

# Garden Notes

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850-475-5230

Beth Bolles: [bbolles@ufl.edu](mailto:bbolles@ufl.edu)

Lydia Purvis: [lpurvis@ufl.edu](mailto:lpurvis@ufl.edu)



## UF IFAS Extension SoilKit

If you need to soil test and want to know exactly what to buy at the store, consider using the new SoilKit.

This kit is registered online where you can pinpoint your exact square footage.

Postage is even included and you mail it from your home.

[Get your kit through the UF Bookstore.](#)



## Nutrient Issues

There are many cultivars of Loropetalum that are excellent evergreen shrubs for the landscape. This plant does have nutrient issues if the soil pH is alkaline. A soil pH test will tell you for sure and then you can supplement needed nutrients or move plants to a more suitable location.



## Persian shield

For many along the Gulf Coast, Persian shield, *Strobilanthes auriculata* var. *dyeriana*, will be a frost tender annual. Even so, the iridescent purple leaves are reason to grow this plant in our spring, summer, and fall months. Persian shield grows well in containers or in the ground as long as the area is in shade. Plants will need a little water when rainfall is lacking. Individual plants reach about 3–4 feet in height. Use as a specimen with other fine textured plants or in a small mass of three plants.