

Extension Connection

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Extension Notes

Summertime...

Summertime...the phrase conjures up thoughts of a well-earned break, and fitting in some rest and relaxation into our routine. Our article on work-life balance (pp. 8-9) provides useful tips on squeezing quality time into a sometimes too-busy schedule. Speaking of schedules, summer is the time to check your irrigation system's schedule, because additional irrigation during the rainy season is not only an unnecessary use of precious water resources, but excess moisture can also cause landscape plants to be prone to fungal and bacterial diseases. Our Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ article (pp. 4-5) provides information on how optimizing irrigation schedules promotes healthier plants.

Summer is also growing season for some commodities, and our article on agriculture cost-share programs (pp. 6-7) has useful information for producers and land managers. On the topic of growing, our 4-H article (p.10) highlights how Extension youth summer camps focus on growing participants' skill levels. In our 'Nature Naturally' article, (pp.11-12), the third installment of a series on healthy soil highlights the differences in soil texture from different regions in Florida. Be sure to check out the welcome note for our new Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent – Dr. Aly Schortinghouse (p. 18), summer gardening tips (p. 19), and upcoming events and classes (details on pp.13-17): Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, Living Well FCS seminars and Master Gardner Library Series.

As always, thanks for your continued support of the UF/IFAS Extension mission in Citrus County. We're here to help you find "solutions for your life."

Your Citrus County Extension Team!



Summer's Parade of Flowers

Marguerite Beckford, Director and Horticulture Agent



So many flowers, so little time. Summer's flowering tree displays range from the warm red hues of the Bottlebrush tree to the cooler violet hues of the Chaste Tree. Also in the summer flower palette are pink, white, and lavender varieties of the Crepe Myrtle, as well as the yellows of some Cassia species.

Bottlebrush

Bottlebrush – *Callistemon spp.* – is a medium to large tree with a height of 10 to 20 ft. and a spread of 10 to 15 ft. Its blooming period extends from early Summer to late Fall but many trees bloom year-round. The flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds and pollinators, and varieties range from weeping to upright growth habits.



[Credit: UF/IFAS]

Crepe Myrtle

Crepe Myrtle (alternate spelling Crapemyrtle) – *Lagerstroemia indica* – is considered a small to medium-sized tree (depending on variety), with a height of 10 to 30 ft. and a spread of 15 to 25 ft. Its blooming period extends from late May to August. Varietal colors range from scarlet to pink, lilac to lavender, and white. Varieties with deep burgundy foliage are also available



[Credit: Green Acres Nursery]

(Continued on page 3)

UF/IFAS Extension

Solutions for Your Life

URBAN HORTICULTURE

(Continued from page 2) SUMMER'S PARADE OF FLOWERS

Chaste Tree

Chaste Tree – *Vitex agnus-castus* – is a small tree with a height of 10 to 15 ft. and a spread of 15 to 20 ft. Its blooming period extends from June to August. Popular for its fragrant, lavender blooms pointing skyward, it is also a favorite for butterflies and bees, and can be found in large numbers in honey-producing regions. Because it is self-seeding, it can become weedy in the landscape.



[Credit: UF/IFAS]

Summer-flowering Cassia

Although there has been significant reclassification of botanical names for plants in the *Cassia* and *Senna* genera, and that has created some amount of confusion, there is no debate on the glorious splash of yellow color which these trees add to the summer landscape. Average height is 10 to 20 ft. and 15 to 20 ft. wide.

For additional information on these Florida summer beauties, visit these links:

- Bottlebrush: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/st110>
- Crepe Myrtle: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st342>
- Vitex: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st664>
- Cassia: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st588>



[Credit: UF/IFAS]

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida-Friendly Roadmap



IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY & LANDSCAPE ALTERNATIVES

Steven Davis, FFL Program Coordinator



Automated irrigation systems require regular monitoring and maintenance. Utilizing Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices can reduce the need for supplemental watering. Selection of the right plant and locating it in the appropriate garden space is essential to water conservation in the landscape. Altering the irrigation schedule seasonally will also reduce consumption by efficiently providing appropriate amounts of supplemental water only when necessary. Irrigation strategies and distribution technologies have been developed recently to monitor and utilize in-time weather data or to detect situational water waste due to breaks or inefficiencies.

Creating a Florida friendly landscape requires some research and a little contemplation. Developing reasonable expectations of what you are creating including aesthetics, functional use of outdoor spaces, and the maintenance required to maintain the landscape's appeal, are priority considerations. Determining the amount of high water-use lawn areas you intend to maintain, should be evaluated. Site conditions often determine the success of the lawn type or plants you choose. Lawns do not perform well in all locations. Avoid use of lawn grasses in densely shaded or excessively moist areas. Alternatives should be considered to reduce high water-using landscape plants in high water-stress, sunlight exposed areas. Alternatives to turfgrass should be considered to relieve homeowners stress as managing lawn space becomes more problematic.



Appropriate irrigation scheduling is also a priority. Application of $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water penetrates 8- 10 inches into a sandy soil profile where the roots exist. Once water moves past the root zone, it can't be collected by the plant roots, thus wasting water. Providing more water than the plant can collect is an inefficiency and should be avoided. Seasonal irrigation adjustments are necessary. Care should be given to supplying only the amount of water that a plant needs to survive. Too much can be just as harmful as not enough. Irrigation systems which operate at higher pressure than necessary produce tiny droplets of water, which easily drift past the target plants. The duration or the timing of the zone should be calibrated to supply $\frac{1}{2}$ " of

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Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida-Friendly Roadmap



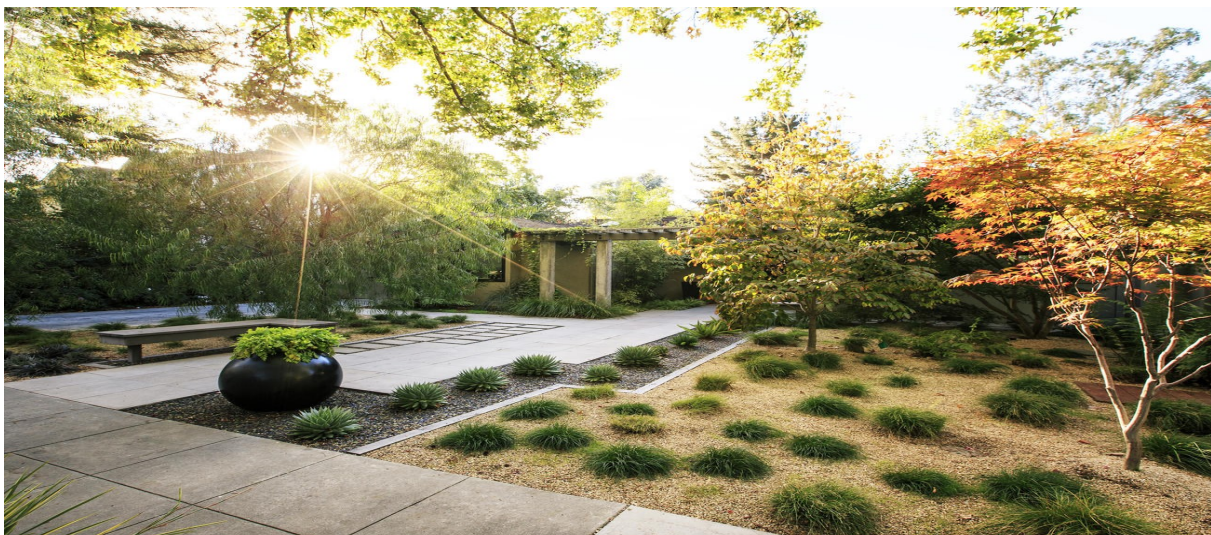
(continued from page 4) IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY & LANDSCAPE ALTERNATIVES

water and not altered. Frequency of landscape irrigation during the winter months should be limited to once a month and applied only when necessary, during cooler months.

Irrigating in the early morning hours prior to the heat of the day is best. Leaving water lingering in the thatch layer overnight can be damaging to lawn health. Interruption devices like rain sensors or soil moisture sensors are required to be operational on all automated irrigation systems in Florida. Irrigation timers, known as “Smart Controllers” have additional features which assist with conservation of water used in the landscape. Current weather trends, wind speeds, humidity, evaporation and soil moisture, are all catalogued by smart controllers and program timing is automatically adjusted to compensate for existing conditions. “Water Sense” labels appear on irrigation equipment and other water-using devices. These devices have been tested and proven to reduce indoor and outdoor water consumption.

Regularly monitor your irrigation system. Systems often operate before or after daylight hours, when problems can occur and not be seen. Monthly inspection should be done so inefficiencies can be corrected prior to damage occurring. Neglected broken irrigation heads, broken pipes, plugged nozzles and poor targeting can affect entire zones. Limiting these inefficiencies quickly can reduce injury to your landscape.

Achieving a Florida Friendly Landscape takes planning with the goal of having an attractive landscape, while preserving and protecting water and water quality in our State. Application of fertilizers and pest control products should also be used wisely so plants remain healthy without contributing excessive nutrient and pollutant loads to Florida’s sensitive environment.



COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Alyssa Schortinghouse, Agriculture/Natural Resources Agent



Introduction

Florida offers numerous programs that support agricultural best management practices with the effort to conserve and reduce our impact on the environment around us. There are three categories in which these programs fit, including nutrient management to minimize impacts to water resources, irrigation management, and water resource protection. These categories are further supported by manuals that focus on best management practices for each commodity including cow/calf, dairy, equine, and agronomic crops. To learn more about these programs, visit the FDACS website here: ([http://www.Agricultural Best Management Practices / Water / Agriculture Industry / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(fdacs.gov\)](http://www.Agricultural Best Management Practices / Water / Agriculture Industry / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (fdacs.gov))).

The USDA-NRCS and FDACS offer various cost share programs to support the technical and financial implementation of best management practices by agricultural operations throughout the state of Florida.

Share Programs: Each cost share program has specific eligibility requirements and guidelines.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Who: Farmers and ranchers implementing practices on personally owned land

What: Technical and financial assistance for operations that voluntarily implement best management practices that protect soil, water, air quality, and wildlife habitats.

Program Priorities: The priorities of this program include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Reducing environmental pollutants
- ◆ Reducing emissions
- ◆ Reducing soil erosion and excess soil accumulation
- ◆ Protecting existing endangered and threatened wildlife habitats

Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs (ACEP)

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program has two components, both of which are aimed at protecting and conserving wetlands and maintaining agricultural lands for agricultural uses. The two components of are the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE).

1. Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

Who: state and local government entities, non-governmental organizations with farmland or grassland programs, and Native Tribes.

(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6) *COST SHARE PROGRAMS*

What: Financial assistance for the purchase of lands that meet the criteria of agricultural use and natural conservation. For more information visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service Website here: [http://www.NRCS.isNowAcceptingAgriculturalConservationEasementProgram\(ACEP\)AgriculturalLandEasements\(ACEP-ALE\)andWetlandReserveEasements\(ACEP-WRE\)ApplicationsfortheInflationReductionActClimateSmartEffort|NaturalResourcesConservationService\(usda.gov\)](http://www.NRCS.isNowAcceptingAgriculturalConservationEasementProgram(ACEP)AgriculturalLandEasements(ACEP-ALE)andWetlandReserveEasements(ACEP-WRE)ApplicationsfortheInflationReductionActClimateSmartEffort|NaturalResourcesConservationService(usda.gov))

2. Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

Who: state and local government entities, non-governmental organizations with farmland or grassland programs, and Native Tribes.

What: Financial assistance for private landowners and Native Tribes to conserve, protect, and enhance wetlands. There are numerous types of easements that may be available including permanent easements, 30-year easements, and term easement. The financial assistance is determined by the type of easement selected. For more information visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service Website here: [http://www.WetlandReserveEasements|NaturalResourcesConservationService\(usda.gov\)](http://www.WetlandReserveEasements|NaturalResourcesConservationService(usda.gov))

More Information: [http://www.SL264/SS485:CostShareProgramsforFlorida'sAgriculturalProducersandLandowners\(ufl.edu\)](http://www.SL264/SS485:CostShareProgramsforFlorida'sAgriculturalProducersandLandowners(ufl.edu))

Conservation Stewardship Program

Who: Farmers and producers with privately owned land used for agricultural purposes. The aim of this program is to reward the implementation of best practices to protect and conserve soil, water and ecosystems.

What: Financial payments for conservation performance based on input costs and income.

For more information visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service Website here:

[http://www.ConservationStewardshipProgram|NaturalResourcesConservationService\(usda.gov\)](http://www.ConservationStewardshipProgram|NaturalResourcesConservationService(usda.gov))

In summary...

Numerous cost share programs exist to aid in the conservation and protection of agricultural lands and wetlands. The variety of programs offers opportunities for producers to participate either through the implementation of best practices on a single operation, or through conserving and expanding holdings that qualify for stewardship programs.

The Citrus County agriculture community represents numerous industries and opportunities. On the 2nd Monday each month, the Citrus County Ag. Alliance meets to discuss current issues and updates throughout the Ag. community. All who have an interest in learning more about the Citrus Community and Agriculture are welcome to join us. **When:** 2nd Monday of every month, 8:00 AM. **Location:** UF/IFAS Citrus County, 3650 W. Sovereign Path Ste. 1, Lecanto, FL 34461



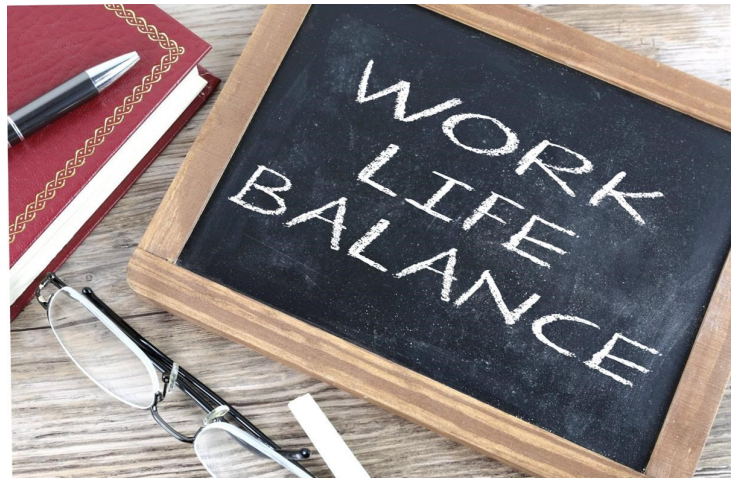
MANAGING WORK & FAMILY: A BALANCING ACT

Stephanie McMinds, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent



Finding a balance between work and family may often feel like a difficult act in the fast-paced world we live. The effects that a paid job and its interaction with family life have on people's health and wellness are important. Work-family experiences primarily impact mental and physical health as well as self-concept through work activities, work-family conflicts, and work organizations. Workplace pressures and family obligations can lead to a delicate balance that needs to be carefully considered and planned for. Here are six useful tips, and thoughts on how to effectively manage this balancing act.

1. **Set Clearly Defined Priorities:** Setting clearly defined priorities is the first step towards establishing a balance between work and family. Recognize what is most important to family members and the entire family. Determine long-term objectives for family and career, then use these priorities for guiding family choices.
2. **Time Management:** According to a recent study, there is a negative connection between long work hours and work-family conflict as well as other work and family outcomes. The connection can be gauged by the frequency of missed evening family meals due to work. In other words, work-family conflict is predicted by work hours when an employee skips family meals. Having a good work-life balance depends on excellent time management. Make a schedule with specific times set out for work, family, and personal activities. To keep organized and make sure to set out time for both work and personal obligations, use tools like calendars, planners, or apps that help productivity.
3. **Set limits:** Keeping a healthy balance requires defining distinct limits between work and family life. If working from home, make sure you establish an office location and let the family know when or if you will be working from home. In the same way, strive to be present when spending time with family and resist the need to check or answer work-related emails or calls.



(Continued on page 9)



(continued from page 8) *MANAGING WORK & FAMILY: A BALANCING ACT*

4. **Develop Delegation Skills:** Acknowledge that you are not required to manage every task by yourself. You can lessen the workload and stress level by assigning chores to others at work and home. Distributing work among team members or enlisting family members to help with household chores can free up time to concentrate on the things that count.

5. **Take Care of Yourself:** Burnout has three components that make up mental health associated with work. Those are detachment, diminished personal accomplishment, and emotional fatigue. Detachment is a negative, bitter, and distant attitude toward the people in one's care; diminished personal accomplishment is lacking self-efficacy and fostering bad attitudes about oneself; emotional fatigue is the state of having exhausted one's emotional resources. When these three elements are



present in combination, burnout occurs and it can be from stress and other psychological illnesses that share symptoms such as depression, exhaustion, anxiety, or loss of interest. Another way that burnout varies from stress is that those who suffer from it have persistent symptoms. Keeping up your energy and strength to manage both family and professional obligations requires that you take care of yourself. Be available for the things that make you feel happy and relaxed, such as reading an enjoyable book, exercising, or engaging in a hobby. You will be more capable of managing the demands of your job and family life if well, and motivated.

6. **Communication:** Managing expectations at work and home requires open and honest communication. Share obligations and priorities with coworkers and stay in constant contact with family to make sure everyone is on the same page. Support systems can be strengthened by talking about potential problems and working together to identify solutions.

Work and family balance is a continuous process that calls for adaptability, flexibility, and a readiness to reevaluate priorities. By putting these strategies into practice and keeping lines of communication open, you can successfully manage the complex details of today's environment and create a positive and satisfying work-life balance. Achieving balance involves making conscious choices that are consistent with priorities and values rather than striving for perfection.



GROWING MENTORS

Dr. Marnie Ward, 4-H Agent



School is out and summer day camps are in full swing. **It's WHAT we do!!**

Multi-day camps, full of activities, making friends, and having fun. **It's HOW we do it!!**

Empowering and inspiring youth to Grow, Thrive and Lead in the community, **It's WHY we do it!!**

In early June, Citrus County 4-H held the annual Sewing Camp. Now in its 10th year, sewing camp has touched the lives of over 250 young people in our community. It is one of my favorite programs, because it connects kids to their creativity and resourcefulness. For ten years, a team of 6 volunteers plans, organizes, and delivers this program. They secure community partners and donations each year to provide an affordable program to County youth.

In 2014, a shy 7-year-old came to camp. She had never used a sewing machine or cut out a pattern, but that was no barrier to her enthusiasm. That year, each camper received a free sewing machine and several essential sewing tools, including scissors, thread, seam ripper, and gauge. Grace used those tools and the skills she learned to make her very first tote bag.



In 2024, a confident 17-year-old young woman came to camp. She has been sewing for 10 years and has that same 7-year-old enthusiasm. This year she came as a youth counselor to teach, share, and invest in the next generation of campers.



Grace learning how to sew at her first camp in 2014.

Grace as a youth counselor teaching Sophia in 2024.

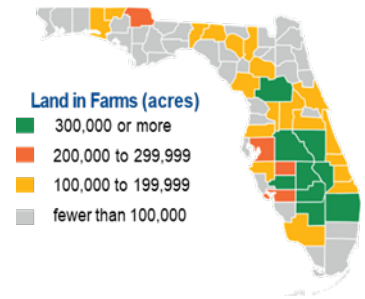


Nature Naturally

FLORIDA SOILS & AGRICULTURE

“The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself” – Franklin Delano Roosevelt. While not a farmer himself, President Roosevelt was an avid conservationist and advocate for natural resources.

Soils are a precious natural resource and in the last issue of Nature Naturally, you learned how local conditions influence soil formation. In Florida, sand is an abundant component of soils (Remember, Florida’s state soil is Myakka Fine Sand). From Lake Okeechobee northward, the soils are dominated by sand, but moving southward into the Everglades, the proportion of sand decreases, and soils are poorly drained. South of the Everglades, the soils are rich in organic matter from the historic decomposition of grasses and vegetation. By researching, identifying, and knowing the soils in an area, decisions can be made about land use, e.g., are the soils suitable for agriculture?



The Soil Survey

One tool for farmers, ranchers, and foresters to use is the soil survey. The survey is a process of classifying or mapping the soil types in a specific area. The survey can be used to determine if an area is suitable for agricultural crops or livestock. Additionally, the soil survey gives the farmer information on how to manage the soil. Should fertilizers be added and what type of fertilizers should be used?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), maintains an on-line resource called Web Soil Survey (WSS). This tool can be used to identify soil types in a specified area. Use the enclosed QR code to reach the WSS and practice identifying the soils in Citrus County.

The WSS is a generalized tool. For smaller areas (yards, small pastures, etc.) contact your local USDA service center (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>) to speak with a specialist.



Agriculture

Generally, the processes of soil formation takes time, estimates are from 500 – 1,000 years, with formation faster in warm, humid climates and slower in cool, dry climates. Combined with weathering of parent materials and presence of living organisms (see the April/May/June article), different soil types are formed. These are some of the factors responsible for the abundant topsoil in Florida’s panhandle and the productive agricultural soils south of the Everglades.

(Continued on page 12)

Nature Naturally

(continued from page 11) FLORIDA SOILS AND AGRICULTURE

Florida's soils, rainfall, and warm temperatures combine for ideal growing conditions to produce a variety of fruits, vegetables, and agricultural products. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, there are 44,703 farms in Florida with a total land area of 9,701,400 acres. Farmers, ranchers, and producers grow a wealth of agricultural commodities in the unique soils of Florida. These Florida soils produced over 1 million acres of field and row crops, including 400,000 acres of sugar cane, 300,000 acres of hay, and 162,000 acres of peanuts. Florida ranks 2nd in the nation for producing vegetable, melon, and potato crops. With Florida's sub-tropical environment, horticulture and plant nursery industries thrive. Production covered over 71,000 acres with an economic contribution of \$2.5 billion dollars and included landscaping palms, deciduous shrubs, ornamental grasses, mushrooms, and herbs. Florida's forests cover a large portion of the open land area, including 3 designated National Forests (Apalachicola, Osceola, and Ocala).

For Family Fun in Soil

Interested in practicing while learning? Check out FARMERS 2050, an interactive game: [FARMERS 2050](#)

OR

For a truly hands-on experience, use these hot, humid summer months to plan with your family a garden to plant this fall. UF/IFAS Extension and Citrus County 4-H have the information that you need to get started, including soil testing kits, publications, and in-person classes. Youth ages 5 – 18 are invited to join the Citrus County 4-H program. For more information visit [Citrus County 4-H](#) webpage, contact Marnie Ward, 4-H Agent at mlward@ufl.edu or Toni Noaker, 4-H Program Assistant at tnoaker@ufl.edu or 352-527-5722.

Photo courtesy of David Hafner (UF/IFAS Extension)



Gardening Seminar:

hosted online and in-person - you choose

Register here for these free seminars: <https://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com>



**“Lawns in
Central Florida”**

Tuesday July 09
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Palms in
Central Florida”**

Tuesday July 23
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Optimizing Irrigation
Systems”**

Tuesday Aug 06
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Managing Pests
Wisely”**

Tuesday Aug 20
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Lawn & Garden
Weed Management”**

Tuesday Sept 03
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Vegetable Gardens
in Central FL”**

Tuesday Sept 17
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Do you need more information about irrigation? There is a seminar scheduled Thursday Aug 15: “Protecting local waterways” 6-8pm

Master Gardener Plant Sale

Saturday October 19, 2024
8:30am - 12:30pm

Over 2000 Natives, Perennials, Shrubs, Roses, Veggies & More!!!



Citrus County Extension Office
3650 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto
352-527-5720



Service animals only please (No “comfort” animals)!

**Cash/Check
Only!**

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UF/IFAS Extension
SolutionsForYourLife.com



JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER



Monthly Extension Master Gardener Seminars

Programs offer an opportunity to explore timely garden topics at these seminars offered at each Citrus County Library. No registration required for in person seminars. All programs start at 1 pm, last approximately 1 hour, and are **free**.

ZOOM seminar: pre-register on our Facebook page for the secure link.

July: House Plants

August: Rewilding—Returning Part of the Yard back to Nature

September: Cool Season Vegetables

2nd Wednesday	Central Ridge Library	Beverly Hills
3rd Wednesday	Floral City Library	Floral City
1st Monday	Lakes Regional Library	Inverness
2nd Thursday	Citrus Springs Library	Citrus Springs
4th Thursday	Homosassa Library	Homosassa
4th Monday	Coastal Regional	Crystal River
3rd Monday	ZOOM —Pre-register on our Facebook page!	

Bring plant problems and questions for expert advice to the Extension office plant clinic. Trained Master Gardeners are available most days between 8am - 5pm. Schedules can vary, so please call ahead (352-527-5700).

Additionally, challenges (pictures are helpful) can be emailed to:

IF-SVC-citrusmg@ad.ufl.edu

CITRUS COUNTY 4-H

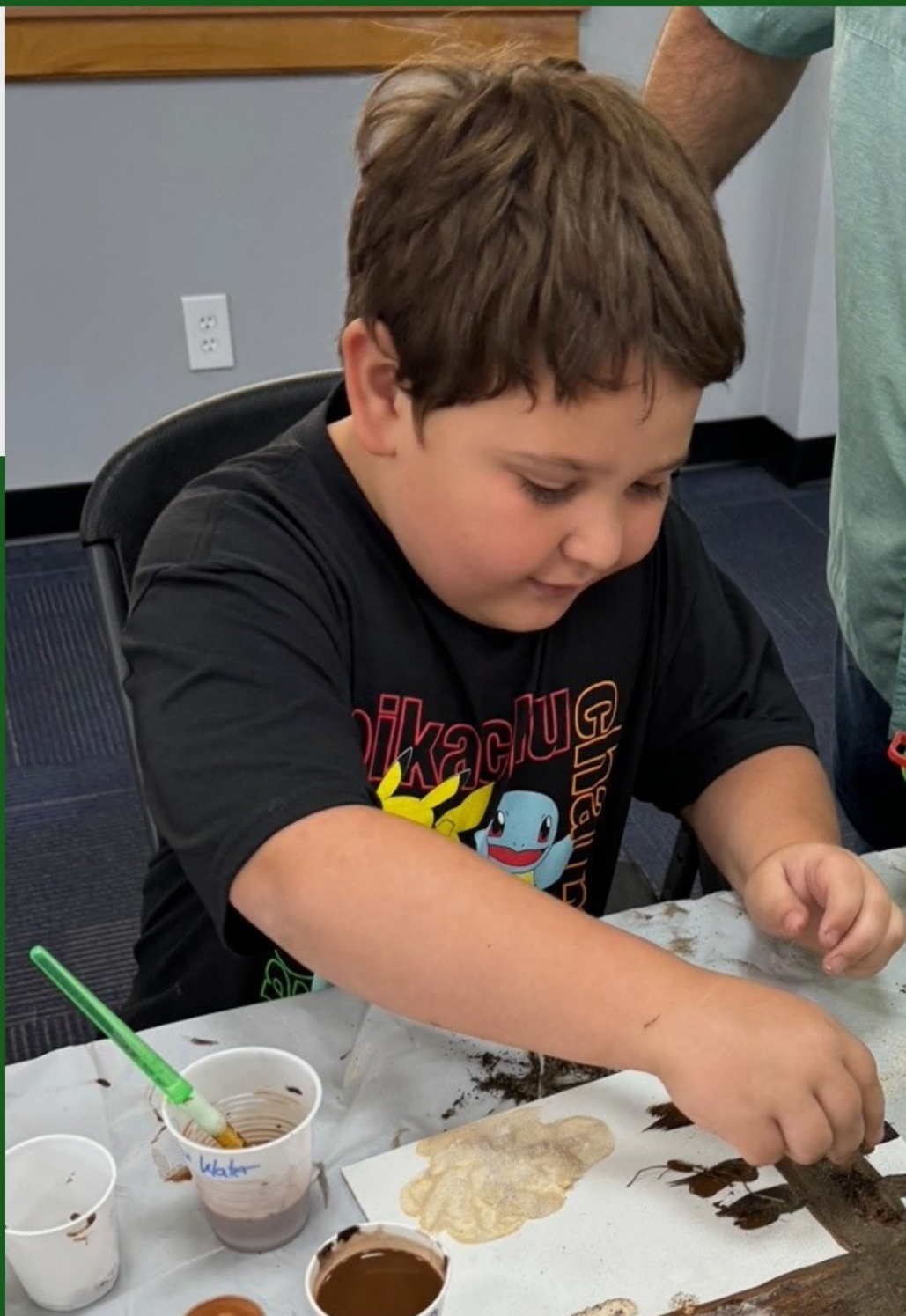


<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus/4-H-Youth-Development/>

July, Aug. Sept
2024

4-H Science Adventures: Ecosystems in Citrus County

Youth learned the role of living soils as nature's filter and then used soil components to create art.



4-H EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY
CAMP 22ND**

**NEW CLUBS
DOG AGILITY
SHOOTING CLUB
HORTICULTURE
OPEN HOUSES**

**EXPANDING
AGRICULTURE: A
WORKFORCE
SEMINAR
SEPT. 7**

Citrus County Family & Consumer Sciences

Upcoming Programs

- **July 10th– Water Bath Canning: Mango Salsa at Canning Center (10:00 AM)**
Learn the process of water bath canning safely by making mango salsa at this hands-on class. Cost: \$15.00 all supplies included.
- **July 15th-19th - Food and Fun Summer Camp at Canning Center (8:30 AM-4:30 PM)**
Ages 9-11 will join as we explore the five food groups. Participants will learn where our food comes from and different ways to incorporate these foods into healthy meals. Cost: \$75.00 all supplies included.
- **July 25th - Fall Prevention at Central Ridge Library (1:00 PM)**
Attendees will learn the risk factors of falling and ways to reduce those risks.
- **July 29th– Food Waste at Coastal Region Library (1:00 PM)**
In today’s world landfills are continuing to fill up. Food waste is a valuable resource that continues to be wasted. Let’s learn about what can be done with this valuable resource and the tricks to prevent food waste.
- **August 1st– Electric Pressure Cooking at Homosassa Library (10:30 AM)**
Attendees will learn how to properly use an electric pressure cooker.
- **August 15th– Cooking Under Pressure at Canning Center (12:00 PM)**
Attendees will learn how to properly use an electric pressure cooker and air fryer during this hands-on program. At the end of the program, participants will sit down and enjoy the meal together. Cost: \$15.00 all supplies included.
- **August 19th– Water Bath Canning at Lake Region Library (1:00 PM)**
Attendees will learn the process of water bath canning safely.
- **August 22nd– Pressure Canning: Green Beans at Canning Center (11:00 AM)**
Learn the process of pressure canning safely by making green beans at this hands-on class. Cost: \$20.00 all supplies included.
- **September 5th– Cooking for 1 or 2 at Coastal Region Library (1:30 PM)**
Attendees will learn how to prepare and shop for a meal for 1 or 2 along with a cooking demo.

For more information or to register for one of the programs above visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpjt6v> or call (352) 527-5700



An Equal Opportunity Institution





8th ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday October 19, 2024
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

- Great Variety & Prices
- Pollinator Attractors
- Trees/Shrubs
- Perennials

“Ask A Master Gardener” Booth

Citrus County Extension
3650 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto
352-527-5700

Service animals only please!

Cash or Checks Only



Proceeds from the Plant Sale support Extension events and outreach programs.

Welcome

Alyssa (Aly) Schortinghouse, DBA



UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County welcomes Dr. Aly Schortinghouse as the new Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent.

Aly joins us with a doctorate in Business Administration, a master's in Agriculture and a bachelor's in Animal Science. Having lived in Georgia before working for several years as an Extension Agent with the UF/IFAS Escambia County office, Aly has refined the skill of adaptability. She is excited for the opportunity to use her comprehensive knowledge and extensive experience in making a positive contribution to UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County.

In her downtime, Aly enjoys spending time with her family and taking care of her animals. Please join us in extending a warm Citrus County welcome to Aly!

Summer Gardening Tips

Lawns: Brown spots and other symptoms of drought, disease, and pests can look very similar. It is critical to determine the cause of any lawn problems before taking action. The summer can be so hot that sprinkler malfunction or lack of irrigation may cause brown spots. If insect damage is the cause, first try to identify the pest, then treat only the affected area.

Irrigation: Ensure that when the irrigation systems turn on, the spray is not being blocked by a tree, fence or other object. If your landscape has recently received a lot of rain, switch the system to **MANUAL** and only operate when weather conditions have been dry. Excessive moisture makes lawns prone to fungal diseases which is yet another cause of brown spots. Ensure that the required rain shut-off device is functioning; these devices will interrupt the next irrigation cycle when enough rain has occurred. Because shut-off devices can wear out, they need to be periodically replaced, or opt for an even more efficient Soil Moisture Sensor/Smart Controller.

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Also keep tree branches off the roof, and prune branches brushing the building. A certified arborist can provide advice on structural soundness of the trees in your landscape; a directory of certified arborists is available at: treesarecool.com.

Fertilizers: The end of the fertilizing season for plants is close to September. Most established trees and shrubs do not need fertilizer but palms, vegetables, and fruit trees may. During rainy weather, avoid using soluble nitrogen as it is very prone to leaching/runoff. As cooler months approach, plant growth slows, plants become dormant, and no fertilizers are needed again until April.

Solarize the vegetable garden: Use summer heat as a helpful tool in preparing vegetable gardens for Fall planting. Remove all plant material from the garden area, thoroughly soak with water, then cover the area with clear plastic sheeting. Allow this to remain in place for 4-6 weeks to kill weeds, diseases, and suppress the nematode population. Starting in summer gets the garden ready for the start of planting season around Labor Day.

For specific gardening information, be sure to contact us - 352-527-5700