



UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County

# Extension Connection

## Extension Notes

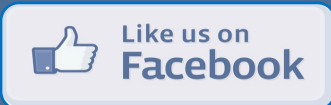
### New Year, New Horizons!

Jan Feb Mar 2025  
Volume 20 - Number 1

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"UF IFAS Extension Citrus County"



Happy New Year! I think that the beginning of a new year is the ideal time to learn something new and in this issue there's lots of stuff to learn. Learn all about the work of the Florida Wildlife Corridor's efforts and how it mapped the journey of M34 - a Florida Black bear that tried to survive crossing the I-4 highway (p.2).

Learn more about citrus greening disease (pp. 3-4) and get inspired to check out new citrus varieties that are disease resistant. And although we'd never advise you to try and teach an old dog new tricks, a new equine management budgeting tool (pp. 5-6) just may be the secret to learning new tricks for managing your horses.

Just in time for the new year, learn all about a new way to tackle those elusive new year resolutions using SMART goals (pp. 7-8), and how to make 2025 a new year for practicing sustainable living (p. 12). A new year may also mean new horizons for graduating high school seniors, and getting youth workforce ready is the focus in our 4-H section (pp. 9-11).

Continuing with the 'new' theme for the new year, we have a new Family and Consumer Science Extension Senior Program Assistant - Lydia Washburn; learn more about Lydia in our welcome note on p.18.

Be sure to check out our upcoming events and classes featured on pp.13-14: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Seminars, Master Gardner Library Series, Living Well FCS Seminars, and our annual Earth Day Expo on Apr. 26, and our Winter Gardening tips (pp. 19-20).

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!**

**For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County**

(352) 527-5700 • FAX (352) 527-5748 • citrus@ifas.ufl.edu

https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus/ • SolutionsForYourLife.com

# UF/IFAS Extension

## Solutions for Your Life

### URBAN HORTICULTURE

## BEAR NECESSITIES

*Marguerite Beckford, EdD*  
*Director and Horticulture Agent*



I've always been a fan of the 'lifelong learning' concept so it is no surprise that I found a professional home in Extension! I recently came across the fascinating work of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, and its black bear conservation efforts.

As Florida's population continues to grow, the survival of the Florida black bear is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. The work of the Florida Wildlife Corridor (FLWC) aims to address this through a statewide network of approximately 18 million acres (and growing) of connected ecosystems including national forests, privately and publicly owned wildlife management areas, and state parks. The goal of the FLWC is to connect wildlife habitats, to reduce fragmentation caused by human activities, and the consequent decline in plant and animal species.

Conceptualized at the UF's Center for Landscape and Conservation planning, the corridor seeks to protect up to 60 plant and animal species which are at risk of extinction. These include the Florida Scrub Jay, Black Bear, Panther, Grasshopper Sparrow and Sand Skink, as well as the Gopher Tortoise, Eastern Indigo Snake, Red Cockaded Woodpecker, Crested Caracara, Whooping Crane, Wood Stork, Snail Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Okaloosa Darter and plants such as the Scrub Palm and the Everglades bully. Through the FLWC's efforts, there have been increases in conservation numbers for the Black Bear, Scrub Jay and Panther.

The Ocala National Forest, is home to the highest-density population of black bears in North America and more than 40 years ago, a focus on the fragmentation that the pace of Florida land development was having on the bear population, culminated in the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act in 2021. easements which protect a property's natural conservation status from future development. To learn more about the FLWC and the journey of M34, a black bear that attempted to cross the I-4 highway, visit this link: <https://floridawildlifecorridor.org/about/inspired-by-a-bear/>



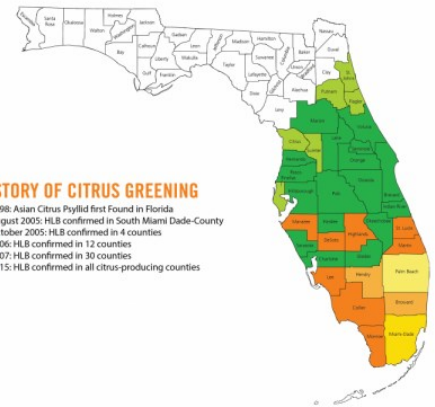
© USDA Forest Service

### GROWING PROBLEMS WITH CITRUS TREES

*Steven Davis, FFL Program Coordinator*



People moving to Florida want two things, sunshine and citrus. Sunshine is abundant most of the time and appears on the horizon most every morning. Citrus is a more complicated story. Over the past several Decades, citrus has been the target of several pathogens injuring both agricultural production and the desires of many Florida residents. Common garden pests, whitefly and leaf miner among others, are always present, but controllable. Other diseases like citrus canker and greening are more problematic.



Citrus canker, a bacterial disease, was introduced to Florida through contaminated root stock originating from Japan in 1912, infecting citrus plants in Monticello, Florida. Aided by the Florida Plant Quarantine Act 1912 the last canker infected tree was removed from Florida in 1927. This disease emerged again in the mid 1990's and in 2000, a statewide eradication program began with required removal of all infected trees. Hurricanes in 2003-2004 spread canker throughout the state to previously unaffected areas. The eradication program ended in 2006 when eradication proved impractical and tree removal is currently voluntary in Florida.

All plants have natural pore-like openings (stomates) which open and close in both leaves and fruits. During the first 90 days of growth as temperatures rise, stomates tend to be open, enabling wind-blown bacteria to penetrate and infect the fruit. Pruning, among other injuries, also provide an avenue for disease inoculation. Symptoms most commonly include leaf spotting and fruit rind blemishing but, when ideal conditions exist, defoliation, fruit drop and general decline of the tree



Citrus greening symptoms

occurs more quickly. A corky pustule surrounded by a yellow halo will be evident on leaves and fruit, but a more accurate symptom is a water soaked area surrounding the lesion as a more definitive sign. Citrus varieties with early maturing fruit are more susceptible than late maturing cultivars. Trees with significant damaging insect populations are also more susceptible due to the abundant wounds they create along leaf and fruit surfaces. The bacterial ooze created when lesions come in contact with moisture is easily transported by splashing water, winds, as well as through harvesting equipment, clothing, tree/fruit transportation and grafting. Strong winds and hurricanes can move the pathogen great distances.

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

## Florida-Friendly Roadmap

(continued from page 3) GROWING PROBLEMS WITH CITRUS TREES

More recently, citrus greening has become a catastrophic problem for citrus production. Huanglongbing (HLB) aka citrus greening, is also a bacterial disease that moves from tree to tree with the aid of an insect vector. Accumulation of HLB bacteria clogs the vascular system of the citrus tree inhibiting the transport of water, nutrients and sugars throughout the plant. The Asian Citrus Psyllid is the insect vector that moves HLB bacteria from an infected tree to a healthy tree nearby. No successful treatment is currently available. The piercing mouthpart injects the bacteria into the tree inoculating the healthy tree leading to relatively slow decline.

If your residential citrus tree shows HLB symptoms, it is best to destroy and remove the tree eliminating future contamination of other trees. Easy to spot symptoms include: mottled asymmetric leaf yellowing, lopsided small fruit, reverse fruit ripening (color inversion, ripening from the top down) and under-developed seeds in the fruit. After inoculation it may take several years for symptoms to appear making this disease more difficult to diagnose and eradicate.

Citrus greening first appeared in Florida in 2005 and has since moved to Texas and California. Over the past decade, the Florida Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida have led research on HLB, much of the research performed at the Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) in Lake Alfred <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus-research/>. Controlling Asian citrus psyllid populations is a priority. A predatory wasp (*Tamarixia radiata*) has been released and is an important ally in reducing bacteria carrying psyllid populations.

Development of disease resistant varieties is also an important area of research. Valuable resources available through the University of Florida and the Florida Department of Agriculture will keep you up to date on current research/practices combating this bacterial disease and the insect vector that transports it throughout the State.

Asian Citrus Psyllid



Predatory *Tamarixia* wasp





## ARE YOU BUDGETING FOR YOUR HORSE IN 2025?

*Aly Schortinghouse,  
Agriculture/Natural Resources Agent*



Over time, the purpose and use of horses have evolved, with recreational use becoming increasingly prevalent. Owning or leasing a horse entails numerous associated costs. While both options provide opportunities for engagement with horses, the financial considerations differ between the two options. Certain expenses, such as feed, are relatively predictable, while others, such as veterinary bills, may arise unexpectedly. Regardless of whether you own or lease, the most effective way to manage horse-related expenses and prevent them from becoming overwhelming is to proactively budget for them. This article will examine the types of expenses to anticipate, the categories to consider, and provide a budgeting tool to help forecast projected costs.

### Types of Costs

There are three primary categories of expenses commonly associated with horse ownership or leasing: start-up costs, additional costs and recurring monthly costs. *Start-up costs* encompass expenses such as pre-purchase exams, transportation, health certificates, tack, tools, vaccinations, and more. *Additional costs* include items like lessons, show fees, travel, clothing, emergency veterinary care, and equipment replacement. Lastly, *monthly recurring costs* typically consist of boarding, pasture maintenance, shavings, utilities (electricity and water), farrier services, insurance, hay, feed, supplements, and ongoing veterinary care.

### Forecasting your Budget

Although not all expense categories will apply to every situation—such as a person who boards their horse, and therefore does not need to budget for pasture maintenance—these categories cover the majority of expenses that most horse owners or lessees will encounter. To assist in forecasting these costs, the *Equine Ownership/Leasing Budgeting Tool* can be accessed here: [Budgeting Tool](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q6wCy9YQADb5u5X8MzLGWYh6DEQTFoU-/edit?usp=sharing&rtpof=true&sd=true). (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q6wCy9YQADb5u5X8MzLGWYh6DEQTFoU-/edit?usp=sharing&rtpof=true&sd=true>.)



(Continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5) ARE YOU BUDGETING YOUR HORSE IN 2025?

### Components of the Tool

A particularly useful feature of the tool is the *Projected Monthly Budget* section located in the lower-right corner. This section allows users to input their current income and specify the percentage of income they are willing to allocate toward horse-related expenses. The tool then calculates both the yearly and monthly allotted budget. Additionally, it compares the projected expenses for each category against the allotted budget, highlighting any excess or shortfall.

Budgeting for horse-related expenses is a vital step in reducing financial stress and providing a comprehensive overview of

potential costs. While some expenses such as emergency veterinary bills, may be unpredictable, budgeting and preparing for these eventualities can help alleviate their impact. By considering all associated costs, both owners and lessees can fully prepare for the financial responsibilities, ensuring a more enjoyable and less stressful experience.

### Checking Irrigation Systems

As we winterize pasture and other irrigation systems in preparation for cold weather and the upcoming demands of Spring and Summer, it is an opportune time to assess the functionality of the systems. Inspections should include a thorough check for leaks, clogs, and broken parts. Such assessments will ensure the system is ready for optimal performance in the spring, allow sufficient time for necessary repairs, and help avoid wasting water due to by any malfunctioning components.

Equine Ownership Budgeting Tool					
<b>Startup Costs</b>					
<b>Purchase Costs</b>		<b>Equipment</b>		<b>Veterinary Care</b>	
Item	Budgeted	Item	Budgeted	Item	Budgeted
Purchase Cost		Tack Set		Pre-Purchase	
Transportation		Buckets/Brushes		Vaccinations	
Miscellaneous		Tools		Farrier	
		Miscellaneous		Miscellaneous	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Monthly Costs</b>					
<b>Facilities</b>		<b>Feed</b>		<b>On-Going</b>	
Item	Budgeted	Item	Budgeted	Item	Budgeted
Boarding		Feed		Farrier	
Shavings		Hay		Veterinary Care	
Pasture Maintenance		Supplements		Insurance	
Electric				Miscellaneous	
Water					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Additional Costs</b>					
<b>Recreation</b>		<b>Miscellaneous</b>		<b>Emergency</b>	
Item	Budgeted	Item	Budgeted	Item	Budgeted
Lessons/Training		Clothing/Boots		Veterinary Care	
Show Fees/Travel		Miscellaneous		Equipment Replacement	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Summary</b>					
<b>Summary of Costs</b>				<b>Projected Monthly Budget</b>	
Costs	Category	Category Total	Subtotal	Income	
Startup Costs	Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00	% of Income willing to	
	Equipment	\$0.00		Yearly Allotted Budget	\$0.00
	Veterinary	\$0.00			
Monthly Costs	Facilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Monthly Budget Summary</b>	
	Feed	\$0.00		Monthly Allotted Budget	\$0.00
	On-Going	\$0.00		Total Monthly Costs	\$0.00
Additional Costs	Recreation	\$0.00	\$0.00	Monthly Excess/Loss	\$0.00
	Miscellaneous	\$0.00			
	Emergency	\$0.00			





## NEW YEAR, NEW YOU: SETTING REALISTIC GOALS FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Stephanie McMinds,  
Family & Consumer Sciences Agent*



The start of a new year is the perfect time to set fresh goals for your health and wellness. But resolutions can be tricky—many people set ambitious goals in January only to lose steam by February. This year, try setting realistic, achievable goals that fit into your lifestyle and support long-term change. Here are some tips to help you stay on track and make 2025 your healthiest year yet!

### 1. Start Small and Build Gradually

It's tempting to make sweeping changes, but smaller goals are often easier to maintain. Instead of vowing to work out every day, start with 2-3 times a week and gradually increase. This approach helps build confidence and lays a strong foundation for lasting habits.

### 2. Set SMART Goals

A useful framework for setting goals is SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. For example, instead of setting a vague goal like “eat healthier,” try “eat a serving of vegetables with lunch and dinner at least five days a week.” This goal is specific, measurable, realistic, and allows for progress tracking.

### 3. Focus on One Area at a Time

While it's natural to want to improve in multiple areas, focusing on one goal at a time can make it easier to stay committed. Start with either nutrition, exercise, or mental health. Once you've made progress in one area, you'll feel more confident to add another.

### 4. Fuel Your Body with Balanced Nutrition

Healthy eating doesn't have to be complicated or restrictive. Aim to create balanced meals that include lean proteins, whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. A good rule of thumb is to make half your plate vegetables, a quarter protein, and a quarter whole grains. Small changes, like drinking more water and limiting sugary snacks, can also make a big difference.



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(Continued on page 8)





(continued from page 7) *NEW YEAR, NEW YOU: SETTING REALISTIC GOALS FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS*

## 5. Make Movement Enjoyable

If hitting the gym isn't your thing, don't worry! Exercise can take many forms. Walking, dancing, gardening, or even playing active games with your kids, count as physical activity. Find activities you enjoy, and schedule them at times that suit your routine. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week—just 30 minutes, five times a week.

## 6. Prioritize Mental Wellness

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Start incorporating stress-reducing practices like journaling, mindfulness, or meditation. Setting aside time for yourself, even if it's just 10 minutes a day, can help improve your mood and resilience.

## 7. Track Your Progress

Keep a journal or use a tracking app to monitor your progress. Write down what you've achieved each week, how you're feeling, and any obstacles you've encountered. Reflecting on your successes and challenges can keep you motivated and help you adjust your approach if needed.

## 8. Celebrate Small Wins

Remember to acknowledge your accomplishments along the way! Celebrating small wins helps reinforce positive behavior and keeps you motivated. Treat yourself to something you enjoy, like a favorite book, a relaxing activity, or even just a quiet moment to reflect on your achievements.

## 9. Find Support

Having a support system—whether it's friends, family, or a community group—can make your goals more attainable. Share your goals with someone close to you, and consider joining local fitness classes, cooking workshops, or support groups to stay encouraged.

### *Make This Your Year of Positive Change!*

With a thoughtful approach and realistic goals, you can make lasting improvements to your health and wellness in 2025. Small, consistent changes will add up over time, leading to a happier, healthier you. Remember, this journey is about progress, not perfection—each step you take is a step towards a better you. Here's to a year of growth and wellness!



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# CITRUS COUNTY 4-H

MAKING THE BEST BETTER

## WORKFORCE READY

*Dr. Marnie Ward*

*4-H Agent*

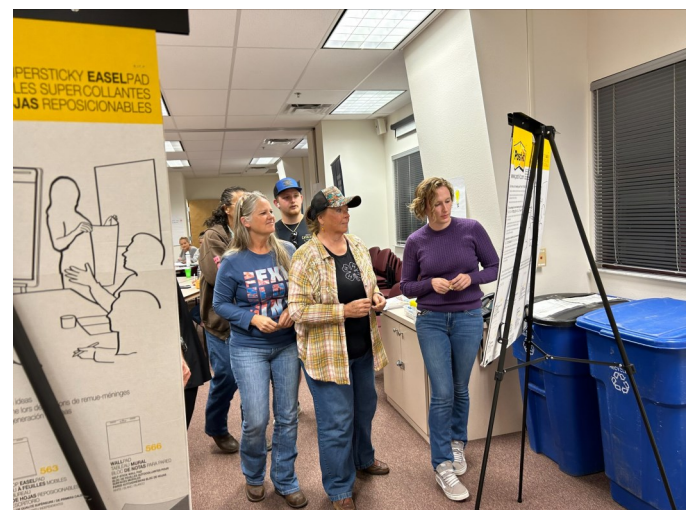


Florida 4-H is focused on the future of young people across the state and empowering them to meet the challenges of the next 100 years. UF/IFAS believes all youth should have access to opportunities that can lead to their future growth and success as contributing members of the community. Here in Citrus County, readying young people is part of what we do every day in 4-H clubs, school enrichment programs, and targeted outreach through workshops, camps, and other events. During 2025, we will be taking you on a deeper dive into the focus on developing workforce skills.



Did you know there are nearly 200,000 4-H members in Florida? They range in age from 8 – 18 years old. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 4-H members were primarily from rural, farming communities. While agriculture was, and still is, the backbone of 4-H, today, the breadth and scope of 4-H programs have expanded. We offer exploration and discovery in topics as diverse as engineering, chemistry, mathematics, art, healthy living and so much more.

Why does this matter? Young people come from a range of backgrounds and life experiences. Some want to reach for the stars, pursuing careers in aerospace, theater, or design. Future politicians and community leaders get a kick-start in 4-H public speaking and citizenship programs. These programs promote civic engagement and spark conversations about local communities, the decision-making process and visioning for the future. Learning with peers promotes teamwork and collaboration.



*(Continued on page 10)*





# CITRUS COUNTY 4-H

MAKING THE BEST BETTER

*(continued from page 9) WORKFORCE READY*

Back to workforce skills; 4-H is not alone in teaching these essential skills. In fact, many youth programs teach skills. The difference is in how 4-H does it. Here, the focus is on positive youth development (PYD) as the framework for working within communities to improve youth outcomes and grow a future workforce. The focus is two-fold; helping youth to find the “spark” or interest that puts them on a trajectory to thrive, and ensuring the context to express their “spark” through a variety of opportunities, including internships and work experience.

So how do you get started in 4-H:

- Call your local 4-H Agent. In Citrus County—Marnie Ward, 352-527-5712. Enrollment is open year round, so call today!
- Check out the Citrus County 4-H webpage <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus/4-h-youth-development/>.
- Learn more about educational programs by reviewing educational curriculum on the 4-H Mall <https://shop4-h.org>

Follow this series of articles in the Extension Connection Newsletter. For April/May/June, we will bring you more on Workforce development in Citrus County.





# Did you know...



For 28 years, the Citrus Stampede Rodeo has been produced by the Citrus County 4-H Foundation

4-H is part of UF/IFAS Extension providing educational opportunities for local adults and youth



The Rodeo welcomes over 4,000 attendees during the 2-night event

4-H connects with over 4,000 youth in Citrus County, both in and outside of schools



Citrus Stampede Rodeo Supports 4-H

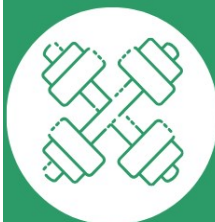


4-H Youth Programs Supported by the Rodeo



In 1999, the arena that hosts the Rodeo was named for Eloise Van Ness, a longtime Citrus County 4-H Leader

Citrus County 4-H has 17 Clubs with over 60 volunteers



All funds raised by the Rodeo go towards Citrus County 4-H clubs and youth

Since 1999, the Citrus County Foundation has raised over \$320,000 in scholarships and support for Citrus County Youth



Citrus Stampede Rodeo Annually in November

**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Equal Opportunity Institution

# NATURE NATURALLY

## THRIVING WITH NATURE: A KICK-OFF SUSTAINABILITY

*Dr. Marnie Ward*

*4-H Agent*



“The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.” Quote by Lady Bird Johnson

Lady Bird Johnson, known as the “Environmental First Lady” was a champion of conservation and improving natural areas across the country. Her work was directed towards promoting clean air and clean water by ensuring proper waste disposal and protection/promotion of parks, roadways, and natural areas. Her devotion and influence were reflected in the successful passage of the (federal) Highway Beautification Act (HBA, 1965).

Most of us may never aspire to create laws or change a nation like First Lady Johnson but change often begins on a smaller scale. In our homes, schools, and community groups, each of us has the power to choose the life we lead and what is left behind. Citrus County 4-H is starting the New Year with gusto and a call out to the community to join us in getting more engaged. In case you haven’t noticed, Citrus County is changing.

Promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability are cornerstones of 4-H nationally, and in our pledge - “I pledge my health to better living”. 4-H believes that the healthy living habits of young people begin in the context of their families and communities; therefore, we strive to equip youth with healthy living knowledge and skills to prepare them physically, emotionally, and socially to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Healthy living is an awareness of personal actions and lifestyle choices.

So, what is sustainability? What does it mean to me? Sustainability includes the activities and actions you do throughout the day and the types and quantities of stuff you consume.

### Getting Started:

- Educate yourself. – What are the resources in my community?
- Be aware of the impact – Buy local and invest in community.
- Make wise consumer choices – Choose to use less and re-use more.
- Make sure waste is waste – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, an Repurpose.
- Use less energy – Conserving energy = lower costs.

Join us throughout 2025 as we put these plans into action and check back in April for our next segment: Thriving in a Sustainable and Practical Lifestyle







## Gardening Seminar: hosted online and in-person

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



**“Right Plant Right Place”**

Tuesday January 7  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“9 Principles FFL”**

Tuesday January 21  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Lawn & Garden Weed Management”**

Tuesday February 4  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Optimizing Irrigation Systems”**

Tuesday February 18  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Managing Pets Wisely”**

Tuesday March 11  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

**“Florida Friendly Fertilizing”**

Tuesday March 25  
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Do you need more information about irrigation? There is seminar scheduled Thursday February 6: “Irrigation 101” Noon to 3pm

# SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY**  
APRIL 26TH, 2025  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## EARTH DAY EXPO

UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE  
CITRUS COUNTY  
3650 W SOVEREIGN PATH





UF/IFAS Extension  
SolutionsForYourLife.com



JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH



### 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 1:00 pm, last approximately 1 hour, and are **free**.

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

**January: Extension Services : The 5 W's**

**February: Warm Season Vegetables**

**March: What is that ? (Oh my plant)**

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	<b>ZOOM</b> —Pre-register on our Facebook page!	

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

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

**IF-SVC-citrusmg@ad.ufl.edu**

# Honey beekeeping basics



**Basic beekeeping 101**  
**Is beekeeping right for me?**

**Saturday, January 18, 2025 9:00 AM - noon**



**Basic beekeeping 201**  
**Honeybees and bee health**

**Saturday, February 15, 2025 9:00 AM - noon**



**Basic beekeeping 301**  
**Honey hive management**

**Saturday, March 15, 2025 9:00 AM - noon**



**Go here to register: <https://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com>**

**Citrus County Extension Office**  
**3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1**  
**Lecanto FL 34461**  
**352-527-5708**



# Citrus County Family & Consumer Sciences

## Upcoming Programs

- **January 5th - Sunday Water Bath Canning: Cranberry Orange Chutney at Canning Center (2:00 PM)**  
Learn the process of water bath canning safely by making cranberry orange chutney at this hands-on class. Cost is \$20.00. All supplies are included.
- **January 7th - Water Bath Canning Crushed Tomatoes at Canning Center (10:00 AM)**  
Learn the process of water bath canning safely by making crushed tomatoes at this hands-on class. Cost is \$20.00. All supplies are included.
- **January 13th - Culinary Series: Asian Cuisine at Canning Center (4:30-7:30 PM)**  
Create a globally inspired meal from scratch. Cost is \$25.00. All supplies are included.
- **January 15th - Culinary Series: Asian Cuisine at Canning Center (10:00 AM-1:00 PM)**  
Create a globally inspired meal from scratch. Cost is \$25.00. All supplies are included.
- **January 16th - Nutrition with Cooking Demo at Central Ridge Library (12:00 PM)**  
Free program offering advice on proper nutrition along with a cooking demo.
- **January 28th - Water Bath Canning at Canning Center (10:00 AM)**  
Learn the process of water bath canning safely by making crushed tomatoes at this hands-on class. Cost is \$20.00. All supplies are included.
- **February 7th - Cooking Under Pressure at Canning Center (11:00 AM)**  
Learn how to properly use an electric pressure cooker and air fryer to create delicious dishes. Cost is \$20.00. All supplies are included.
- **February 10th - Culinary Series: Mexican Cuisine at Canning Center (4:30-7:30 PM)**  
Create a globally inspired meal from scratch. Cost is \$25.00. All supplies are included.
- **February 12th - Culinary Series: Mexican Cuisine at Canning Center (10:00 AM-1:00 PM)**  
Create a globally inspired meal from scratch. Cost is \$25.00. All supplies are included.
- **February 28th - Cooking for 1 or 2 at Lakes Region Library (2:00 PM)**  
Learn how to prepare and shop for a meal for 1 or 2 along with a cooking demo.
- **March 3rd - Energy Efficient Appliances at Homosassa Library (1:00 PM)**  
Free program offering information on energy-saving appliances.
- **March 26th - Basic Home Maintenance at UF/IFAS Extension Office (6:00-8:00 PM)**  
Learn foundational home maintenance skills to save time and money on simple repairs and general upkeep. Cost is \$15.00. Drinks and snacks are provided.

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





2025

# TRASH TO TREASURE



## RECYCLED ART CONTEST



All Entries on Display: APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> – APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>  
CITRUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOBBY  
110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness

CHECK OUT THE ART & THEN  
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE ENTRY!

ONE  
VOTE  
PER  
PERSON  
PLEASE

12:00 PM  
April 25th

VOTING  
ENDS!

MON  
APRIL  
7TH

SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE

SAT  
APRIL  
26TH

EXTENSION EARTH DAY CELEBRATION  
WINNERS & CASH PRIZES  
PRESENTED @ 12.00 PM

# WANT TO ENTER?

SCAN  
HERE!



**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA  
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# Welcome



UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County welcomes Lydia Washburn as the new Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Senior Program Assistant.

Lydia joins us with a bachelor's degree in Art Education (University of Little Rock - AR), and extensive work experience in education and the public sector.

Having worked previously in Arkansas and with the Citrus County library division, Lydia developed strong skills in project planning and development, and she is excited for the opportunity to use these skills in making a positive impact on the UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension FCS program.

As a self-described “free-spirit”, in her leisure time Lydia enjoys hiking, camping, kayaking, and other outdoor activities, along with traveling with her family. Please join us in extending a warm UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County welcome to Lydia!



## Winter Gardening Calendar

**Bedding Plants:** Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include dianthus, pansy, viola, verbena, petunia, strawflower and snapdragon.

**Bulbs:** Crinum and agapanthus are good options for this time of year. Provide a layer of mulch for protection from cold temperatures. In March, plant dahlia, canna, and Gloriosa lily bulbs for spring and summer flowering in beds that have been amended with organic matter. Provide stakes as needed, to support growth. Also in March, plant caladium for a showy display all summer. Caladiums will perform best in full to part shade.

**Camellias:** Select and plant colorful winter-blooming camellias. Visit local nurseries for the best selection of colors and forms. These evergreen beauties also prefer a shady site.



Gloriosa Lily



Camellia

**Vegetables:** Continue planting cool season vegetables including beet, kale, cabbage, turnip, lettuce, broccoli, and sugar snap peas as well. Beans, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash can be started while temperatures are cool. Begin planting warm season crops in March.

**Herbs:** When temperatures warm up, consider growing edible ginger. Plant a rhizome in well-drained soil in full to part sun.

**Azaleas:** With azaleas in full bloom Winter into Spring, It's a good time of year for selecting varieties. When pruning azaleas, wait until after they have finished blooming.

**Annuals:** March - Replace declining winter annuals with varieties such as angelonia, gazania, and salvia that will



Azaleas

*(Continued on page 20)*

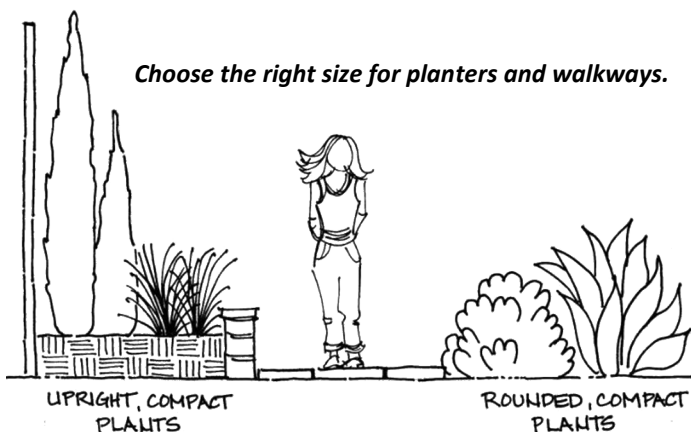
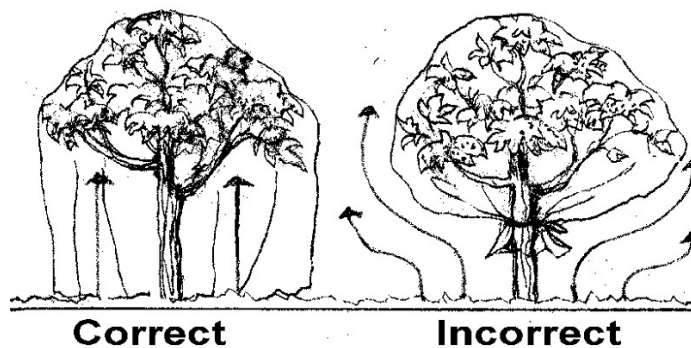
(continued from page 19) WINTER GARDENING

provide color into the summer months.

**Cold protection:** Frost or freezes are likely in January and February. Be ready to cover tender plants to minimize damage. Make sure covers extend all the way to the ground to trap radiating heat.

**Irrigation:** Plants may need water. However, with lawns and landscape plants dormant, set irrigation systems to manual and operate about once every 10 to 14 days. Check sprinkler systems for issues such as broken heads or inefficient spray patterns.

**Shrubs and Trees:** Determine the height and spread of any shrubs you plan to install. Not all shrubs are suitable for planting next to homes or under windows. Anytime is a good time to add a fresh layer of mulch, which will conserve moisture and reduce weeds.



**Pests:** To control scale on citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees, apply horticultural oil while plants are dormant.

**Citrus:** Cold temperatures may still injure citrus. Avoid pruning until spring. Be on the lookout for citrus scab disease. Fertilize April 1 or after.

**Prune Roses:** Roses can be pruned in March or into early summer to remove damaged canes and improve the overall shape. Apply a fresh layer of mulch and wait for blooms to begin!

**Lawn Weeds:** After temps rise to 65°F for 4-5 days, apply a pre-emergent herbicide to lawns to prevent warm season weeds. Timing is important for good control. Weed-and-feed products are not recommended.

**Identify and conserve beneficial insects:** Beneficial insects should be encouraged in your yard!

