

# Garden Notes

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## Blue Ginger

All summer you can enjoy the tropical foliage of blue ginger and when Fall arrives, plants form beautiful purple flowers. Although called ginger, blue ginger (*Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*) is related to spiderwort. It is a perennial that will grow into a clump, reaching 4-6 feet in height. Plants often freeze back in North Florida but return in spring. Escambia Master Gardener Volunteers protect plants throughout the winter to get a jump start on regrowth each spring. Plant Blue ginger next spring in a shady spot with well drained soil. Plants grow best with routine moisture.

## Doveweed

This weed looks like grass. The summer annual Doveweed is currently blooming and will soon die with a frost. The best time for pre emergent herbicide management is next spring when soil temperatures reach 70 degrees F. This weed loves moisture and thrives in low spots and in lawns that receive scheduled watering.



## Saving Malabar Spinach

While wearing gloves, collect purple fruit of malabar spinach. Soak in water for a couple of days to loosen pulp. Rinse through a strainer to remove pulp and then let seeds dry on a towel (not in the sun) for a few days. Package up, label, and store for next year's planting.



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