

# The Coconut Palm

By Jim Haupt, Master Gardener Volunteer

On January 9, 1848 a ship from Trinidad ran aground off the east coast of Florida carrying cigars, rum, beans, garlic, an intoxicated crew, and 20,000 coconuts. Early settlers arrived on the beach as the crew and remnants of the cargo washed up on shore. For several weeks everyone ate coconuts. Years later, on November 20, 1938, a reporter from *The Palm Beach Post* wrote: "From that wreck has grown the palms that line the streets and parks of Palm Beach."

Little is known about the origin and distribution of the coconut palm. Distributed largely by humans, the fruit can float for long distances and still sprout when washed ashore. Found along tropical, sandy shorelines, the coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, can tolerate brackish soils and salt spray. They grow in zones 10B – 11 and can be injured or even killed when temperatures drop below freezing.

Several cultivars are grown in Florida varying in fruit color, straightness or crookedness of the trunk, growth rates, presence or absence of swollen trunk bases, and adaptability to Florida's soil conditions. The Jamaican Tall, for example, "a rapidly growing coconut palm, has a swollen trunk base, and can reach a height of 80 feet. Well-adapted to Florida climate and soils, the Malayan Dwarf, with its three-color forms, is smaller and slower growing than the Jamaican Tall variety. For a description of other cultivars, go to: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG04300.pdf>.

According to UF/IFAS, coconut palms have become one of Florida's most popular and useful plants. The crown of long-flowing fronds and an arching trunk give this palm tropical appeal. Coconut palms are popular street trees and make an ideal free-standing specimen plant. While valued as an ornamental, the coconut palm is grown commercially, on a limited basis in Florida, for coco frio, a thirst-quenching drink made from water inside green coconuts.

While the coconut palm makes a magnificent symbol of the tropics, it has been labeled a Category II Invasive Plant in the southern regions of Florida according to the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. The UF/IFAS Working Group Council cautions homeowners to avoid planting coconut palms "near natural areas and to use best management practices so that the fruit does not fall into canals and other free-flowing waterways." The council also urges that coconuts should be "removed and unwanted ones placed in yard waste." Storms can wash fruit into waterways eventually leading to the spread.

Other floaters like water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes*, and water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes*, two highly invasive plant species, are considered more serious to the environment. Rising out of the water and ranging from a few feet across to hundreds of acres, water hyacinth and water lettuce can form floating islands that drift in Florida's waterways. These plants cause property damage, clog waterways, damage boats, and, if improperly managed, can make all water activities nearly impossible.

Ninety-six percent of Florida's lakes and rivers inventoried in 2017 contained one or more non-native plants like the coconut palm, water hyacinth, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), and water lettuce. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission claims that 18 out of 26 non-native aquatic plants found in Florida waters are invasive, impacting "more than 66,650 acres." These statistics and much more information can be found at: <https://plants-archive.ifas.ufl.edu/manage/why-manage-plants/tussocks-and-floating-islands/>.



### Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service

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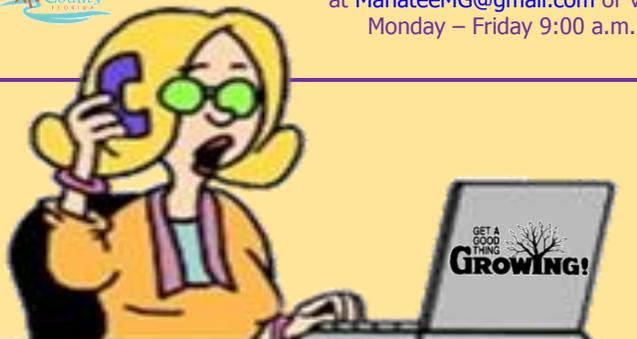
Master Gardener Volunteer Amy Stripe & Joy Derksen, Co-editors

Contents reviewed & edited by Alyssa Vinson, Extension Agent

Send a photo or gardening problem via e-mail to the Master Gardener Volunteers

at [ManateeMG@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeMG@gmail.com) or visit them at the County Extension Office

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; closed on Wednesday



## ASK A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

**Q:** Dear Master Gardener Volunteer:

We have a large pond behind our house and no-see-ums are a major problem. I contacted DPI (Department of Plant Industry, a part of Florida Department of Agriculture) and they suggested I contact you. Are there fish we could put in the pond that will reduce these biting midges?

M.S., Lakewood Ranch

**A:** The no-see-ums, biting midges, do not come from the water where fish would eat the larvae, but they do need the moisture of muddy marshland and sandy riverbanks to survive. There are 47 species of biting midges in Florida.

The females of this pest, like a mosquito, require a blood meal for their eggs to mature. Preventing bites is the same as you do to inhibit mosquito bites: stay indoors at dusk and dawn when they're most active and use an insect repellent outside.

Unfortunately, because of the large areas where the midges are found and the environmental impacts of insecticides, control is limited. There aren't many solutions for you outside of exclusion or using a CO<sub>2</sub> lure to attract and kill them. I'm adding links to publications about no-see-ums that include controls.

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/aquatic/biting\\_midges.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/aquatic/biting_midges.htm) or

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/polkco/2017/10/11/aquatic-midges-also-known-as-blind-mosquitoes/>.



**Q:** Do you think this fungus (conk mushroom ??) growth is indicative of a problem in an oak tree? My minimal internet research indicates it is. *M.M., Bradenton*

**A:** This is a *Ganoderma* spp. fungus, the fruiting body of the fungus that is rotting the wood from the inside out. Once this fruit appears, the fungus that has been acting unseen has done its damage.

If the conk is ONLY on a lateral branch, then you may be able to cut the branch back to the main body and stave off further rot. Visible conks on the main trunk of the tree are bad news since it indicates rot of the main support structure. You may want to call a certified arborist to evaluate the tree especially if it is near your house as it poses a risk of the tree toppling.

I have included a link to an article about *Ganoderma* that also includes a link to the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture), where you can find an arborist in your area.

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasotaco/2018/12/03/a-fungus-among-us/> or [treesaregood.org](http://treesaregood.org).

*Master Gardener Volunteer Karen Holleran  
answers your email questions.*

*Send questions and/or photos for identification or for  
diagnosis of residential gardening problems to  
[ManateeMG@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeMG@gmail.com).*

*Or call us during office hours 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at  
941-722-4524 and ask for a Master Gardener Volunteer.*



# Pest Paradise Lost

By Maureen Hirthler, Master Gardener Volunteer

I often think that the intent of my gardening is to provide a paradise for pests. This past year, the red spider mites, scale, thrips, whitefly, and aphids are quite pleased. Evidently, a change in strategy is required for their eviction.

The University of Florida recommends a program called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The general principles involve scouting regularly for pests, mechanical control, biologic control, and chemical control. You can read more [HERE](#).

Chemicals! I don't want to use chemicals. They are bad for the environment. They hurt bees and butterflies. They are poisons. I want something safe and organic like soap. Then I can use as much as I need to eliminate all those pesky pests.

What makes a pesticide organic? In most circumstances, an organic product, whether it is a pesticide or a fertilizer, is derived from the remains or byproducts of a living or once-living organism. These products are labeled natural as a marketing strategy to create the image that these products are harmless.

I was surprised when I did my research at UF/IFAS that natural pesticides like soap and oils were grouped under the heading **Chemical Control**. This made no sense to me; I use soap every day in the shower. I decided to investigate a bit deeper to understand this.

The first thing I learned is just because something is labeled organic or natural does not mean it is safer to the homeowner or unable to cause harm to the environment.

Natural insecticidal products are regulated by the EPA, which I thought only dealt with DDT and other "chemicals". Because they are regulated, there is important information on the label about which pests are sensitive to it and what protection you need to use it. Remember, the label is the law.

Some organic pesticides are as toxic or more toxic than some synthetic ones. They may cause severe irritation on the skin or in the eyes. They can kill the larvae of beneficial insects and butterflies. They can harm the plants you are trying to save.

Homemade mixes have variable components and concentrations. Did you know that dish soap is a detergent and not a soap? Beware online "recipes" for homemade soap and oil sprays. Commercial products are stringently tested for efficacy and toxicity under a variety of conditions. Horticultural oils and soaps applied during high temperatures or in direct sun can cause great harm to plants and beneficial insects, too. Others, such as pyrethrin, have high toxicity for beneficial insects and so should only be used in the evening.

Organic pesticides must be applied frequently, can be difficult to find, and repeated applications might become costly.

What can we do to avoid synthetic pesticides? Decide which organic pesticide works on your specific problem. Read the label for any precautions for application. Be sure you know the right environmental conditions for application, such as time of day, temperature, wind, and rain.

By remembering that all things that kill insects are pesticides, choosing the most specific and least toxic product for your problem, and understanding that pests can be controlled but not eradicated, you can decrease the need for synthetic pesticide use and safely use the least toxic products for your plants.

Get ready pests, here I come!

References:

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/less-toxic-insecticides/>, <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in197>, and <https://aces.illinois.edu/news/going-organic-are-organic-pesticides-safer-their-synthetic-counterparts>.



# Attract the Good Guys with

# FLOWERS

By Nancy Hammer, Master Gardener Volunteer

What do we mean by “the good guys?” These are two types of beneficial insects - ones that pollinate plants, and those preying on destructive insects that make trouble in the vegetable garden or landscape.

Pollination by honey and native bees and other pollinators is critical for good fruit and vegetable yields. Growing flowering plants that attract these good guys will contribute to a bountiful harvest. Furthermore, almost all flowering plants need visits from pollinators to reproduce.

And, planting the right flowering plants will attract insects that prey on aphids, stink bugs, spider mites, whiteflies, mealybugs, and other piercing/sucking or chewing marauders threatening your prized plants.

Many beneficial insects feed on nectar and pollen at some point in their life cycle; planting their favorite flowers helps ensure good guys are present should a gang of destructive bugs find your garden. Familiarize yourself with good guy adult insects and their larval stages, such as hover flies, big-eyed bugs, predaceous stink bugs, assassin bugs, mealybug destroyers, aphid lions, lady beetles, green lacewings, and parasitic wasps, so that you don't confuse the allies with the enemy.

Recently, I saw a proliferation of aphids on leaves of a king's mantle (*Thunbergia erecta*) shrub. Rather than reach for a pesticide, I looked more carefully and spotted hover fly larvae (*Syrphidae*) having an aphid feast. Some nearby flowering sweet allysum (*Lobularia maritima*) probably attracted the adult hover flies, too. Two days later, I noted well-fed larvae, and no aphids. It was a win/win ... except for the aphids.

Following are examples of beneficial flowers for your landscape:

Blanket flower or gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella*) is a native perennial with bright flowers that easily reseeds. It thrives in full sun and is drought tolerant.

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is a native perennial milkweed which is well-liked by pollinators. It's readily available at most native plant nurseries. See 'Milkweed' University of Florida/IFAS Gardening Solutions for more suggestions.

Tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.) is Florida's state wildflower. There are many species, but they usually sport orange/yellow daisy-like flowers.



Dotted Horsemint UF



Blanket Flower or Gaillardia UF



Salvia UF

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Herbs such as dill, parsley, fennel, basil, and cilantro produce flowers that are attractive to beneficials. African blue basil (*Ocimum kilimandscharicum* × *basilicum* 'Dark Opal') will be covered in pollinating bees.

Dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) is a native with late summer through fall pink/purple bracts, and flowers. It's a beneficial insect attractant superstar!

Marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.) are orange and yellow showy annuals. They are known for repelling destructive nematodes, as well as other pests.

Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) are warm season perennials available in a variety of colors. They are loved by butterflies, and bees.

Salvias (*Salvia* spp.) are available as annuals and perennials. The spikey flowers are magnets for lady beetles if aphids are present.

Sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), including Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia*), and native beach sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) grow best in full sun. (There are three subspecies of *H. debilis*. For our area, look for subsp. *vestitus*.) Make sure to buy a pollen-producing sunflower: some do not produce.

Sweet alyssum (*L. maritima*) is a low growing, delicate-looking, scented annual that blooms from fall to spring. It is a bee and butterfly magnet.

If buying sweet alyssum, marigold, pentas, milkweed, and other transplants at your garden center, confirm they haven't been treated with neonicotinoid insecticides. (This is a critical point; plant retailers want plants looking their best, so this may involve treating with systemic pesticides.)

Coreopsis, beach sunflower, dotted horsemint, blanket flower and some salvias are among natives which are particularly attractive to our native bees and are easily grown from seed.

Refer to the following articles for additional suggestions.

Beneficial Insects by Bill Schall, Palm Beach County Extension, University of Florida/IFAS Extension  
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/coextension/horticulture/pdf/nursery/BeneficialInsectsTreasureCoastRareFruitVegetableCouncilTalk8-16-2012.pdf>.

'Using Insectary Plants to Attract Pest Predators', by UF/IFAS Extension Orange Count MG, Mary Ann Pigora. Blog author, Tia Silvasy, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Extension Agent, Orange County  
<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/orangeco/2020/06/04/using-insectary-plants-to-attract-pest-predators/>.



Hover fly larvae (*Syrphidae*) having an aphid feast

Photo courtesy of Amy Stripe, MG



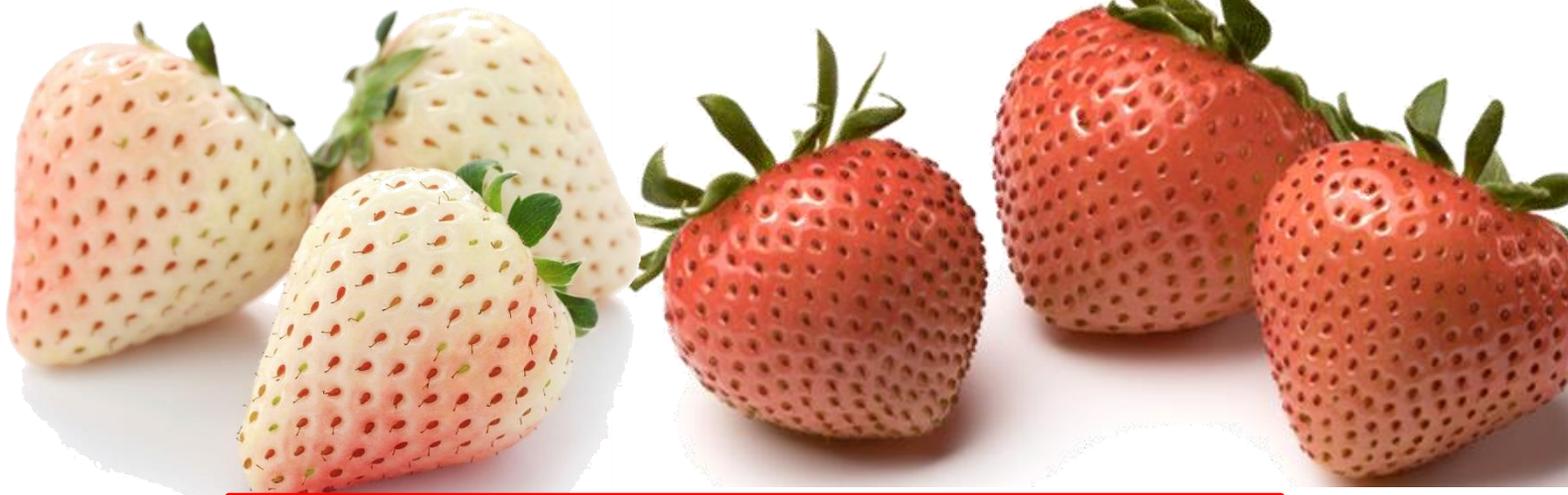
UF Sweet Alyssum



UF Butterfly Weed



UF Coreopsis



# Colorful Strawberries

By John Dawson, Master Gardener Volunteer

The history of strawberries traces back to two wild strawberries known as *Fragaria vesca* (European wild alpine strawberry) and *Fragaria chiloensis* (Chilean beach strawberry). The common red strawberry (*Fragaria x annassa*) owes itself to a French spy, Amédée-François Frézier, who took strawberry cultivars from South America to France in 1714 and introduced them to European breeders which led to the development of the large red species we know today as the common strawberry. (Frézier is the source of the French word for strawberry, *fraise*.)

Strawberry breeders over many years have been cross breeding variants of the original cross to develop size, sweetness, resistance to various diseases, cold hardiness, and of all things, color (anything to gain an edge in the market). Not satisfied with just red, breeders have developed strawberries in shades of red, pink, purple, yellow, green, and white

A **pink strawberry** (Rosé Berries™) was developed by Driscoll's Berries in California crossing a pale red berry with a 'White Carolina' variant. It has a peachy, floral flavor. Limited sales are in spring only. I haven't seen them here. Another hybrid from Ukraine, 'Pink Dream' claims to be resistant to fusarium wilt and gray rot. Seeds are available.

A **purple strawberry** Purple Wonder™ (seeds only available through Burpee) was developed at Cornell University (plant patent pending). Parentage was not disclosed. Some say the color is more burgundy than purple. This strawberry does not send out many runners, making it a good candidate for containers.

A **yellow strawberry** (a.k.a. golden strawberry) is a variant of the European alpine *F. vesca* and traces its origins back to ancient Persia. This small perennial strawberry does not produce runners. Seeds are readily available, sold as 'Alpine Yellow Wonder'. Because the berry is very fragile, you will not find them at your grocer's. This berry will not give you hives (see below).

For those who are allergic to strawberries; you may want to try white strawberries (a.k.a. pineberries) a cultivar that came to the U.S. market in 2012 which does not contain the gene for turning the berry red (found to be the primary cause of allergic reactions). The pineberry (a melding of the words pineapple and strawberry) is the result of cross-breeding, not genetic engineering.

Pineberries were bred from a species of South American wild strawberry *F chiloensis* which was nearly extinct until 2003, when a group of



Dutch farmers banded together to save the plant using source stock discovered in France. When ripe, it is almost completely white but with red seeds. As with the yellow strawberry, strawberry thieves leave it alone because it never turns red.

**Green** strawberries are simply unripe red strawberries. Gourmet chefs pickle them in champagne vinegar, sugar and salt and add them to various dishes. Eventually they will turn color as they ripen.

**Blue** and **black** strawberries do not exist; although vendors will try to sell you seeds for them. The blue strawberry myth evolved from an actual experiment of splicing arctic flounder genes (they have a natural organic anti-freeze) into strawberry plants to enhance cold hardiness. This experiment did not turn out well and there is no evidence that the resulting berry (if there was one) was ever blue.

Black strawberries were supposedly developed in Asia as a deep dark burgundy berry. Pictures of these berries are always Photoshopped to enhance color and entice buyers.

Believe it or not, there is even one company selling seeds for **rainbow strawberries**. They are not real either. Buyers beware - always buy from reputable breeders and avoid suspicious online sales that look too good to be true.

I know that white strawberries are being grown and bred at the University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, Florida but I have no idea how well the other non-red strawberries will do here in central Florida. But if you are adventurous and like to try new plants, give it a go. Whenever purchasing strawberry seeds or plants, make sure they were developed specifically for growth in your area of Florida.



**Correction:**

“Firescaping: Selecting Landscape Plants to Reduce Fire Risk” (January 2021, page 3)  
In the first paragraph we stated that Florida had over 2,000 wildfires *this year*. This was intended to indicate the number of wildfires *in the year 2020*.



# MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

Visit the Barbara Davis Educational Gardens!  
Buy plants!

Native plants-Florida friendly-orchids-bromeliads-vegetables-herbs-pollinator plants and more! All plants raised by Master Gardener Volunteers!

Saturday, March 20 ~ 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.  
1303 17th St. West Palmetto, FL 34221

**Tickets required.** Sign up on Eventbrite and pick a one-hour time slot (beginning 8:00-9:00AM). A limit of 50 tickets per hour time slot will be issued.

[https://2021\\_plant\\_sale.eventbrite.com](https://2021_plant_sale.eventbrite.com)



**UF** | IFAS Extension  
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**Masks Required**  
**Physical Distancing Enforced**



# February

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Date	Time	Event
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	<b>Master Gardener Mobile Plant Clinic at Lakewood Ranch Farmer's Market</b> (8330 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.) - Come visit the Master Gardener Volunteers who are available to share their knowledge on horticulture and assist community residents with horticulture questions.
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<b>Master Gardener Mobile Plant Clinic at St. George's Episcopal Church</b> (912 63rd Ave. West, Bradenton) Come visit the Master Gardener Volunteers who are available to share their knowledge on horticulture and assist community residents with horticulture questions.
Friday February 5	10:00 a.m.	<b>Basic Irrigation Operations and Maintenance Webinar</b> - Learn the basic operation of your in-ground irrigation system and maintenance repairs you as a homeowner can do yourself. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-basic-irrigation-operations-and-maintenance-tickets-132826061325">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-basic-irrigation-operations-and-maintenance-tickets-132826061325</a>
Friday February 5	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	<b>Veggie Influenza Webinar</b> - Don't miss this workshop on common vegetable disease in the garden. This 2-hour class covers basic identification skills, host plants, and management. Get answers to the plant disease questions you have. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veggie-influenza-tickets-136008540205">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veggie-influenza-tickets-136008540205</a>
Wednesday February 10	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<b>Fruit Tree Series: Selection and Planting Zoom Webinar</b> – Join Master Gardener Volunteer John Dawson for a series of three webinars on fruit tree cultivation. The first webinar covers what to look for when selecting trees and proper planting techniques. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eB7J83RfT2mxbF-YU7TFCQ">https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eB7J83RfT2mxbF-YU7TFCQ</a>
Friday February 12	10:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ for Newcomers Zoom Webinar</b> – This webinar will be presented by a Master Gardener Volunteer with the personal experience of adapting to all the challenges that gardening in Florida has to offer newcomers. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A6rcV8AsSRObawJPpi-JdQ">https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A6rcV8AsSRObawJPpi-JdQ</a>
Friday February 12 February 19 February 26	12:00-1:00 p.m.	<b>Tree Care Series</b> – Join the Residential Horticulture Extension Agent for a series of webinars focused on community tree care. Trees are incredibly important for our personal and environmental health. This three-part series will cover; selection and planting, establishment and maintenance, and pruning register once to attend all three. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MLF_NOIEQnWezAZBswR0WQ">https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MLF_NOIEQnWezAZBswR0WQ</a>
Saturday February 13	9:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Extension Master Gardener Nature and Plant ID Tour - Riverview Pointe Preserve</b> – DeSoto National Memorial – Stroll through Riverview Pointe Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. The hike begins in the parking area of the DeSoto National Memorial Park and enters into the Riverview Preserve at 8250 DeSoto Memorial Highway, Bradenton. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://riverview_pointe_preserve.eventbrite.com">https://riverview_pointe_preserve.eventbrite.com</a>
Saturday February 13	9:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Extension Master Gardener Nature and Plant ID Tour – Emerson Point Preserve</b> - Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerson-point-preserve-nature-and-plant-id-tour-tickets-130436247327">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerson-point-preserve-nature-and-plant-id-tour-tickets-130436247327</a>
Wednesday February 17	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<b>Fruit Tree Series: Care and Maintenance Zoom Webinar</b> – Learn cultural practices for success with fruit trees including mulching, pruning, fertilizing, and pest management. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k77HUNrLSSWwsUjvi2rlZQ">https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k77HUNrLSSWwsUjvi2rlZQ</a>
Saturday February 20	9:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Extension Master Gardener Nature and Plant ID Tour – Rye Preserve</b> - Take a hike through upland habitats along Rye Branch and learn about Florida native plants, natural history, and early settlement of the area. Drinking water, sturdy shoes, and hiking sticks are recommended. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://rye_preserve.eventbrite.com">https://rye_preserve.eventbrite.com</a>
Tuesday February 23	10:00 a.m.	<b>Taking the Mystery Out of Micro-Irrigation</b> - This webinar will include the pros & cons, along with the learning how to select, install, and operate your own water saving irrigation system. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-taking-the-mystery-out-of-micro-irrigation-tickets-133009193077">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-taking-the-mystery-out-of-micro-irrigation-tickets-133009193077</a>
Wednesday February 24	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<b>Fruit Tree Series: Varieties for Central Florida Zoom Webinar</b> - Take an in-depth look at some of the tropical and temperate fruits that thrive in Central Florida. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ptm1cC9vRFikzEPLAyS9Xg">https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ptm1cC9vRFikzEPLAyS9Xg</a>
Thursday February 25	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<b>Landscape Tips for Water Conservation Webinar</b> – this webinar will focus on Florida-Friendly Landscape tips such as right plant vs. right place, watering efficiently, and mulch benefits, as well as, include a brief discussion on your in-ground sprinkler system and the benefits of installing smart irrigation devices. <a href="#">Register Here</a> or <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landscape-tips-for-water-conservation-tickets-133103294537">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landscape-tips-for-water-conservation-tickets-133103294537</a>
Saturday February 27	9:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Extension Master Gardener Nature and Plant ID Tour – Perico Preserve</b> – Explore one of Manatee County's newest preserves and learn about Florida's native plants, how they benefit wildlife, and how they can be used in the home landscape. Learn about the wide variety of ecosystems on display and how the preserve was transformed into what it is today. Suitable for all ages. <a href="#">Click here to register</a> or <a href="https://perico_preserve.eventbrite.com">https://perico_preserve.eventbrite.com</a>



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