

A quarterly online magazine published for Master Gardeners in support of the educational mission of UF/IFAS Extension Service.

## Garden Gems

By Ellen Mahaney, Master Gardener Volunteer

So often too small, too fast or too hidden to be admired, many varieties of beneficial insects gracing residential gardens resemble moving jewels. But they are not just ornamental. Even the non pollinators perform practical services for gardens. Pictured here are just a handful of beauties found in thriving Florida gardens.

This brown-winged sweatbee (*Agapostemon splendens*), sipping from a crown- of- thorn blossom, represents the most important pollinators—bees. It is one of several species of Halictid bees, second only in abundance to Western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*).

The hover fly or flower fly or syrphid fly (*Allograpta obliqua*), viewed by some scientists as second only to bees in importance as a pollinator, consumes aphids in its larva stage, thus serving as a beneficial insect throughout the stages of its life. It not only hovers like a helicopter but also flies backwards. Here it dines on nectar from fennel, one of the more popular pollinator plants, and the larva plant for black swallowtails.

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Left: Brown-winged sweatbee. Right: Hover fly. All photo credits: Ellen Mahaney

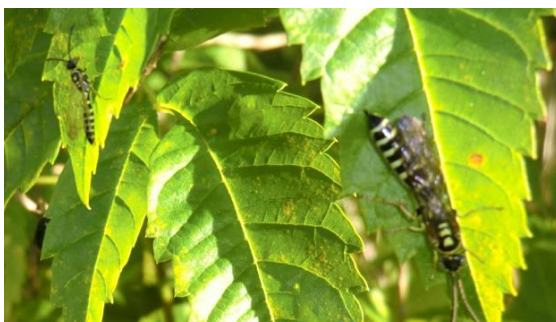
As the most seen and most beloved pollinators, butterflies benefit other pollinators. That means that a well-stocked butterfly garden is a pollinator pantry, because nectar of many flowers appeal to more than one species of insect. This Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) rests on bleeding heart (*Clerodendrum thomsoniae*), a popular nectar source for generalist butterflies.



Not the typical windshield view of joined lovebugs. Here they sip from separate blossoms on frostweed, becoming part of a lovely black and white garden scene. The adults love flowers and their larvae help to decompose the plant debris that nourishes them. Frostweed, by the way, is a bee magnet.



Joining bees, wasps and other pollinators, male five-banded thynnid wasps (*Myzinum quinquecinctum*) congregate on this partridge pea bush (*Cassia fasciculata*), so thickly that at times they produce a halo effect as they make a circuitous path between landings in their darting, rapid search for nectar. This small, slim wasp lays one egg in a white grub in the soil, where the resulting larva parasitizes the grub for nourishment.



By the way, if you are wondering why so many insects visit this plant to find nourishment, read about the amazing partridge pea plant in another article in this issue of *The Dirt*.

## Mushrooms

By Jan Rosser, Master Gardener Volunteer

“Mushrooms are the food of the Gods.” (Russian proverb)

What are mushrooms exactly? They are not plants because they cannot make their own food. They are fruiting bodies of fungi which feed off dead materials.

For centuries, hunters collected wild mushrooms for food and medicine. People believed they had magical properties and they were associated with gnomes and fairies. However, collection was as unpredictable as the weather. Centuries later, an enterprising person found a way to duplicate mushrooms in captivity, beginning the process known as cultivation and insuring a steady market for these treats.

The first example of cultivation was around 1800 when an owner of a horse stable realized that a continuing supply of horse manure was the setting for producing button mushrooms. From then on, button mushrooms were available for sale in supermarkets all over the world. An old saying is that “If you wish to eat a mushroom, you cannot consider what the mushroom fed on.”

In Florida, the consumer can find widely-cultivated mushrooms year-round in grocery stores for a good price. Examples include button, cremini, portabella, oyster (looks like its namesake), and shitake. It is possible to cultivate the latter at home. Other mushrooms are more difficult to cultivate—these are in stores on a periodic basis and are more costly. Examples include



Left: Shitake mushrooms. Right: Oyster mushrooms.  
Photo credits: UF/IFAS



the porcini (the most sought-after mushroom in the world) and morel (with a distinctive brain-like cap) mushrooms. A Florida native mushroom, the chanterelle (bright orange) is difficult to cultivate because it relies on the roots of other plants and trees. Instead, it requires foraging, making it only periodically available and expensive.



Chanterelle mushrooms. Photo Credit: UF/IFAS

Beware of poisonous look-alikes. Never forage in the wild for your mushrooms. Keep your pets and small children safe. Look-a-likes include the Jack O'Lantern which is a false chanterelle and glows in the dark. It grows in Florida during the rainy season. Death caps resemble puffballs and grow in groups on deciduous trees from late summer to autumn. Destroying angel is a beautiful, false button mushroom found in oak-pine Florida woods.

Poisonous mushrooms, if eaten, can cause severe illness leading to a quick death. There is no remedy. Don't forage your own mushrooms. As an old Sicilian proverb goes—"all mushrooms are edible, but some only once."

The early Russians labelled mushrooms as the food of the Gods. No doubt they were tripping on schrooms—psychedelic mushrooms, which are hallucinogenic.

For more information about mushrooms, go to [plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu](http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu).



A Poisonous Jack O'Lantern mushroom. Photo Credit: UF/IFAS

## How I Spent My COVID-19 Lockdown

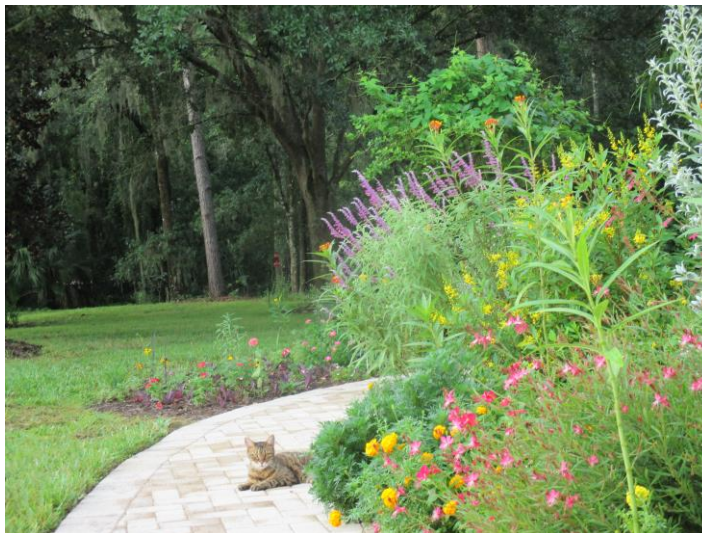
By Avis Traester, Master Gardener Volunteer

When the shutdown hit, I decided one of my projects would be my front walk garden. I always hated the yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) dropping berries on the front walk. The bushes were twenty years old and the nematodes were wreaking havoc on them. We removed them all and started over.

With basically a clean slate I went crazy with deer-resistant plants. I replaced the yaupon holly with a silver buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*) tree, left the native whisk fern (*Psilotum nudum*), and added mostly pungent sages. When the buttonwood blooms, the flower reminds me of coronavirus so I will remember what year I planted it!

Almost everything I added came from cuttings and division. I purchased two Texas sages and the buttonwood. Other plants were from the “spent flowers plant” section of Lowe’s or Walmart. I can’t believe how well my “spent” marigolds did this year. I never had any that got over two feet wide in my life! All my vinca, blue salvia, and thryallis were from cuttings. I divided my Mexican sage bush to have one on each end of the garden.

There was minimal deer munching in the beginning but none in the garden recently. This is despite the fact we get four big bucks, two or three does, and at least one “Bambi” daily.



My (supervised) cat enjoying my front garden.  
Photo credit: Avis Traester

## The Amazing Partridge Pea: A Wildlife Paradise in a Bush

By Ellen Mahany, Master Gardener Volunteer

Three partridge pea plants (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) popped up in my front yard this past spring, remaining bloomless as they grew into large shrubs crowding nearby native plants. By August, smaller blooming plants of the same species joined them. Yet honey and sweat bees, along with various species of flies, wasps and other beneficial insects, were thick in the large all-green shrubs, whereas the plants with yellow blossoms attracted mostly bumble bees, which nuzzled and buzzed inside the flowers to shake the pollen loose, turning them upside down in the process.

This deciduous native senna (another common name) spreads from seed pods it drops in the fall. It likes average-to-dry, poor soil, full sun, needs lots of room, and blooms in late summer. From experience and research, I have learned that this plant's unique biological structure creates a wildlife paradise in a bush while also improving the environment.

To explain the mystery of flowerless attraction, nectar occurs not only in flowers but also in extra floral nectaries. Plants use these nectaries to attract protective insects such as ants that attack damaging ones such as caterpillars. Extra floral nectaries, typical structures in senna plants, are in 4,000 plants world-wide. In this plant, they are in discs near the petioles (the stalk that joins a leaf to the stem). Unfortunately, the various pollinators using these nectaries obtain nectar without



Left: Flowerless partridge peas shrubs are fronted by spotted bee balm (*Monarda punctata*), trailing porter weed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) and *Coreopsis* spp.

Right: Flowering partridge pea. (Both photo credits: Ellen Mahany)

pollinating other plants. Nonetheless, several characteristics besides nourishing beneficial insects assure the partridge pea a place on the list of indispensable plants for a Florida garden.

- Bees make honey from this nectar, designating it an important honey plant.
- Parasitic wasps nourished on this plant place their eggs in damaging ground grubs, which the resulting larvae feed upon, eventually killing them. This is a method of crop control.
- Long-tongued honey, bumble, long-horned, and carpenter bees obtain nectar and pollen from the flowers to provide self or cross-pollination.
- It serves as a larva plant for the little sulphur, cloudless sulphur, sleepy orange sulphur, grey hairstreak, and ceraunus blue butterflies.
- Small mammals, quail, and song birds eat the pea-like pods (usually easy to harvest in October).
- Its dense growth, especially in colonies, provides shelter for insects and small animals.
- As a legume, it has nodules in its roots to release soil-enriching nitrogen.
- Plant colonies assist in preventing erosion.

By late September, this plant dies, leaving behind seed pods to ensure spring shrubs to nourish the next boom of pollinators and other beneficial insects.



Left: Mystery Solved: Discs near the petioles are nectar magnates. (Photo Credit: Randy Tindall/Nadia's Backyard)

Center: A bumble bee (*Bombus spp.*) anticipates nectar and pollen as it enters a welcoming blossom. Photo credit: Ellen Mahany

Right: Pea pods form from the yellow flowers. Photo credit: Ellen Mahany



## Understanding Plant Tags

By Linda Smock, Master Gardener Volunteer

We've all seen articles about deciphering food labels and know the importance of reading them as we make decisions about our food purchases and choices. For those of us who like to purchase plants, reading the labels can help us make better choices.

First, you want to read both sides of the label. It is important to have the right plant in the right place. The label helps us know if this plant will work where we want it to place it. Below are some of the things you can check before purchasing a plant:

- Check for both the common and botanical names. Often these are at the top of the tag, but may be in bold print in another location such as below a photo of the plant or perhaps centered on the tag. Common names can vary but botanical names precisely identify the plant.
- The zones where the plant will thrive is also important. Perennials are much more likely to survive when planted in a zone for which they are well suited.
- What type of plant is this? A perennial? Annual? When does it bloom?
- Is the plant a Florida native? This is especially important if you are working to have a Florida Friendly Yard and want native plants that will thrive in all types of weather. Wildlife, including insects, birds, and animals especially appreciate when you share native plants with them.
- You will want to check the mature size—height and width—and its rate of growth. You will also want to know the suggested spacing. Is it suitable for a container or should it be in the ground?
- Knowing how to care for the plant—watering requirements, maintenance, pruning requirements—is important.
- Suggested fertilization may be on the label also. This can be very important for plants that are non-native to the habitat. Always follow local ordinances when applying fertilizers.
- Are there any warnings, such as thorns, spines, allergens, or toxins?

Labels are important! Most of us look beyond the price of clothing to learn how to care for the item. We need to do the same with our plants. Reading the labels help us make better choices and avoid spending money on things that are not going to work. Happy reading!



## Saving the Bees Please

By Denise Hawk, Master Gardener Volunteer

Although many of our human services and portions of our life styles have changed during this time of Covid-19, the lives of the hives have continued.

A few years ago, a neighbor had a large hive that took over the inside of a decorative wall in front of her house. Because the bees stung someone, she opted to eradicate them even though someone suggested she contact local beekeepers. Fast forward three years—the bees rebuilt the hive. This time, a local bee keeper came to remove the hive. I was happy to be able to watch the process.



First, you need a smoke pot. Two puffs of the bee smoker calm the bees by interfering with their sense of smell. Smell is the main way that bees communicate and the smoke inhibits the threat response to the hive. As work progressed, they used the pot as needed. Less stinging for sure.

Transporting the removed bees requires a Nuc (Nucleus) Box. This box had five frames which could hold the worker bees and the queen. The beekeepers leave the box overnight so that any bees that had been out foraging at the time of removal could return. They gently use a vacuum to get the bees off the comb. Then they cut the comb and place it on a frame.

When they placed the comb with the honey on a frame, they secured it with rubber bands. They then release the bees from the vacuum container to return to the comb. As time goes on the bees break the bands and take them out of the hive. Box hives allow for easy removal allowing for relocation to different areas such as agricultural ones that provide bees with food sources and lets them pollinate crops such as oranges.

The beekeeper provided me with their website which includes information about classes, removal, training etc. <https://pinellasbeekeepers.buzz>. There are several back-yard bee keepers in Pinellas County.

At the Ochs Gardens/4H area, there is a group of hives surrounded by fence on the park side tended by Gail Conroy and her daughter. They first started their now beekeeping passion in 2006 with one hive. To start, you must buy bees for your initial hive to ensure that there are no bees

affected by pesticides that swarms may have collected. Their honey is organic and contains flavonoids that come from the nectar, pollen and plant resins collected by the bees.

The location of the hives at the Ochs is wonderful for the pollination of the vegetables grown by the gardeners there and for the bees supported by flowering plants to attract them to the garden areas. They have around 25 hives at any one time that produce up to 23 gallons of honey. They collect it three to four times a year. One new hive box they are trying out—called a top bar hive—has easy access and is one of the oldest type hives used.

Gail and her daughter Rebecca are Cottage Food Beekeepers and can sell honey to individuals but not on a large commercial basis. Other products they have are pollen, propolis, and beeswax candles. They are at the St. Pete Saturday Morning Market when it is session and have an informative website [rebeccasbees.com](http://rebeccasbees.com).

There is a bee yard at the Seminole Library. Access it by parking on Ridge Road where the woods are (the St Pete College Property) and walking down the trail access.

Look at the information on line and see what an important part our local beekeepers play in our area. Who knows—there may even be a hive near you.

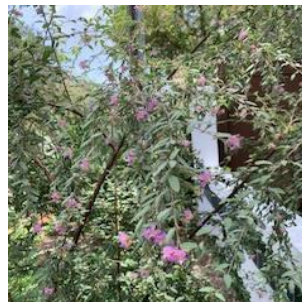


Left: Honey bee hives at Ochs. Middle and Center: Bees doing their work of pollination.  
All photo credits: Denise Hawks

## Falling in Love with a New Plant Friend

By Liza Ryan, Master Gardener Volunteer

A visit to [Wilcox Nursery](#) is an adventure for me. Wilcox is not nearby but it is my nearest resource for Florida native plants. A visit means that I have a possibility of coming home with a desired or new plant. Florida native plants are my passion.



Teabush  
(*Melochia tomentosa*)  
growing on  
my fence.  
Photo credit:  
Liza Ryan

On this visit, the first plant I saw was one I did not recognize. I thoughtlessly put it in my shopping cart and carried on. Arriving home, I researched our new family member, chose a hopeful location, and planted *Melochia tomentosa*, commonly known as teabush, pyramid bush, woolly pyramidflower, broomwood and several other names.

I am writing this article because I want to introduce and encourage you to give *Melochia tomentosa* a glance too. The location I chose for my *Melochia tomentosa* was the rear of my “mailbox garden”. There, it has been delighting me, pollinators, and passers-by every day.

This plant:

- Loves a full sun and a well-drained location
- Has small lavender inflorescence against small gray-green leaves from spring through fall
- Has a loose shape (not compact) and a gracefully draping five to six-foot height and four-foot width
- Is a perennial shrub
- Grows well in zones 8 to 11
- Attracts swarms of pollinators throughout its long, blooming season
- Is native only to Texas and Florida in the USA

I irrigate my *Melochia tomentosa* once a week. It receives no additional maintenance and is growing as a subtly stunning beauty. I am now in love with this Florida native perennial and I think it may amaze you too.

### References

1. United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service; [plants.usda.gov](#); July 28, 2020
2. Atlas of Florida Plants Institute for Systemic Botany; [florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](#); July 28, 2020

## My Visit to Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens

By Carol Zieres, Master Gardener Trainee

I am a Master Gardener Trainee currently enrolled in the 2020 MGV course. This year has been anything but normal living inside the “bubble” that Covid-19 has thrust upon me. Like everyone else, I’ve been anxious for the hot summer to end so I can be outside and get busy gardening again.

Last week I decided to go on a road trip to visit some friends in Punta Gorda, Florida and I combined my visit with a trip to the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens. With my book in hand (Florida’s Best Native Landscape Plants) to practice my plant identification, I enjoyed strolling along the pathways through the various garden beds. I was surprised to learn that they have only been open to the public for about three years. If you appreciate art as well as gardening, you must visit these botanical gardens. The full-time staff and volunteers have done a fantastic job integrating the sculptures (most of which are on loan from the artist) with the beautiful plantings of flowers, trees, and shrubs.



A view of the gardens. All photo credits: Carol Zieres

You’ll also find a superb butterfly garden, well-constructed with fine screen mesh to protect the delicate nursery of butterflies; it was particularly fascinating to observe a chrysalis that encapsulated the pupa of the butterfly. By far, my favorite butterfly is the Monarch with its stunning colors of orange and black stripes, flecked with white spots. I’ve always planted milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*) in my back yard to attract the monarchs, but I’ve found that they are particularly fond of porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*), too, as is the Zebra longwing, Florida’s official state butterfly.



Left: Monarch  
Right: Zebra longwing





I was also curious to see what else was blooming this time of year. I found one of my favorite flowers in bloom, the purple passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*), also known as maypop. “Why maypop?” I asked the volunteer on duty from the Peace River Butterfly Society. She told me that it is because as the vine spreads it may pop up at any time and any place! One of the most unusual blooms on the grounds that I’d never seen before is the “Musical Note Clerodendrum.” The delicate snow-white blossoms truly do resemble the shapes of notes on a musical scale!

I would encourage my fellow Master gardeners to plan a visit to a nearby botanical garden to see what’s in bloom. You don’t need to take a long road trip as I did. Pinellas County has some wonderful places to visit, such as the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo and the Folly Farm Community Gardens in Safety Harbor to name a few. Take a friend to go along with you and don’t forget to bring your plant identification book, too!



Left: Purple passion vine.

Right: Musical Note Clerodendrum



## You Can Have a “Green Holiday”

By Debi Ford, Master Gardener Volunteer

The winter holiday season provides us with many joyful experiences we await all year long. It can also pose some obstacles for those trying to live a “green lifestyle”. There are solutions to every obstacle you may encounter, and a list of resources at the end of the article for future reference and reading.

### Christmas trees

There are few holiday symbols as iconic as a Christmas tree. While it may be tempting to purchase an artificial tree, many contain chemicals not allowed for production in our country and that you may not want inside your house. Additionally, a realistic-looking tree can be very expensive and they are not recyclable. You don’t have to go without this special holiday tradition, you have options!

- ***Live tree complete with a root ball attached***

Make sure to check the growing conditions needed as well as the height and spread dimensions of the adult form so you can plan its post-holiday placement. You don’t want a tall and wide tree taking over your yard! You must keep your tree in a large enough water-tight base to allow the root ball to remain moist so it doesn’t dry out during its indoor season. Once the holidays are over, plant your tree in the predetermined location.

- ***Purchasing a cut tree***

Pre-cut trees from northern growers usually offer several tree types, so choose one that suits your fancy. After the holidays, many communities hold tree collections for converting the trees to mulch. If you have the equipment, you can handle that chore yourself! In either case, your tree will benefit the landscape, not just tossed in the trash. You’ll also be supporting the Christmas tree farmers, a very worthy profession. For Christmas tree farms in Florida, some of which are not far from Pinellas County, go to :

<http://www.flchristmastrees.com/Farms/Index.htm>

A cut tree lot. All photo credits: Creative Commons.



Save any trimmings you cut to fit the tree into your tree stand and use them in other decorations such as a wreath, in a vase with cut flowers, or other ideas. When the holidays are over, recycle the trimmings in your landscape or compost pile!

### **Lighting**

Holiday lights figure prominently in many decorations. Improvements have made lights more energy efficient. If you've got older ones, it's time to upgrade to newer more energy efficient types such as LED that will still give you the holiday show but not make your power meter spin and waste energy. Look for Energy Star ratings on lights and lighting accessories so you can purchase the most efficient ones possible.

Additionally, investing in timers can keep your lights on at night but will also help you avoid forgetting to turn them off come morning, or you can set the timer for a certain number of hours. With the photo cell type, the lights will come on automatically as the daylight fades and turn off as the morning light begins to dawn. There are also solar lights that use the energy of the sun for power!

With any electrical decorations, make sure they are UL tested and sturdy so they'll last a long time—cheaply made ones will mean more frequent replacements and more tossed in the trash.



### **Decorations for the Tree**

Tinsel, metallic garland, shiny plastic balls, while beautiful, are all created from artificial substances like microplastics. These plastics cause a lot of problems for wildlife; scientists are finding the beads in the oceans and inside of marine life bodies. How then to decorate your tree and still avoid using petroleum-based ornaments? Many on-line craft web sites have great ideas on how to create natural Christmas ornaments. Search out what works for you! Involve the kids and make it a family project.

- Use natural materials such burlap or raffia in ribbon or garland form.
- Use pine cones, acorn clusters, dried citrus slices, popcorn and cranberry strung on thread, or dried materials collected from plants on your property. Hydrangea blooms, ornamental grass stalks, and the like, can result in attractive ornaments and you can recycle them into your compost pile afterwards!
- Consider fabric or yarn, clear glass, non-toxic clay, ceramic or wooden ornaments and use non-toxic paints to decorate your creations. You'll be able to use them year after year.

### **Gift Wrapping Options**

It's always a treat to receive a gift tucked beneath beautiful wrappings. Unfortunately, much of the wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons wind up in the trash. Invest in good quality gift bags, or if you're crafty, make them out of holiday fabrics! You can use them for gift giving and then flatten and store them for reuse for years to come. Look for bags made from recycled paper to further your efforts to "go green". Consider other containers such as baskets, decorative boxes, etc. that can not only contain the gift but become a secondary gift afterwards!

Choose environmentally-friendly filler materials such as acid-free tissue, shredded paper, or other materials that are reusable or recyclable. For gifts that you'll need to mail, look for boxes made from recycled paper and cushion the contents using environmentally-friendly filler materials.

When shopping for gifts, select items that have minimal packaging. Consider choosing gift cards, tickets or gift certificates for experiences, concerts, games, restaurants etc. Most people already have enough "things" around the house!



## Candles

Many people use candles throughout the year, but especially at holiday time. Many mass-produced candles are made of paraffin, a petroleum product, and often have metal core wicks. You can “green up” your soft candlelight by using natural candles made from beeswax with natural fiber wicks. Burning beeswax candles will also lend a soft, sweet aroma to your surroundings. Soy candles offer another alternative, but read the label carefully as some include paraffin in their mixture.

Craft stores also carry materials so you can make your own candles.

*NOTE: Never place lighted candles on your Christmas tree or near other plants or leave any type of candle burning unattended!*



## Holiday Scents

Using aerosol cans to scent your indoor air can leave you with propellants in the air and cans to recycle later. You can simmer a pot of water on the stove (*never leave unattended*) with some fresh herbs, spices and citrus peels to get the same effect. You can also use small citrus fruits and cloves to make pomanders, toss with some additional ground spices, and leave in bowls around the house. Stir the contents every so often to release a spicy aroma.

## Holiday Plants

Christmas trees are not the only plants that make an appearance during the holidays. Poinsettias, Christmas cactus, amaryllis, and paper whites grace our indoor spaces as well.

Some can become permanent parts of our landscape outdoors. With special treatment, you can save some for next year; others you can “donate” to the compost pile.

### **All That Glitters . . .**

Glitter figures prominently during the holiday season, but many typically consist of micro-plastic pieces which can get into our landfills and water sources. A better alternative is glass glitter. Made up of very finely ground glass, it carries none of the hazards of the shiny plastic types. Another alternative is glitter made from mica, a natural mineral. Use non-toxic glues and adhesives to secure the glitter to your projects.

### **Fireplaces**

Even though we’re in a warm climate, around the holidays many people like to have a fire glowing in their fireplace indoors or in a fire pit or bowl outside. Take care to only burn dry, seasoned wood. Avoid any wood such as pine that contains resins (think chimney buildup) that can cause problems as well as any wood treated with creosote or other chemicals.

If you’re burning real wood (as opposed to manufactured logs that contain paraffin wax), you can use the ashes in your compost pile or scatter them around your landscape.

### **Holiday Meals**

Sharing meals with friends and loved ones is always a special time, but even more so during the holiday season. Lots of yummy meals can generate lots of scraps that could wind up in the trash. Instead, set up a bin by your prep area to dispose of the various fruit and vegetable trimmings! Your holiday meals will be feasts for your table with the bonus of a feast for your compost bin! Remember, no meat, dairy, bones, or other protein sources, but clean egg shells are okay, and in fact encouraged!

With a little thought and preplanning, you can have your holiday, and keep it green, too!



### Send your Articles and Photos

**The next Issue of *The Dirt* is January 2021. The deadline for articles is January 4.** Share your passion for gardening with your fellow Master Gardeners by writing an article for *The Dirt*. Include images where possible. However, if you include images they must fall under one of the following guidelines:

- your own
- UF/IFAS image
- open access image, as in wiki-commons, where all rights are open and the photographer is credited
- used with the express permission of the photographer

When you do send images, please do not embed them within the article. Include them separately. Please send all files as Word files. I cannot edit .pdf files.

Do you like to photograph plants or trees but don't like to write? Send me your photos with a description, even without an accompanying article, and I'll publish them with the description as well as a credit to you, the photographer.

Send your articles, images, and your photos to Dianne Fecteau at [fecteauadianne@gmail.com](mailto:fecteauadianne@gmail.com). My phone number is 727.366.1392.

All articles are subject to editing. In addition, Theresa Badurek, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator, reviews and approves all articles prior to publication.

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