to show growth. Most growth will occur during March and April. Apply [fertilizer](#) at this time. The plant will bloom with trumpet shaped flowers during May.

Resources: [Gardening Solutions](#) | [Fertilizer](#) | UF/IFAS [blog](#) | [Plant Doctor](#)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Plant Profile .....	1	Mulch .....	6
Gardener of the Month .....	2	Pruning.....	7
Clinic Clatter.....	3	When to Water.....	7
Live Oak .....	4	In Memory.....	8
Wild Coffee .....	5		

### Lake County MG Mission Statement

The mission of UF/IFAS Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers is to assist extension agents by providing horticultural education programs and current research-based information to the public through plant clinics, community outreach and Discovery Gardens.



# Featured Master Gardener Volunteer

Daun Barrett became a UF/IFAS Master Gardener Volunteer in 2018. She originally grew up in Riverview, Florida. She met her husband, Jim, while visiting her grandparents in Pennsylvania. They moved to Ohio for several years, then relocated to Philly, where she became a registered nurse. They raised their family for 20 years before moving to Connecticut. They were there for 25 years until retirement when they came home to sunny Florida where they have resided full-time in Tavares for the past three years.

## So, what was the primary driver that lead you to pursue becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer?

My love of gardening came naturally as I watched my mother, who could take a dead stick and make it grow and flourish. I started early in a 4-H club by winning an award for a beautification project. I've always loved gardening but had to retire in order to really relax and enjoy it!

Once in Lake County, I visited the local Extension Office to ask questions regarding problems in my yard. On one occasion, a volunteer told me about a three-session class that educated on irrigation, lawns, and FFL, among

other things. During the class, the FL Master Gardener's program was discussed and I was hooked - at the end of class I went and signed up!

## Where do you prefer to volunteer in Discovery Gardens?

I am the Mediterranean Garden Lead and love to work in Greenhouse and Propagation.

## Do you have a favorite plant?

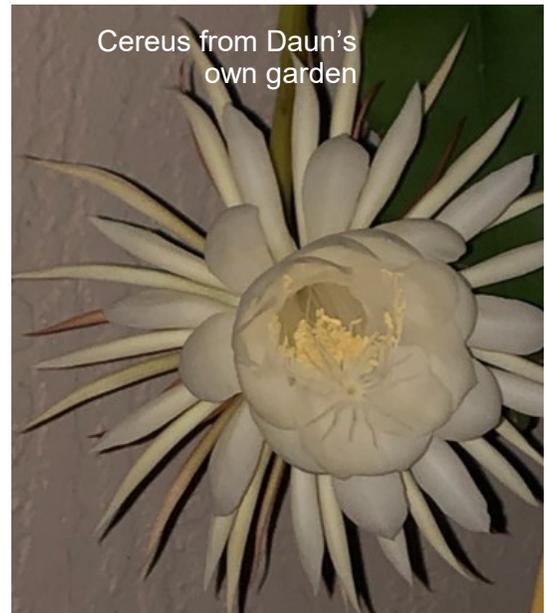
Two of my favorite plants are the Night Blooming Cereus, *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*, (see the March 2020 [Garden Scoop](#)) and the [Clivia miniata](#), but in all honesty I've never met a plant I didn't like....as is evident in my home garden.

## What is your favorite part of being a Master Gardener and UF/IFAS volunteer?

I think my favorite part is the knowledge I've gained (and keep learning) and the ability to spread education/information throughout the community.



Photos: UF/IFAS Clivia



Cereus from Daun's own garden

# Plant Clinic Chatter

By Sandra B, MGV



My springtime nemesis is back - Dodder weed (*Cuscuta*)! Also known as, Strangle weed, hairweed, hellbine, angel's hair. It is a summer annual and you should know how to deal with it before it destroys your landscape and ornamental plants. Dodder weed is a [parasitic weed](#) that grows vertically with shallow roots then produces a beautiful yellow-white floret. This wicked weed then shoots out tendrils looking for a host. The tendrils wrap counterclockwise around anything in its path forming scaffolding as it relentlessly seeks a host. The roots disappear after the release of the tendrils.

Once it finds the host or susceptible plant it infects the plant's [vascular system](#) leaving the only option for the homeowner: the destruction of the plant. Hand removal is ineffective, but you can try to cut a non-host plant that is working as a bridge below the point of contact. Dodder weed is [invasive](#). As the infestation increases, the canopy becomes a bright yellow. It will look like the grandchildren were playing with silly string. If it does not find a host, the weed dies. There are ten species of dodder weed in Florida. That's **10** too many for me. See EDIS pub [ENH 1292](#).



Photos: UF/IFAS

Useful Links [Nature's Vampire & GMO](#)



Dear Clinic Workers and Users,

Party time in the Plant Clinic again as we are up and running, although virtually. E-mail Brooke Moffis with your plant questions at [burnb48@ufl.edu](mailto:burnb48@ufl.edu).

For those answering voicemails, it's a good time to ask clients about their irrigation systems and give them the handout on testing their irrigation: EDIS [AE472](#).

We saw a lot of scales. These are insects that cover themselves with a hard shell making them difficult to kill. Spraying a horticultural oil smothers the insect inside the shell but does not remove the unsightly protuberance on the leaf. An intense stream of water might remove the debris and sooty mold long after the application of oil but you might have to reapply oil. Look for temperature advisories on the oil label.



Photos: UF/IFAS



# SOUTHERN LIVE OAK

By Reggie Doherty, MGV

One tree I remember on our family trips down south is *Quercus virginiana* or southern live oak. The sprawling limbs, large trunks, tons of leaves, and hanging Spanish moss made them an awesome and endearing vision for my young eyes. I wanted to see more of them! Then, when we moved to Lake County 3 years ago, I did.

Called a “Live Oak” because the leaves stay green in the south, hence, it’s an evergreen tree. This native to Florida can grow to 60’-80’ high with a 100’-120’ spread & a potential six foot diameter trunk (with a possible 200’ dripline). Young trees grow three feet each year and the trunk adds about one inch in diameter, after which it has a moderate growth rate. It is a low maintenance tree, whose leaves are GREAT mulch and organic matter. Live oak tolerates any type of soil, and is drought tolerant. They should have ONE central leader trunk, or it might split. It needs regular pruning when young to develop strong branch structure for wind resistance. The biggest problem with live oaks is if you do NOT prune/train branches - prune the tree each year for the first three years, then every five years to age 30 to keep a healthy, spreading, round crown.

There’s an old live oak in Trimble Park (5802 Trimble Park RD, Mt. Dora) and another in [Lake](#)

[Griffin State Park](#) in Fruitland Park. Florida's largest live oak is in [Cellon Oak Park](#), located at 4100 NW 169th Pl., Gainesville. It is estimated that the tree was planted in 1832. The oldest live oak in Manatee County is in the backyard of our own MGV, Yvonne Wolfe.

Thinking of removing this native tree? You’ll need a permit if it’s greater than six inches in diameter! See links below or your city’s ordinances for further information.

The main use of the live oak, besides giving beauty and shade, is to provide shelter and food for wildlife. The birds that rely on the tree are wood ducks, Florida scrub jay, yellow-bellied sapsucker, bob white, and quail. Of course, the noted squirrel along with the black bear like to eat the tree’s acorns. Interestingly, the roots of the seedlings form an edible tuber and was harvested and fried in centuries past.



Photo: Manatee County,  
by Yvonne Wolf



Photo: Cellon Park  
Oak—Wm Brinkerink



BY Cathy Leaves MGV

*Pshycotria nervosa*, wild coffee, is an easy-to-grow native plant with striking, rich, dark green, glossy leaves that have deeply impressed veins giving it a dramatic textural effect. It is also called wood balsam, Seminole balsam, or cafe marron.

This Florida native is also found in the West Indies, parts of Mexico, Central America, and South America.

This shrub can grow up to 10 feet tall and eight feet wide, but can be kept trimmed to whatever height you like. In spring, it has clusters of small white flowers that produce an aromatic fragrance similar to the gardenia. Many butterflies feed on the nectar of the blooms. You may encounter honeybees, along with the zebra butterflies and spicebush swallowtail.

Wild coffee berries were once used as a coffee substitute even though they do not contain caffeine. The plant produces the chemical compound *dimethyltryptamine*, which is hallucinogenic. The dark green foliage and dark red berries produce a very ornamental effect.

This plant will grow well under dry to moist conditions in partial to full shade. The plant will yellow and become stunted when grown in full sun. It needs well drained soil to thrive and is adapted to our sandy soil. It is recommended for zones 9 through 11. In zones 9 – 10, it is important to protect the plant from cold and frost. It does self seed and you will find plantlets near the parent plant.



Photos: UF EDIS



Red berries are produced in summer and fall. While the fruits resemble true coffee beans, and the plant is in the same family (*Rubiaceae*) as true coffee, the berries have no caffeine. They do provide food for catbirds, cardinals, mocking birds, blue jays and others.

For more information: [Gardening Solutions](#) | EDIS [FPS494](#) | [FL Museum](#) | [Fact Sheet](#)



## Springtime Means Mulch Time!

I've learned a lot about mulch since becoming a certified MGV in Florida. For instance, mulch breaks down faster here than up north. This adds organic matter/compost to garden beds and will improve a soil's moisture and nutrient holding capacity, structure, and drainage. Other benefits that you can read about in the Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) [principle number 4](#) publication are:

- ◆ Buffers soil temperature
- ◆ Helps maintain soil moisture
- ◆ Inhibits weed germination and growth
- ◆ Adds beauty
- ◆ Reduces soil erosion
- ◆ Protects plants

Prepare your site by removing weeds by hand or by applying an herbicide. Once weeds are removed, lay down several layers of newspaper and wet them. Place mulch on top of newspapers two to four inches thick depending on how much the mulch will settle.

Selecting your mulch will depend on numerous things. You can consider cost, aesthetics, sustainability, attainability, etc. The UF/IFAS chart below is helpful when selecting your mulch.

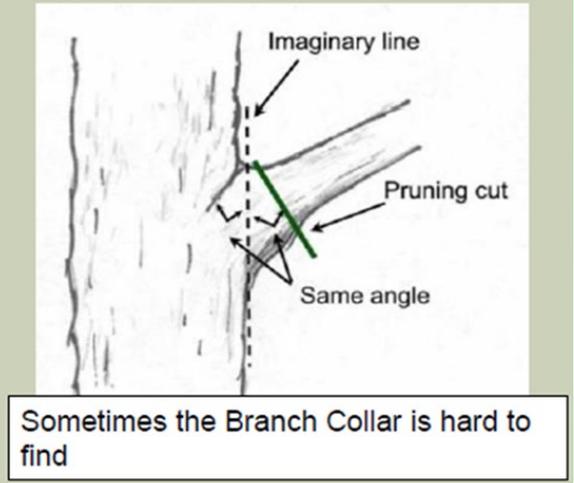
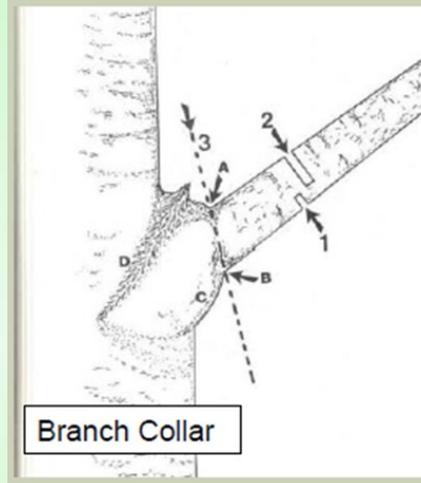
Resources: [Mulch 101](#) | [Gardening Solutions](#) | [Applying](#) | FFL [Handbook](#) | [Living Green](#)

Inexpensive / FREE	Expensive	Not recommended
Pine bark – Nuggets, chips, fines or ground. Apply yearly or every second year	Melaleuca - made from invasive exotic trees, then cured at a high temp to kill seeds	Cypress – might be made from protected wetlands trees
Pine straw – needs more frequent replacement	Eucalyptus - from South & Central FL tree farms.	Gravel/Pebbles – keeps soil & roots warm, can be too warm
Mixed hardwood – several sources & FREE at the County Landfill	Apply 3-4 inches thick so it's 2-3 inches when it settles	
Fallen leaves (e.g. oak) – least expensive mulch since it's usually from your own (or a neighbor's) landscape		

# PRUNING & THE RULE OF THUMB

By Reggie Doherty, MGV

Sources:



Photos:  
Amanda Crow  
UF/IFAS

When pruning tree/woody branches, always remember the Rule of Thumb:

**Prune at the collar, not flush with the leader/trunk**

Other pruning tips:

- ⇒ Diameter of main lead (trunk) should be larger than competing lead(s) (branches)
- ⇒ Some trees, like live oaks, are great at blocking decay/damage with branch collars and self-healing
- ⇒ Branch collars heal up like a donut or “U” on pruned branches. They develop naturally to close-off bad/damaged branches/areas

Resources: [Pruning](#) | [Gardening Solutions](#) | [Pruning Trees](#) | [EDIS](#)

## When to Water

Just because it's your day to water doesn't mean you have to. Don't forget, Water Management Districts have rules when it comes to irrigation. Go to the St. John's [Water Management website](#) for complete information & FAQ's.

Now that we're in Daylight Savings Time, we can water twice a week—whether you are on City, well or canal water—these are the restrictions to conserve water:

Time of year	Homes w/ODD numbered or no addresses	Homes w/EVEN numbered addresses	Non-residential properties
<b>Daylight Savings</b> (2nd Sunday in March)	Wednesday /Saturday	Thursday /Sunday	Tuesday /Friday
<b>Eastern Standard</b> (1st Sunday in November)	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all events are virtual or postponed. To see our online opportunities, please visit <https://lakegardeningprograms.eventbrite.com>.

Be sure to catch our From the Extension monthly articles in the *Daily Commercial*, this month, [Irrigation](#)

## IN MEMORY

*We will miss Master Gardener Volunteer and our friend, Sharon Kurtz, who passed away March 28, 2020.*



*She will be remembered for her can do attitude, always willing to lend a hand, and spreading happiness.  
Your spirit will always be part of  
the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Master Gardeners.*