



Dear Larry,

Happy New Year from Duval County Extension. While the weather the past few days has been cold, the 3-month seasonal climate outlook for Northeast Florida will include below normal rain, and above normal temperatures. If the spring becomes hotter and drier than normal, our landscape may need supplemental irrigation. for more information check out the [Climate Prediction Center](#).

January is for the Birds



January is an interesting month in North Florida if you are into gardening and nature. The temperatures fluctuate wildly, yet all my azaleas are in full bloom along with the camellias. Aside from the flowers in bloom, a favorite gardening activity in January in North Florida has become backyard bird watching. [Read More for information on attracting birds to the garden.](#)

A Park with a Purpose



Native Park is a park that provides a lot more than green space for sporting events and a place to walk the dog. Native Park provides a shady respite from the urban sprawl, a habitat for wildlife, and a place for residents of the city to learn about Florida's diverse native plant species. [Read more for great information about Avondale's Native Park.](#)

Arbor Day, A Day to appreciate what trees do!



While National Arbor Day is always in April, many Floridians do not know that Florida's Arbor Day is the third Friday in January. In 2025 that date is Friday, January 17th. This early date is perfect for planting trees in our area. The trees have time to start establishing themselves before the typical dry spring months of March, April, and May. [Read on to hear about the things that trees provide for us.](#)

What to Plant in January and February



The Gardening Calendar gives North Florida gardeners a guide for what to plant and do in their gardens. It includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise.

- [What to Plant in January](#)
- [What to plant in February](#)

Learn How to Start a Community Garden



Starting a community garden or taking over the reins of an existing one is no easy task. But if you live in Duval County, Florida, and you would like some help figuring out how to go about it, [Read here for information on our second Community Garden Leader Class.](#)

Upcoming Events

([Follow us on Eventbrite for Upcoming Classes](#))

Living on a Few Acres: Cattle for the Small Farmer

Tuesday, January 21st 2 pm

Location: Duval County Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Avenue

Join us for an informative session on Cattle for small farms. Come learn how to incorporate cattle into your small farm. Topics will include: nutrition, stocking rate, reproduction, health, and market factors Cost is \$10.00. Visit [Living on a Few Acres on Eventbrite](#) to reserve a spot

Spring Vegetable Seed Starting Lunch-N-Learn

Thursday, January 23 · 12 - 1pm EST. The cost is \$2.50.

Location: Online via Zoom

Are you new to growing vegetables and herbs from seed? Looking for ways to improve your seed starting skills? Wondering why you've been having trouble starting seeds? Join us for this presentation and interactive discussion and learn: How to select, purchase and store seeds. Which seeds to start now. What a seed is, what it needs and how it germinates. How and when to plant and care for seeds and seedlings. Which crops to grow as transplants. Which crops to direct seed. Common problems and troubleshooting To register, go to: [Spring Vegetable Seed Starting on Eventbrite.](#)

December Backyard Hen Training

Wed, January 29th, 2024, PM at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$10.00.

Location: Duval County Extension Office

1010 N. McDuff Avenue

This class is necessary for you to get your backyard hen permit in Duval County. Steven Jennewein will be presenting information to help get you started on your backyard flock. It is just a little over an hour and very informative. You will receive a certificate of completion that you present to the city to receive your permit. The class will consist of a lecture and then an exhibition of a functional coop at the UF/IFAS Urban Garden. To register, go to: [January Backyard Hens on Eventbrite.](#)

For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations that wish to attend any Extension events, please contact your local UF/IFAS Extension Office (TDD, via Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771) at least ten working days prior to the class so that proper consideration may be given to the request. UF/IFAS Extension is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

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