

Extension Connection

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Extension Notes

Fall for All!

Depending on your neck of the woods in Florida, Fall may just be a concept as not a whole lot of leaves will actually fall, but it does usher in some cooler-than-sweltering temperatures, which all Floridians appreciate, no matter where they happen to call home.

Speaking of where you call home, our article on the yellow-legged hornet (pp. 4-5) provides pointers for spotting hornet activity and safeguarding your home and yard.

As we welcome cooler temperatures, it also provides an opportunity to establish cool-season grasses and forages which aren't a growing option in Florida at any other time of the year and our article on pp. 6-7 provides guidance on this. Information on upcoming ag. enterprise workshops is also provided so be sure to put the dates on your calendars.

Like it or not, Fall is pumpkin-spice-everything season among other things, but it is also the time for ramped-up holiday festivities, and our article on fall-prevention (pp. 8-9) provides tips on how to remain safe so that your holiday season is injury-free.

In case you missed it, learn more about our 4-H Positive Youth Development Extension program's inaugural Expanding Agriculture workforce development seminar, held at Central Florida College (pp. 10-11).

Our regular feature 'Nature Naturally' (pp.12-13), highlights soils and their important role in supporting all life forms.

Be sure to check out upcoming events and classes (details on pp.15-18) including the Master Gardener Volunteers plant sale, Master Gardener library seminars, Living Well FCS and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ classes.

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!



UF/IFAS Extension

Solutions for Your Life

URBAN HORTICULTURE

STORMWATER PONDS: MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY PLACE

Marguerite Beckford, Director and Horticulture Agent



Pond Management

Stormwater ponds are more than just a pretty ‘face’ – they form an essential part of the flood mitigation infrastructure in Florida’s communities. Although well managed ponds also have an aesthetic appeal and can provide habitat for fish, turtles, and wading birds, poorly managed ponds can lead to shoreline erosion and ultimately, reduce the pond’s water-holding capacity and its ability to mitigate flooding. Consequently, good pond management know-how is crucial to avoiding costly mistakes.

[Credit UF/IFAS Extension]

Form & Function

Stormwater ponds can be categorized as detention- or retention- ponds depending on whether they temporarily or permanently store water. Ultimately, regardless of the type of stormwater pond, the purpose is to (i) collect / detain stormwater runoff from paved impervious surfaces, via stormwater drains, and (ii) help filter out stormwater pollutants prior to the water making its way to local waterbodies. To help control stormwater pollution, Citrus County fertilizer ordinance requires a 25 ft. fertilizer-free zone adjacent to ponds, lakes, and other waterbodies throughout the year.

Buffer zones & Erosion control

Ideally, a well-managed stormwater pond will consist of a clearly defined buffer zone around the edge, the purpose of which is to maintain a stable transition between where the land ends and the water begins. A stable buffer zone is critical to preventing pond erosion and is typically comprised of a combination of hardy, native ground covers and littoral plants (aquatic and semi-aquatic plants tolerant of fluctuating water levels). Examples of buffer and littoral zone plants include Sunshine Mimosa, Pickerelweed, and Spikerush, and their presence around the shoreline helps to mitigate wave action which contributes to erosion.

(Continued on page 3)

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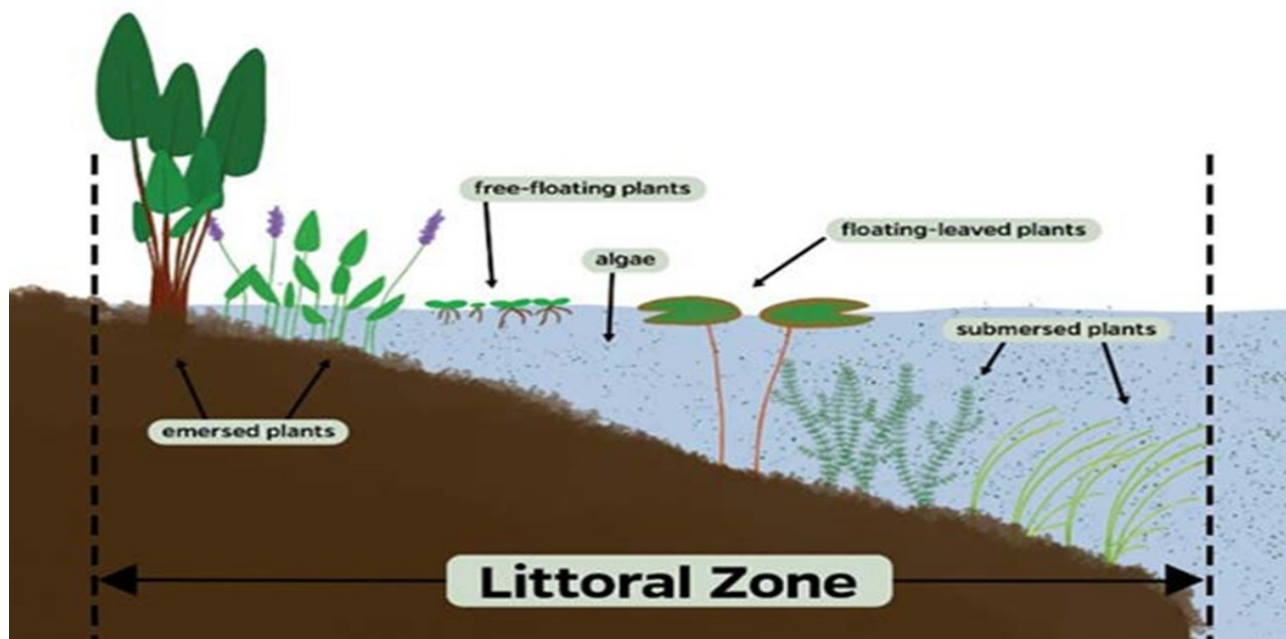
Solutions for Your Life

URBAN HORTICULTURE

(Continued from page 2) *STORMWATER PONDS: MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY PLACE*

To turf, or not to turf...

Although a common occurrence, a turf-lined pond-shore presents maintenance challenges because turf roots are unable to tolerate the fluctuating water levels associated with pond shorelines. This often leads to declining turf and subsequent shoreline erosion, the repair of which can be extremely costly. Shoreline repair and restoration strategies typically include a combination of dredging to replace the soil lost to erosion and installing erosion barriers overlaid with groundcovers and littoral plants, to create a living shoreline.



[Credit UF/IFAS Extension]

For more information, see the following UF/IFAS Extension publications:

[Lakeside Living for South Florida Residents - UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Trait-Based Guidance for stormwater pond plantings UF/IFAS Extension \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[ENH1215/EP476: Florida-Friendly Plants for Stormwater Pond Shorelines \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Stormwater Ponds \(google.com\)](#)

Also visit the Citrus County BOCC Stormwater page at:

[Citrus County BOCC - Stormwater](#)



YELLOW LEGGED HORNET—NOT IN MY BACKYARD

Steven Davis, FFL Program Coordinator



No. The “murder hornet” is not visiting Florida. In the Spring I often receive calls about giant hornets visiting local landscapes. The Northern Giant Hornet is an invasive species discovered in the north western U.S.. A beekeeper in Washington State was inspecting beehives and discovered thousands of bees, decapitated and lying below the hives. What creature could have caused this carnage? The Asian Giant hornet, today known as the Northern Giant hornet, was a suspected culprit, later to be discovered nesting in the state. Experts then began trapping, locating and successfully exterminating active nests.



Invasive insects, like the Northern Giant Hornet, pose a great risk to agriculture when not identified and eliminated early. This “murder hornet” is not visiting Florida yards. The Cicada killer is a large wasp which targets locust/Cicada in the spring and summer in our state. These native insects are large, fly with a vengeance, get your attention, but are not hostile to humans, yet ignite inquiry from residents every year. Those allergic to the venom may have cause for concern, although they are not aggressive or have nest guarding instincts as other hornets do. They are ground nesters not developing large social nests or colonies and do not kill honeybees or pollinators.

Another invasive wasp may be visiting Florida soon endangering Florida’s honeybee colonies. The Yellow legged wasps were accidentally introduced to France 20 years ago from south east Asia nesting in arriving shipping crates. Since 2004 they have spread throughout Europe including France, Italy, Germany, Spain and have jumped the Channel into the United Kingdom. Recently, wasp colonies have been discovered in Savannah, Georgia, a stones throw from the Sunshine State, 150 miles, a week away from Florida as a wasp flies.



(Continued on page 5)

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida-Friendly Roadmap



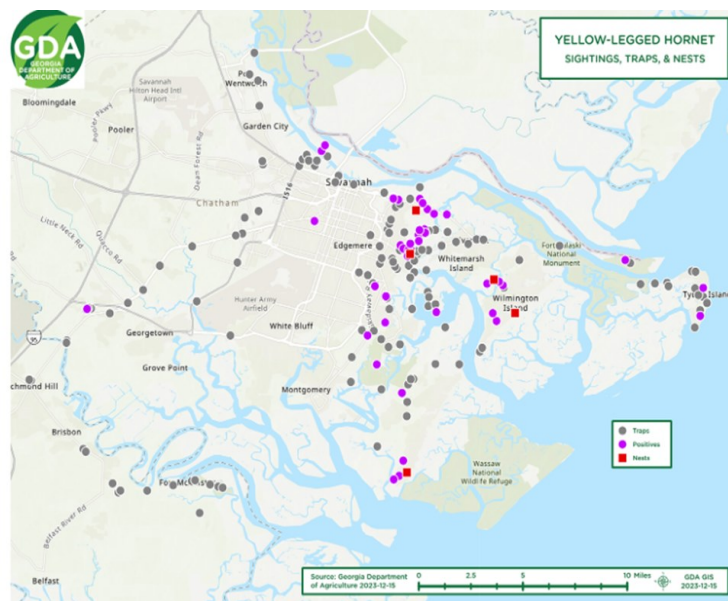
(continued from page 4) YELLOW LEGGED HORNET—NOT IN MY BACKYARD

European Honeybees provide pollination for 15 billion dollars worth of agricultural products in the USA annually. Protecting this pollinating resource is essential to agricultural production. The Yellow legged hornet (YLH) feeds on honeybees, bumblebees and other pollinators and can quickly decimate a honeybee colony. Unlike honeybees, the wasp *Vespa velutina* (YLH), is a meat eater and a honeybee hunter. Again, a local Georgia beekeeper spotted something unusual outside his hives in 2023. A Wasp was hovering in front of a beehive capturing, decapitating, returning to its nest to feed the protein to its developing young, dead bee carcasses left behind. This odd insect behavior alarmed the observant beekeeper. After capturing a sample, engaging the Georgia Department of Agriculture it was determined that the Yellow Legged hornet had arrived in America. Upon this discovery and identification of the invasive predator, the Georgia Department of Agriculture began a program of trapping to identify how far the invasion had spread. In 2023 alerts went out in Georgia to encourage public awareness and reporting of paper nest locations to the department so eradication practices could quickly begin.

Although quick Georgia reaction is commendable to contain and eradicate YLH, Florida residents need to be on alert to participate in scouting and reporting of any migration activity recognized in our state. Florida, like Georgia and South Carolina has preferred environments for Yellow Legged hornet. Be on the lookout if you are a resident or backyard beekeeper in Northern Florida for signs of this invasive hornets arrival. Check out the attached documents for information on Yellow Legged Hornet.

<https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet>
<https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Pests-and-Diseases/Plant-Pests-and-Diseases/Yellow-Legged-Hornet>

If you think you have seen yellow-legged hornet in Florida, please report the sighting online or contact the DPI Helpline at 1-888-397-1517.



In response to the arrival of the yellow-legged hornet, the Georgia Department of Agriculture has placed hundreds of traps to monitor the insects' spread near Savannah. This map shows the locations of those traps (gray dots), sightings of the hornet (pink dots) and five nests (red squares) as of December 15, 2023.

Savannah, Ga. Trapping and eradication locations

COOL-SEASON FORAGE RECOMMENDATION

Alyssa Schortinghouse, Agriculture/Natural Resources



The 2024 cool-season forage variety planting recommendations for Florida were recently released in a publication September 9th. Cool-season forages serve as cover crops as the warm-season forages go dormant. Through a multi-location evaluation of trials, the publication provides the most up to date information for varieties when planting cool-season forages.

Recommendations for varieties include recommendations for alfalfa, clover, tall fescue, lupine, oat, rye, ryegrass, triticale, vetch, and wheat. These varieties are recommended based on early and late season or full season recommendations. The success of these plantings for overseeding of course relies on adequate irrigation or rainfall. For a list of full recommendations, visit the publication here: [SS-AGR-84/AA266: 2024 Cool-Season Forage Variety Recommendations for Florida \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/ss-agr-84/aa266/)

Upcoming Events

September 20-21, 2024 - Small Ruminant Short Course

Where: Gainesville, FL

Cost: \$95

Registration Deadline: September 20, 2024

This in-person educational event features lectures and demonstrations from industry professionals and UF faculty members for producers and interested stakeholders. To register for this event, visit this site: [Small Ruminant Short Course - Small Ruminants - Sheep and Goats - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/ss-agr-84/aa266/).

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UF/IFAS Extension Presents the
EQUINE INSTITUTE
& Allied Trade Show

THURSDAY
September 26
8:30 am-4:00p.m.
The Southeastern Livestock Pavilion
2232 NE Jacksonville Rd
Ocala, FL

This annual educational event brings together experts from across Florida to deliver lectures and demonstrations on all things equine. Topics covered include horse health, equine nutrition, pasture management, and hands-on breakout sessions.

Early Bird Registration ends July 15th! Register prior to 7/15 for a discounted price!

Tickets include lunch, all lectures and activities, access to the trade show, and printed material.
PRE-REGISTRATION ONLINE IS REQUIRED BY 9/19

Register Here

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 266.26, FS, persons needing accommodations or an interpreter to participate in the proceedings should notify the University of Florida Marion County Extension Office no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting at 352.671.8400.

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(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6) COOL-SEASON FORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

September 26, 2024 – Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show

Where: Ocala, FL

Cost: \$20 (Early Bird)/ \$35 at the door

Registration Deadline: September 23, 2024

This single day event offers educational lectures and demonstrations on equine topics focused on health, nutrition, pasture management, and other related breakout- sessions. To learn more about this event, visit this site: [UF/IFAS Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show Tickets, Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

October 29, 2024 – Livestock & Forage Field Day

Where: Santa Fe River Ranch, Alachua, FL

Cost: \$20 (Early Bird)/ \$40 at the door

Registration Deadline: October 29, 2024

This single day education event features lectures and demonstrations focused on beef cattle management and pasture management. To learn more about this event, visit this site: [Current Field Day - North Florida Livestock Agents' Group - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](#)

Get Involved

The Citrus County agriculture community represents numerous industries and opportunities. On the 2nd Monday of every 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 am

Location: UF/IFAS Citrus County, 3650 W. Sovereign Path Ste. 1, Lecanto, FL 34461



25TH ANNUAL
LIVESTOCK & FORAGES FIELD DAY
OCT 29TH, 2024 @ SANTA FE RIVER RANCH
8:30AM - 2:00PM 29220 NW 122ND ST, ALACHUA, FL 32815

DEMOS, INDUSTRY UPDATES, EXPERT PRESENTERS

TOPICS:

- Cattle management and vaccination protocols
- Bull selection and EPDs
- Emerging weed problems and cool-season forages

LUNCH INCLUDED!

REGISTER ONLINE:

Scan with your phone or head to:
<https://2024UFLivestockandForages.eventbrite.com>

\$20 pre-registration
\$40 at the door

Contact - Liz Whitehead with any questions
liz.whitehead@ufl.edu
904-966-6224

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NORTH FLORIDA
LIVESTOCK AGENTS' GROUP



STAY STEADY: TIPS FOR FALL PREVENTAION THIS SEASON



Stephanie McMinds, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent

As the leaves begin to fall, it’s important to ensure that you don’t. With the change of seasons, fall-related injuries often rise, especially among older adults. Falls are the leading cause of injury for people aged 65 and older, but the good news is that many falls are preventable. By taking a few simple steps, you can reduce your risk and stay steady on your feet all season long.

1. Clear the Clutter

One of the easiest ways to prevent falls is to keep your home free of clutter. Ensure walkways, stairs, and high-traffic areas are clear of objects like shoes, bags, or loose rugs. Consider securing any loose carpets and arranging furniture to create clear paths.



2. Light It Up

Good lighting is crucial for preventing falls. As daylight hours shorten, make sure your home is well-lit, especially stairways, hallways, and entryways. Use nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms to help navigate during the night.

3. Wear Proper Footwear

Choose shoes that provide good support and have non-slip soles. Avoid wearing slippers or socks on slick surfaces, as they can increase the risk of slipping. Consider footwear that is easy to put on and secure but provides enough grip to keep you stable.

4. Exercise Regularly

Regular physical activity strengthens muscles, improves balance, and increases flexibility, all of which help prevent falls. Activities like walking, tai chi, or yoga are great for enhancing balance and coordination. Even simple exercises that you can do at home can make a significant difference.

(Continued on page 9)



(continued from page 8) STAY STEADY: TIPS FOR FALL PREVENTION THIS SEASON

5. Review Your Medications

Certain medications can cause dizziness or drowsiness, which may increase your risk of falling. Review your medications with your healthcare provider to understand their side effects and see if any adjustments are necessary.

6. Get Your Vision Checked

Poor vision can contribute to falls. Make sure to have your eyes checked regularly and update your prescription if needed. If you wear glasses, ensure they are clean and suited for the activities you're doing.



7. Install Safety Features

Adding safety features in your home can significantly reduce your risk of falling. Install grab bars in the bathroom, especially near the toilet and in the shower. Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and shower. If stairs are a challenge, consider installing handrails on both sides.

8. Mind Your Step Outdoors

As the weather changes, outdoor surfaces can become slippery due to rain or fallen leaves. Be cautious when walking outside, especially on uneven terrain or wet surfaces. Wear shoes with good traction and take your time to avoid any sudden slips.

Take Action Today

Falls are not an inevitable part of aging; they can be prevented. By making a few adjustments in your daily routine and living environment, you can greatly reduce your risk of falling and maintain your independence. This season, stay proactive about your health and safety—because a steady step today means a safer tomorrow.





Florida 4-H
Youth Development
 Head • Heart • Hands • Health



GROWING AGRICULTURE’S FUTURE

Dr. Marnie Ward, 4-H Agent



Nationwide agricultural productivity continues to rise, with over \$500 Billion of value reported in the recent Census of Agriculture. As populations grow and urban communities expand, the future of agriculture will continue to advance and evolve. With that growth comes a greater diversity of future agricultural career paths. These careers build on a variety interests to fill the needs for economists and business developers working behind a computer or databank, to the geneticists and microbiologists in laboratories and research institutions, and the hands-on ranch managers and agronomists working in the fields. Are you prepared to be in the next generation of agricultural leaders?

The future of agriculture begins today. Florida is a leader in the number of both new and beginning agriculturists, with 33.9% of producers in the state reporting 10 or less years in farming. Agricultural leaders in our community are building on this success and providing opportunities for young people to develop and expand skills for new fields (pun intended) of agriculture. Where does this begin?

The Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County in partnership with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Citrus County Extension office recently offered the inaugural “Expanding Agriculture: Workforce Seminar”. This interactive program offered participants the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of agricultural careers and explore the steps to a future in agriculture, in either a technical or college-based program. The one-day seminar was hosted by the College of Central Florida (CF) at the Wilton Simpson Conference Center in Lecanto. The CF campus offers a variety career opportunities leading to certificates or degrees in agribusiness and the recent addition of the Vintage Farm to the Ocala campus has expanded hands-on experiences.



Faculty & student presenters from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural college

Mr. Jeb Smith, Florida Farm Bureau President and St. Johns County farmer, delivered a passionate and inspiring message for young people. President Smith has served as the Florida Farm Bureau president since 2021 and he represents over 134,000 members who produce 300 different commodities. In 2024 his family’s farm was recognized as a Century Pioneer Family Farm honoring 100 years of farming. President Smith shared his personal path to agriculture producing potatoes, vegetables, and beef cattle, and the critical need for future agricultural leaders. As agriculture responds to increased needs in productivity, reductions in cropland, and changing landscapes, future agriculturists will need to have the tools, education, and cutting-edge technology to feed the world.

(Continued on page 11)



Florida 4-H Youth Development

Head • Heart • Hands • Health



(continued from page 10) GROWING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

Participants rotated through presentations by Warner University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC), Purina, College of Central Florida Agribusiness department and Vintage Farm, University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), and the Green Jean Foundation. Dr. Dana Choi, GCREC, offered a glimpse into the use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a new tool for agricultural operations with her work on digital twins in strawberry production. Corey Reichert, Farm Credit of Central Florida, shared his experience in agriculture with “Be Like a Swiss Army Knife”, to seek out opportunities and make a path of your own. Martha Moen, an animal nutritionist with Purina, encouraged participants to find a mentor, seek out internships, and keep on learning. Jereme Johnson, UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County, demonstrated applications for drone technology in agricultural careers and operations with a hands-on workshop for all in attendance.



Participants practicing their skills flying drones

The Expanding Agriculture: Workforce Seminar was made possible by the support of Farm Credit of Central Florida, Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County, Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau, Representative Gus Bilirakis, Stable Faith Cowboy Church, Citrus County Chronicle, College of Central Florida Citrus Campus, UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, Citrus County 4-H, and Citrus County FFA Chapters.

The take-away from Expanding Agriculture: Workforce Seminar? Explore, investigate and ask questions because agricultural careers cover a wide range and diversity of opportunities to meet the needs of today’s farmers and agriculturists, as they continue to produce the food, fiber, and renewable fuel locally, nationally, and around the globe. Watch for the announcements of the 2025 Expanding Agriculture: Workforce Seminar.

UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension offers a wide range of educational programming to meet the needs in our community. Visit the Extension office at 3650 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto or reach out to the Extension agents by phone at 352-527-5700 or citrus@ifas.ufl.edu. We offer programming in horticulture, agriculture, natural resources, families and consumer sciences, and 4-H volunteer and youth development.



Keynote speaker, President Jeb Smith from Florida Farm Bureau

Nature Naturally

WORLD SOILS DAY: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Nature Naturally has spent 2024 diving deeper into soil, specifically the soils in Florida. Are soils the same across the globe? The answer is “Yes and No” (Figure 1). The same 12 orders of soils are found around the globe, but local conditions; climate, topography, time, parent materials, and living organisms, determine soil development (Figure 2).

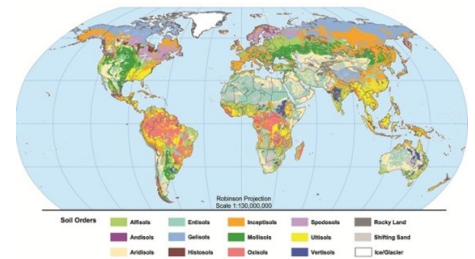


Figure 1: Global distribution of soil orders

In this issue, let’s explore soils around the world and get prepared for World Soils Day on Thursday, December 5th, 2024. This annual event raises awareness for the importance of ensuring soil health and biodiversity (Figure 3), by:

Improving soil health – Soils are home to a mix of bacteria, microbes, and organisms that have important roles in the environment. They are responsible for carbon cycling, nutrient availability, control of harmful organisms, and nutrient storage. Healthy soils promote plant growth, water purification, and human health. Importantly, healthy soils are better able to respond to climate changes. Your local Extension Office can help you assess the health of the soils in your yard or pasture.

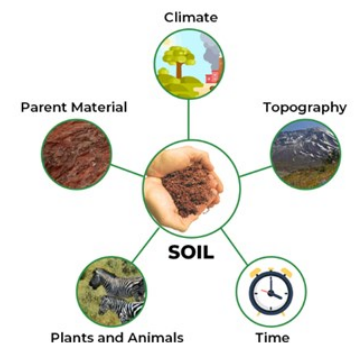


Figure 2: Local factors that affect soil development.

Reducing erosion – Globally, erosion is the biggest threat to soils. Soils may be eroded by wind, water, intense weather (climate changes), and human activities (development). Maintaining cover crops, practicing no-till farming, and managing stormwater are a few of the techniques used to reduce erosion. In the United States, erosion accounts for the loss of about 0.5 inches of agricultural soils per year or 11 tons per acre per year (National Science Foundation, 2023).

Reducing pollution – Protecting soils from contaminants is a responsibility and a challenge. Soils may be contaminated by pesticides, excess fertilizers, household waste, hazardous wastes, and stormwater runoff. Personal choices impact soil health and sustainability.

Enhancing water filtration and storage – Soils are nature’s purification system. As “dirty” water passes through soil, the contaminants are filtered out or become attached to soil particles. A good example of this is when rainwater filters through the soil and becomes groundwater stored in the aquifer. If you are interested in testing this, try a [soil filtration experiment](#)

(Continued on page 13)

Nature Naturally

(continued from page 12) WORLD SOILS DAY: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Achieving sustainable and resilient agricultural food systems – With 95 % of food resources coming from soils, they are the foundation of agriculture. Healthy soils are essential for farmers to meet the food, fiber, and fuel needs of the world.

Other Facts About Soil

- The microorganisms and bacteria in soils are important to human health. Their actions in soil led to the development of antibiotics used to treat some infections and immunosuppressant drugs used in organ transplants.
- Soils were used in many ways in early human societies. Clay tablets were used to record important events and soils were a part of rituals to honor the dead.
- The variety of soil minerals produced colors that were used to create early art and record important events on cave walls.
- It takes thousands of years to source soils from parent materials (minerals), but the loss of soils annually far exceeds the rate of production.

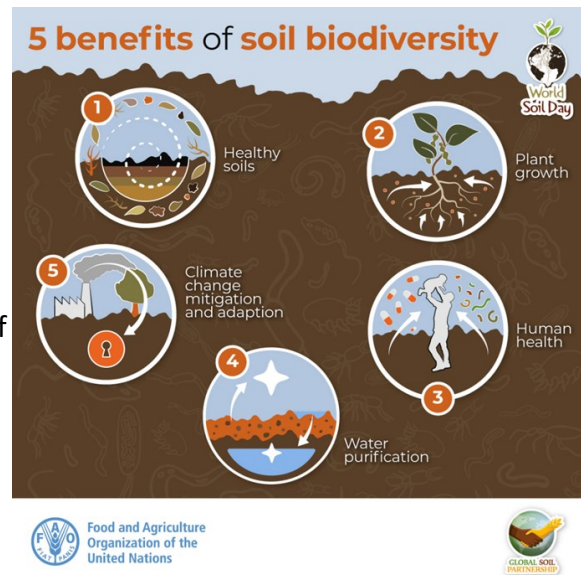


Figure 3: Benefits of soil diversity (United Nations)

How Can You Help?

- Compost food waste, vegetable scraps, and peelings. This returns valuable nutrients and organic matter to the soils.
- Test your soils to ensure that the correct amount of fertilizer or amendment is added to your soil for maximum productivity.
- Select pesticides and fertilizers that are appropriate for your needs and are safe for the environment.
- Learn more about soils, their roles in the environment, and how to protect them for agricultural productivity. You can begin by exploring [Secrets of Soil](#) to learn more about the fascinating world of soils (under 18? Check with your parent or adult).

UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension offers soil pH testing and a wide range of educational programming to meet the needs in our community. Visit the Extension office at 3650 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto or reach out to the Extension agents by phone at 352-527-5700 or citrus@ifas.ufl.edu. We offer programming in horticulture, agriculture, natural resources, families and consumer sciences, and 4-H volunteer and youth development.

Gardening Seminar:

hosted online and in-person - you choose

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



“Right Plant, Right Place”

Tuesday Oct. 8
2:00 - 4:00 pm

“9 Florida-Friendly Principles”

Tuesday Oct. 15
2:00 - 4:00 pm

“Florida-Friendly Fertilizing”

Tuesday Nov. 5
2:00 - 4:00 pm

“Honeybees and Pollinators”

Tuesday Nov. 19
2:00 - 4:00 pm

“Fruit Plants in Central Florida”

Tuesday Dec. 3
2:00 - 4:00 pm

“Fixing Flaws in your Landscape”

Tuesday Dec. 17
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Do you need more information about irrigation? There is a seminar scheduled Thursday October 10: “Irrigation & Turf Management 101” Noon to 3pm

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



OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER



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.

October: Plant Establishment

November: Septic Systems & Your Landscape

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

Bring plant problems and questions for expert advice to the Extension office.

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 Family & Consumer Sciences Upcoming Programs

- **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.
- **September 30th– Budgeting at Coastal Region Library (1:00 PM)**
Whether you're a budgeting pro or just starting out, this event is perfect for every one looking to take control of their money.
- **October 3rd– Electric Pressure Cooking at Floral City Library (10:30 AM)**
Attendees will learn how to properly use an electric pressure cooker.
- **October 9th– Fall Prevention at Homosassa Library (2:00 PM)**
Attendees will learn the risk factors of falling and ways to reduce those risks.
- **October 23rd– Grilling Food Safely at Coastal Region Library (1:00 PM)**
Attendees will learn how to properly grill food in Florida safely.
- **November 6th– Water Bath Canning (Pepper Jelly) at Canning Center (10:00 AM)**
Learn the process of water bath canning safely by making pepper jelly at this hands-on class. Cost: \$20.00 all supplies included.
- **November 16th– WEEKEND Water Bath Canning (Pepper Jelly) at Canning Center (10:00 AM)**
Learn the process of water bath canning safely by making pepper jelly at this hands-on class. Cost: \$20.00 all supplies included.

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



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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

UF | **IFAS Extension**
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Proceeds from the Plant Sale support Extension events and outreach programs.

PEANUT BUTTER *Challenge*

**SPREAD
THE WORD...
PEANUT BUTTER**
Fights Hunger!

Donate unopened jars of peanut butter at the UF/IFAS Extension office in your county.

All peanut butter donations go to local food pantries to help feed families in need.

We thank the Florida Peanut Producers Association and Florida Peanut Federation for their continued support and contributions.

During the month of October, support Florida's peanut producers and people in need in your community by generously donating to the Peanut Butter Challenge.

**FIND THE PEANUT BUTTER
CHALLENGE DROP-OFF LOCATION
CLOSEST TO YOU:**



Citrus County Resource Center
2804 W Marc Knighton Ct#6,
Lecanto, FL 34461

UF/IFAS Extension Citrus
County
3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1,
Lecanto, FL 34461

flpeanuts.com/industry/at-a-glance | go.ufl.edu/pbc

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

WINTER GARDENING CALENDAR

What to Plant

Annuals/Perennials: those that don't love the heat bring color to the fall garden. Chrysanthemum, foxglove, petunia, geraniums, dianthus, and pansies provide lots of color in the fall garden. Repeat blooms from Amaryllis start with fall planting. Choose from a variety of color and fertilize lightly after blooming.

Herbs: There are a few culinary herbs that thrive in fall including dill, cilantro, chives, fennel, oregano, and sage. Rosemary is fairly hardy and can be planned during any season.

Vegetables: As Fall progresses, keep warm-weather vegetables growing as long as they will, but add cool season crops. Bulbing onions, (edible-pod) peas and all the tender greens (such as arugula, lettuce, spinach and kale) as well as numerous other cool-season crops. Other Fall-Winter vegetables include broccoli, cabbage, and beets Consider growing vegetables in large containers on a porch (with a minimum of 5-6 hours of sunlight) so they can be brought in on chilly nights.

Chrysanthemums



Strawberry Plant



Strawberries: Early Fall is the best time to set strawberry plants in the garden or in large containers. Water daily until plants are established. Delicious, tasty fruit will develop in 4-6 weeks. Strawberries grow as an annual here in Florida, declining in the hotter months.

Camellias: There are two general types: fall blooming and winter blooming (see examples below). Choose a mixture of these partial shade lovers for a continuous display of color through the winter.

Fall Blooming



Winter Blooming



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What to Do

Lawns: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides must be applied at the right time to be effective. Apply when nighttime temps are 55°F–60°F for 4–5 days. Never apply "weed and feed" products. Lawns may lose color as the weather cools. If a greener winter lawn is desired, apply an iron product. Continue to mow when needed, but back off on water by Thanksgiving, watering only every 10-14 days unless ½" of rainfall occurs.

Irrigation: Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need far less supplemental watering in cooler weather, and most established trees and shrubs need NO extra watering.

Fruit: Young citrus and other newly planted fruit trees need some extra protection from freezing temperatures at least the first winter in the ground. Be sure to cover from top to bottom, trapping ground heat early in the day.

Mulch: Assure plantings have a 2-3" layer (no more) of mulch from a once-living product. That excludes rubber and rocks which can be harmful in the garden. Fallen leaves also make a good, free mulch. The county landfill also offers free chipped mulch most days. Bring a container, even a pick-up truck, for this additional free source.

Birds: Make a small brush pile from plant debris in the back of the yard for birds.

See *Wild Birds*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_wild_birds

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