

# Garden Notes

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## Red Maple

The Fall color of Red maple, *Acer rubrum*, is stunning, but the flowers offer interest in the winter season. Flowering trees will often be humming with pollinator visitors. Plants are adapted to a wide range of landscape conditions. The best soils are acid, moist, and well drained. Trees are generally fast growing, reaching about 40 to 50 feet in landscapes.

Choose a full sun or partial shade site for your tree.

Flowers will be followed by the well know whirlybird seeds, called samaras.

Red maple is native to much of the eastern United States so purchase more locally grown plants that are better adapted to the Coastal South.

## Multi Use Vegetable

We grow broccoli for the flower heads but the leaves can also be enjoyed. Check on your broccoli heads often and harvest by cutting off the head with a couple of inches of stem. A few smaller heads will form below the cut. When you are ready to pull out the plant, save some leaves for a stir fry with snow peas or bok choy.



## Camellia Garden

Consider a visit to the Camellia Gardens on the University of West Florida campus. There are lots of blooms to see and all plants have name tags. I discovered a favorite cultivar this way and then found it at a nursery. Find out the location of the gardens here.



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