Know Your Water Restrictions

Watering restrictions change for St. Johns River Water Management District

When we set our clocks forward a few weeks ago for Daylight Savings Time we should also have checked the watering requirements for our lawns and the new water restrictions set by the water management districts. SJRWMD changes their restriction for landscaping watering on the same weekend and takes into consideration how plant growth changes with the seasons. Many people still water their plants too much (which wastes water and increases the chances of pests & diseases) and so adhering to the restrictions now before the plants are actively growing with the hotter temperatures will help them acclimatize to using less water. SJRWMD restrictions are:

- Water only when needed and not between 10am and 4:00pm
- Water for NO more than 1 hour per zone
- Homes with odd-numbered, or no, addresses water on Wednesday or Saturday
- Homes with even numbered addresses water on Thursday or Sunday
- Non-residential properties water on Tuesday or Friday

Lawns and landscapes do not necessarily need to be watered once a week; the need for irrigation depends upon many factors—daytime temperature, rate of growth, specific plant species and if the plant have a healthy root system, to name just a few. Most of our landscaped plants and turfs do not like being overwatered either as it reduces root growth and creates a favorable microenvironment for many pests and diseases. On a whole, most homeowners water much more than they should and our water supply is suffering for it. For more information on how to save water and create a Florida-friendly landscape go to http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/

Christine

Our New Website has Launched!

Friendlier for mobile devices.

Have you visited our new website yet? In our last newsletter, we told you about the changes that will be coming to our website—well they are here and we are hoping that you will go and check it out soon and tell us what you think. The address has changed (sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/indian-river/) as well as the format, which is supposed to be more user-friendly for mobile devices. Since it is so different from what we have had in the past, there is a learning curve and some information is not as easily accessible as it was on the previous website. In the next couple of months, all UF/IFAS websites will be switching over to this new format and Violet has done a great job in trying to get us up to speed. One thing that you might find useful is to use the browser Google Chrome when trying to access the website on a computer. In addition, when trying to find a particular event, I suggest going to the local events calendar on the right side of the home page.
Spring Pasture Management Increases Forage Productivity by Christine Kelly-B.

Nutritive forages are important for animal health.

If you have grazing animals, correct pasture management during the spring is one of the most important tools that you can use to produce healthy and productive grass that can help lower feed and hay costs. As the warmer spring temperatures initiate plant growth, most of our forages (mainly bahiagrass) have used up their reserves that they stored in the fall for survival during the winter. Care must be taken not to overgraze these pastures in early spring because reserves could be depleted to the point of stand loss. The plant needs to produce new leaves by intercepting sunlight and capturing nutrients to promote more rapid growth. Once enough leaf area has formed, the plant will begin to rebuild reserves in the stolons and rhizomes. Having enough forage for summer grazing could be at risk if pastures are not allowed to recover after the winter depletion. Light grazing pressure should be utilized through April giving the forage grass enough time to be competitive against those pesky summer weeds. After enough leaf area has developed you can increase the stocking rate and enjoy the benefits of good grazing management.

Another important tool in pasture management is to test the soil to make sure that your fertilization program is adequate for the amount of grazing pressure that you require from your pastures. Fertilization is always important in order to meet plant nutrient demand, but without a soil test it is difficult to develop a useful plan that will be beneficial to both plants and pocketbook. Optimally, soil testing should be done during the winter but even now would be a good time before applying any fertilizer. Soil nutrient analysis is quite inexpensive (soil pH is free in the extension office), yet reveals a tremendous amount of information about the potential for forage growth and production. For more information on this topic and to learn about soil sampling go to http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/soil-testing/ or read the bulletins General Guidelines for Managing Pastures http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag162 and Bahiagrass (Paspalum notatum): Overview and Management http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag342.

Grow Something New In Your Garden This Year

Would you like to try something new in your garden this year? The Extension office has a limited supply of Seminole pumpkin seeds that will go to the first 20 people that contact the extension office. The Seminole Pumpkin is a native plant of south Florida and was cultivated by Florida Native Americans and early European settlers. Almost lost in modern time, the Seminole Pumpkin is making a great comeback as an easy summer season vegetable. The Seminole pumpkin is actually more closely related to butternut and calabaza than a real pumpkin. Spring or summer is the best time to plant and the harvest is ready in about 95 days, but the vines will produce until the first frost. The vines are aggressive and fast growing, achieving lengths of 20 feet or more, so having enough space can be an issue in a small backyard. The vines will climb, but the fruits usually pull them down. The plant is generally pest free (with some exceptions), and needs full sun to partial shade. The fruit resembles a winter/acorn squash, but much larger, generally with an oval or oblong shape. The color ranges from variegated greens, yellow to a dull orange. This thick-skinned fruit can be stored at room temperature for months. The pumpkins are generally 6 – 10 inches in diameter and weigh as much as 8 – 12 pounds. The fruit is sweeter than other cucurbits, yellow or orange in color and not stringy. It can be baked, steamed, boiled, fried or sun-dried as the Florida I Native Americans did; it can also be made into great pies and bread as well. Email ckellybe@ufl.edu for seeds and planting instructions.

Office Hours in Fellsmere for Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Agent, Christine Kelly-Begazo, will now hold office hours in Fellsmere on the third Thursday of each month from 4:00pm-6:00pm. She will see clients in the City Complex behind the old Schoolhouse in room 9. Ms. Kelly-Begazo will be available to answer farming related questions, as well as questions regarding lawns and landscaping. This will be the first time that extension has held office hours in Fellsmere. Clients will be seen on a first-come, first-serve basis but you can make an appointment as well. Christine will also be scheduling morning and early afternoon farm site visits for the same days. For more information or to schedule an appointment or site visit, call (772) 226-4316 or email ckellybe@ufl.edu.
Ways in Which to Earn Continued Education Credits (CEU’s) by Christine Kelly-B.

Do you have a pesticide license and need CEU’s to keep it valid? Licensed pesticide applicators must recertify to renew their pesticide applicator licenses. For a licensed applicator to become recertified, they must either retake the certification exams or earn the required number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Each license has their own requirements and it is the responsibility of each applicator to obtain the requisite number of CEU’s for renewal within the required timeframe. Some licenses do allow for a grace period before they expire, but once expired the applicator will have to take the category exam over again. Listed below are a number of ways to obtain CEU’s.

FDACS Pesticide CEU website. Lists current classes statewide that offer CEU’s in different categories for different licenses. This site allows you to select a specific date, location and category—or you can just search the database for the specific license and/or category and it will display classes for various locations and dates.
http://ceupublicsearch.freshfromflorida.com/AvailableClassSearch.asp

UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office. On-Line CEU’s offered for license renewals. Cost: $20-75 depending upon course length (50 min – 6 hours); 1 CEU is generally 50 minutes. https://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/

Indian River County. Hosts a Core training class on an as-needed basis and gives you 2-Core CEU’s. Contact Christine Kelly-Begazo for more information (ckellybe@ufl.edu or call (772) 226-4330).

Green Industries Best Management Practices (GIBMP). Training provides a variety of CEU’s for both 487 (2-Core, 2-O&T) and 482 licenses (2-Core, 2-Limited Urban Fertilizer, 2-Limited Landscape Maintenance, 2-Limited Lawn & Ornamental, 2-Commercial Lawn & Ornamental) for a total of 4 CEU’s for the day. See https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu/gibmp/workshop/register/listGIBMPWorkshops.faces for a list of class dates and locations.

UF IFAS Horticulture Department Annual CEU Day. Day-long session in Gainesville with video host locations offered throughout the state on Wednesday, 2/28/18. Indian River County Extension will be host location for the webinar on the Treasure Coast. 12 CEU’s possible; 6 FDACS CEUs: 2.0 for each of Ag Row Crop, Ag Tree Crop, 487 General Standard/Core and/or 6 CCA CEUs: NM, 1.0; PM, 2.0; CM, 3.0. Call the Indian River County Extension office (772) 226-4330.

The Great CEU Round-Up sponsored by UF IFAS and host locations at county extension offices. Usually offered in the summer—more information available in July. 4-6 CEU’s depending upon the category. Contact your local county extension office.

Growing Produce magazine. CEU Series by Gene McAvoy (UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County) and other county extension faculty (on-line and paper). Read article, answer test questions, and submit answers. CEU: 1 CORE per article.
www.growingproduce.com/crop-protection/ceu-series

Private Enterprises:
The Florida Turfgrass Association has regional turf seminars throughout the state of Florida. These seminars provide local educational programs on topics such as pest and disease, weeds, BMPs, regulatory issues, safety and pesticide usage. Participants receive FDACS CEUs in core and turf and ornamental categories, FNGLA, Certified Crop Advertisers and GCSAA. http://www.ftga.org/events/event_list.asp

Barbara & Bob Kessler, Bullseye Environmental Services, Inc. offers on-line and in person training for CEU’s and pesticide licenses. Phone: 772-562-1442. ceusathome@yahoo.com; http://www.bobkesslerceu.com/Home.aspx

ceuweb.com is an on-line, fee-based CEU provider http://wwwceuweb.com/.
**Spring has Sprung!!**
*Early warm weather is persuading plants to grow.*

April starts the warmer months and some of your current fall/winter bedding plants might be starting to decline. Time to replace anything that is unhappy with great colors that will take you through the summer. Some good examples that grow well in our area are pentas, gazania, and salvias. Different bulbs will be making an appearance now and this is a good time to plant your caladiums if you have not already.

Light yard maintenance can begin (when a danger of frost has passed) with pruning of your shrubs just as new growth begins. If it is a flowering shrub, prune as the blooms begin to fade, just before new buds come in. Well-established shrubs should not need fertilizer but, if you choose to do so, be sure to purchase one that is appropriate for shrubs and always apply according to the label.

If you have palms in your landscape, use the recommended palm fertilizer in the entire zone of your yard where the palm grows and its roots can be encountered. Palms are very sensitive to nutrient management and may need additional applications of magnesium, manganese, zinc and boron. Never use a turf fertilizer on palms—it is detrimental and can damage a healthy plant. Palm nutrient deficiency guides are very useful and can be found at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep273](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep273).

Warm season crops may start filling your edible gardens at this time; arugula, chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, peppers, sweet potatoes, swiss chard, frost sensitive beans, squash, carrots, celery, spinach, corn, cucumbers and many others may be planted. For vegetable gardening in Florida the best resource is the *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* that can be found at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021). Happy Gardening!!

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### Master Gardener Volunteer wins Senior Volunteer of the Year Award

**by Violet Krochmalny**

Indian River County Master Gardener **Linda Urban** received the Senior Volunteer of the Year award for her work with Vero Beach Elementary’s (VBE) school garden. A graduate of Master Gardener training in 2012, Linda chose to volunteer with the school garden and give back to the community. A former teacher, she has combined her skills with children and love of gardening to expand the horizons of 3rd and 4th grade students at VBE.

Up until the Fall of 2017, Linda was the coordinator and solo Master Gardener on hand for the school garden—doing a great job providing an enjoyable experience in the square-foot gardens. Besides the actual gardening with the little ones, Linda puts in long hours planning, gathering ideas, pricing supplies and processing purchase orders among other tasks. She is now assisted by IRC Master Gardener volunteers Fran Robinson and Susan Gordon. In a recent conversation Fran stated that “I am proud and happy to work with Linda weekly at the school. She does an amazing job... We have fun working in the garden and especially with our group of 3rd and 4th graders. We truly believe we are making a difference in the lives of these children!”

School gardens involve teachers, community partners and students to create hands-on interdisciplinary classrooms using all shapes and sizes of gardens. Ranging from a few containers on a classroom windowsill to acres of fruits, flowers and vegetables -- even small gardens help children gain familiarity and ownership with their food sources. Butterfly gardens are also popular and all are wonderful ways to incorporate curriculum with healthy, outdoor fun.

Volunteers like Linda are key to successful programs like school gardens. For more information on the Indian River County Master Gardener program, contact IRC Environmental Horticulture Agent Nickie Munroe at Inmunroe@ufl.edu.

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**Congratulations, Linda!!**
The town of Fellsmere put on the 27th Annual Frogleg Festival on January 18th-21st (Thursday-Sunday); there was an estimated attendance of over 80,000 people coming from all over the country. What originally started as a modest fundraiser by the town’s Beautification Committee to upgrade civic landscapes, has blossomed into what is now a major source of financial assistance for Fellsmere’s youth recreation. Frogleg Fest is a very unique venue that is mostly a family street fair with carnival rides, games and ‘fair-type’ foods, as well as craft vendors, exhibits along with the thousands of pounds of frogleg dinners served. Many civic and youth organizations work the event, including the 4-H Club Indian River Swine/Primetime Cattlemen which prepares and cleans the kitchens used for the famous frogleg (and now gator tail) dinners.

For the past 20 years or so, Arzella Hatfield has coordinated the Indian River Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) at a plant clinic booth during the festival. Arzella notes that many people stopping by the MGV booth with garden questions are from out of county and even out of state. “They are surprised to find out that wherever they live there is a local Extension office that can help them with their questions, Arzella stated, “we explain how they can find their own local office and get the answers they need specific for their climate and growing conditions.” The most often requested information was what landscape plants can be grown in their specific locations, vegetable gardening, and information about citrus and other fruits. The MGV booth offered a selection of publications from the University of Florida, as well as brochures on how to contact the Indian River County Master Gardeners and how to access UF/IFAS information online.

Over 20 Master Gardener volunteers staffed the MGV booth—taking turns enjoying the festival and doing what they love: talking about gardening.

Are you a Green Industry Professional in Landscaping and Lawncare?

GIBMP’s are a series of practices that will enable you to develop environmentally-friendly landscapes that will utilize less fertilizer, pesticides and water but still create an ascetically-pleasing landscape. This science-based educational program teaches practices that also help conserve and protect Florida’s ground and surface waters. All landscape workers should be trained in the GIBMP’s (including school, hospital, municipal and government workers), and if you are a commercial fertilizer applicator Florida state statute requires that you also apply for the Limited Urban Fertilizer License from FDACS after completing the GIBMP training. It is very easy to get the GIBMP training confused with the FDACS Limited Commercial Fertilizer License since the two are interconnect, but they are both very different.

The GIBMP training program is the educational material and practices taught to achieve a Florida-friendly landscaping, usually taught by UF/IFAS county faculty and staff. During the training, participants take a pre- and post-test to determine the amount of knowledge that they have gained in the classroom. In order to receive your GIBMP certificate from the University of Florida, you must score an 80 or above on the post-test. For some workers, this is as far as you need to go, BUT, if you commercially apply fertilizer for a fee then you must obtain the Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer License from FDACS. This license is often call the “fertilizer license” and involves a few more steps after you have taken the GIBMP training and passed the post-test. Once you have received you certificate from UF you will need to send a copy of it, along with the application form (https://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/38149/852766/limited_fertilizer_pkt.pdf), a passport photo and a $25 fee to FDACS. Once FDACS has accepted your application and processed the fee, they will issue a license that you will need to carry with you whenever you are applying fertilizer to a client’s lawn. This certification does not allow or authorize the maintenance company or the applicator to operate a pest control business. It also does not allow the application of pesticides to turf or ornamentals, including pesticide/fertilizer mixtures and it does not allow supervision of non-certified fertilizer applicators.

The next GIBMP class along the Treasure Coast will be in Stuart on Wednesday, May 17th, 2018. For more information, contact Yvette Goodiel with the UF/IFAS Martin County Extension office at goodiel@ufl.edu or (772) 288-5654.
**Bee Buzz and Pollinator Points** by Violet Krochmalny

*Native Pollinators and DIY Nest Boxes, bringing the BUZZ back into your landscape.*

Promoting and maintaining diversity in your lawn and garden not only attracts different types of pollinators to your yard but also increases the overall health of the ecosystem. Having a variety of plant types, heights, textures and color for pollen sources is all very good, but you can go even further by having pollinator-specific nesting habitats for solitary bees and wasps. Your pollinators will have their production enhanced by having their homes close to their pollen sources.

Ground nesters, like Miner and Sweat bees, prefer cleared spots free of mulch and vegetation in well-drained open areas. Most bees and wasps are visual navigators and rely on landmarks to help find their way home so having perennial plantings near these areas will be more effective than frequently changed annuals.

Cavity nesters will either excavate, or use existing tunnels made by other critters, in soft dead wood. These include Carpenter and Mason bees, Potter wasps and Red & Black Mason wasps. Leaf Cutting bees are primarily cavity nesters but some types are ground nesters as well.

There are more than 300 species of native bees in Florida, for more information on native bees go to the Seminole County Native Bees blog at [http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/seminoleco/2017/11/29/native-bees/](http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/seminoleco/2017/11/29/native-bees/)

You can create your own cavity nests using stem bundles of varied lengths, block nests or a combination of the two types. Bamboo make the easiest stem bundles, but any hollow stem will work such as giant reed or even plastic pipe or tubing. Paper or cardboard is useable only if kept dry. For blocks, drill non-preserved wood with various sizes of bits ranging from 1/8th to ½ inch in width and depths ranging from 3 to 8 inches. There are also block units you can make using clay or mud.

Keep the bundles and holes drilled into blocks horizontal, with one end sealed and some type of weather protection overhead. Have the various lengths of stems flush evenly on the sealed ends with the varying lengths staggered at the open end for visual navigation cues needed for returning home. To help differentiate holes drilled into block nests there are many decorative options. Bundles and blocks need to be stable so that individual stems or blocks do not shift or roll.

Smaller units are best, as it is then easier to change the units out every 2 to 3 years to help minimize disease and parasite infestation. Additionally, there are methods to persuade residents to vacate old units that need to be changed. See UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions website “Pollinator Hotels” for more information: [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/gardening-with-wildlife/pollinator-hotels.html](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/gardening-with-wildlife/pollinator-hotels.html).

The University of Florida’s Honeybee Research and Extension Lab has created the Citizen Science project “Native Buzz,” a program developed to share nationwide information learned from monitoring native bees and wasps. For more information on this program, including detailed instructions on creating nesting boxes go to [http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/Ellis/NativeBuzz/default.aspx](http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/Ellis/NativeBuzz/default.aspx)

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**What’s Blooming For Pollinators in our Area**

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<td>**American Holly&lt;br&gt;Butter Mint&lt;br&gt;Dahoon Holly&lt;br&gt;Dog Hobble&lt;br&gt;Felterbush&lt;br&gt;Galberry&lt;br&gt;Gopher Apple&lt;br&gt;Jointweed&lt;br&gt;Mexican Clover&lt;br&gt;Orange&lt;br&gt;Palm&lt;br&gt;Palmetto&lt;br&gt;Shrubby False Buttonwood&lt;br&gt;Smart Weed&lt;br&gt;Spanish Needle&lt;br&gt;White Mangrove&lt;br&gt;Wild Coffee&lt;br&gt;Wild Lime</td>
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Eight Tips to a great IRC 4-H Project Book! by Darren Cole and Christine Kelly-B.

**#1-Writing a Goal**
You should have a goal for each of your projects. Your goal needs to include:
- **What...** What do you want to accomplish, learn or do? Be specific.
- **How...** Use action words such as ‘will learn’, ‘will teach’, ‘will make’, ‘will compare’, and ‘will plan’.
- **When...** Tells the date that you will complete the goal. Setting a deadline for yourself helps you plan your time better and help you complete your goal on time.

**#2-Livestock Information- Market animals**
When raising a market animal, there is a lot of information that needs to be collected in order to determine if you had a profit or a loss at the end of the project. This is important when learning about balancing budgets and if something is profitable. Listed below is just a few examples of the type if information that should be recorded:
- Date animal was purchased and from whom
- Tag or tattoo number and/or name of animal
- Animal’s value at the start of the project
- Beginning weight
- Date started on feed, monthly records of specific types of feed (grain mix, hay, pasture, etc.), the quantity fed (pounds, etc.) and cost of feed per month
- Other expenses, such as veterinary services or supplies, interest paid on loan (if applicable), bedding, etc.

**#3-Livestock Information- Breeding Animals**
As you are selecting your breeding animals, this is the best time to begin your record keeping for that project. It
will help you to evaluate your profit or loss at the end of the year and evaluate whether your breeding animals are producing as expected and worth keeping in your herd.

- Date purchased, Birth Date, beginning weight.
- Tag or tattoo number or name of animal.
- Animal’s value at the start of the project.
- Monthly record of type of feed (grain mix, hay, pasture, etc), the quantity fed (pounds, etc), cost of feed per month.
- Other expenses, such as veterinary services, bedding or supplies, interest paid on a loan, etc.
- Mating and offspring records.

Action Plan- Write down how you plan to accomplish your goal. What steps you will take. Write more rather than less! Be descriptive and thorough. Don’t take shortcuts.

#4-Photographs of 4-H Members in Action
Nothing tells a story better than photographs so be sure to have someone take pictures of you working in your project area. Remember to write under each photo what the photo shows you doing. Include photos of member participating in club activities for the County Report section of your record book.

#5-Record Your Participation in Your 4-H Club Activities
Keep track of your participation in all of these activities. (have someone take your picture or a group picture during the activities). If information or photos are published in the newspaper, be sure to save the article and highlight your name in the news article for your record book. Your record of participation in your club activities and related photos should be placed in the county report section of your record book in front of your project area information.

#6-Record Leadership, Citizenship and Communication Activities
Becoming a youth leader does not happen overnight; you have to work at it year by year by becoming a club or committee officer. Keep track of your leadership (in your club, your school, or organizing a workshop or fundraiser) activities. Being a good citizen means helping out in your club and your community, being proud to be a citizen of the U.S., and donating your time and energy to making your community, state and world a better place to live in.

#7-What kinds of forms do you include in your 4-H record book?
- The 4-H County Report asks for your participation in your club, your school, your community and your responsibilities at home. It also asks what kinds of communication activities you have participated in such as club presentations or talks. Awards, certificates and ribbons are recognition honors and should be documented in your record book.
- The 4-H Project Record must be completed for each project area. The project record asks for information about your goals when you began this project, what you wanted to learn or do and how you achieved these goals. Include photos of you working on your projects from beginning to end! Whether it’s the day you brought your calf home, the stack of wood that you are going build something out of, or the first drawing of your visual art project. Photos tell a story and in 10 years, you will very much enjoy looking back through your record book and its photos and remember those good times (and the struggles!) you had working on your project.
- Project Worksheets are required for all livestock, horticulture and your first year in photography. The purpose of the worksheet, especially for livestock, is to have 4-H’ers record their expenses during the 4-H year with their animals and at the end of the year, their profit or loss. This worksheet should be kept up (monthly feed expenses, veterinarian fees, medicine) as the year goes along to give the 4-Her a realistic financial view of their livestock project.

#8-The Order of a record book. What forms/pages go where?
The record book can be the official green 4-H record book binder, or just a 3-hole binder with the 4-H emblem. The front of the binder should have the 4-H member’s name, address, 4-H club, county and state. The cover page has a head & shoulders photo of the 4-H member and includes the following information:
- 4-H’ers name and photo of member (with or without project included)
- Birth date, address, phone number, age Category (4-H Age) and number of years in 4-H
Your club name, club leader’s name

County Report. This form asks you to summarize your year in 4-H.

- Offices held and committees served on in your club.
- 4-H participation in club, county, region and state events. Include any citizenship or leadership activities.
- Recognition that you received this 4-H year. (ribbons, name in the paper, certificates, etc.).
- Communication (talks, presentations).
- Involvement in your community (organizations, church, volunteer work, employment, other activities that you participated in).
- List the projects for which you have completed a project record (either basic form, experienced form or advanced project record).
- Other projects. In this section you can list the projects that you did not complete a project record on.
- Photos of 4-Her participating at club meetings, giving a presentation, club tour, citizenship activities. **Photos of 4-Her working on their exhibits or in their project area do NOT belong in the County Report, but rather in the Project section.**

Cloverbuds may also complete a project book and they will receive a participation ribbon; Cloverbud record books are never judged and are not eligible for awards. Please include photos of Cloverbuds in action!

4-H Members in Action!

Abby O. competing at the Valentine Horse Show

Valentine Horse Show on 2/25/18 organized by IRC Horse Masters 4-H club

Lindsay Black and Darren Cole teach about livestock ethics to youth members that will be showing at state fairs.

Little Farmers 4-H club members and parents participate in an ice-breaker activity at their February meeting.
Whitefly in Your Landscape by Dr. Garima Kakkar

What’s bugging your plants?

Florida’s diverse flora and sub-tropical climate provide safe haven and help the establishment of invasive pests in the region. Whitefly is one of these invasive pests often found in ornamental, vegetable, fruits, and landscape plants. These tiny creatures (~1.5 mm), with three pairs of legs and 2 pairs of wings, are covered with white waxy powder and can be a serious threat to the landscape plants (Figure 1). Some of you may have already seen these bugs many times before but didn’t know what they were.

Whitefly is a large group of insects consisting of different species. The different kinds of whitefly are grouped based on their appearance (=white bodies, as you may have guessed!). These are distinguished from each other based on their behavior, and other physical characteristics. The more important factor is how they damage plants and what we can do to prevent it.

There are more than 1550 species of whitefly known worldwide, among which about 75 can be found in Florida. Yes, you read it right! With their needle like mouthparts (piercing-sucking) they penetrate the leaf surface and suck plant sap (Figure 2). Due to their feeding on the underside of a leaf surface, pale to yellow spots can be seen on the damaged leaves. Their presence in high numbers in the infested area can dramatically affect plant health by removing nutrients and water. Apart from causing feeding damage, whiteflies can affect the aesthetic value of plants by promoting the growth of black sooty mold on the plant surface. This can also interfere with the normal photosynthesis process reducing plant growth and causing premature leaf drop. Some of the whitefly species can also transmit plant-damaging viruses.

The major whitefly pests known to affect Florida landscape plants are silverleaf whitefly, fig or ficus whitefly, rugose spiraling whitefly, and citrus whitefly. A new addition to this list is the solanum whitefly, as if we did not have enough. The solanum whitefly has been known to exist in Florida for over five decades as an intermittent pest, but in the past few years, it has been reported more frequently from private residences and nurseries throughout the state.

The list of common hosts of whitefly in Florida landscape is long, but their favorites include: allamanda, avocado, chinaberry, citrus, ficus, fringe tree, gardenia, gerbera, gumbo limbo, hibiscus, impatiens, lantana, ligustrum, mango, persimmon, salvia, viburnum, and various palms. If you find any of these tiny and white winged bugs, please place them carefully in a paper towel inside a ziplock bag and bring it our extension office or send us a picture. We will identify the species and should be able to help you manage these bugs to protect your plants from further damage.
Agriculture Producers:  
Land Lease Exchange.com is a new website that was developed for customers that are looking for land for recreational and farming purposes but without the long-term purchasing commitment. There is an area to list a property as well as for searching and it covers the entire U.S.

UF/IFAS Mobile downloads like Agroclimate (weather & forecast data), AI Cowculator (determining if AI is a viable and cost-effective methodology for your conditions and many more apps. http://ifas.ufl.edu/mobile-apps/  

Homeowners:  
The Neighborhood Gardener is a monthly e-newsletter from the UF/IFAS Master Gardener and Florida-Friendly Landscaping programs http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/  
Florida Gardening Calendar gives gardeners a monthly guide for care and planting of landscapes and gardens, between North, Central and South Florida http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/  
The LAKEWATCH newsletter is dedicated to sharing water management information and information about the UF/IFAS Florida LAKEWATCH program at the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. It can be found at: http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml  

Green Industry Professionals:  
Florida Fertilizer Ordinances https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/fertilizer#  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping Plant Guide https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants

Cool Apps, Interesting Websites and New Factsheets

What’s Coming Up Next?

April
12th  
New Master Gardener Volunteer training begins (Contact Nickie Munroe-nmunroe@ufl.edu)  
4-H Foundation Cocktail Party and Fundraiser (Contact Katie Profeta-kprofeta@ufl.edu)  
13th  
“Reducing Stormwater Runoff” Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at Brackett Library  
16th  
“Reducing Stormwater Runoff” Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at the Main Library  
18th  
GIBMP Certified Instructor Training Workshop (contact Marilyn Liebsch-mliebsch@ufl.edu)  
27th  
“Protecting the Waterfront” Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at Brackett Library  
28th  
4-H District 11 Events

May
2nd  
Core pesticide training and test taking opportunity (Contact Christine Kelly-ckellybe@ufl.edu)  
3rd  
Agriculture Agent, Christine Kelly-Begazo, holding office hours in Fellsmere (4:00-6:00pm)  
7th  
“Protecting the Waterfront” Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at the Main Library  
11th  
“Rain Gardens” Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at Brackett Library  
17th  
Green Industries Best Management Practices Workshop for the Fertilizer License  
21st  
“Rain Gardens” Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at the Main Library  
28th  
Memorial Day – Extension Office closed

* Master Gardeners’ Growing Series at the Brackett Library are from 12n-2:00pm and from 5:30-7:30 at the Main Library. For more information about the Master Gardeners’ Growing Series email ircmg1@gmail.com or call the Master Gardener help desk at (772) 226-4324.
Indian River County Extension Agents and Staff

“Who Ya Gonna Call?”

The Indian River County Extension agents are here for you! Extension agents are your direct link to science-based research straight from the University of Florida. For more information on Extension, or topics ranging from chickens to chinch bugs, send them an email or give them a call. Walk-ins welcome as well!

Christine Kelly-Begazo
County Extension Director
Agriculture Agent
Phone: (772) 226-4330 x 3
cellybe@ufl.edu

Nicole “Nickie” Munroe
Environmental Horticulture Agent
Master Gardener Coordinator
Phone: (772) 226-4330 x 4
lnmunroe@ufl.edu

Violet Krochmalny
Office Manager
Phone: (772) 226-4330 x 5
violetk@ufl.edu

Darren Cole
4-H/Youth Development Agent
Phone: (772) 226-4330 x 2
Dc32@ufl.edu

Garima Kakkar
Fruit and Alternative Crops Agent
Phone: (772) 462-1660
garimaiari@ufl.edu

Directions to IRC Extension

From U.S. 1 (coming from the north)
Heading on U.S. 1 south, turn right (west) at the light at 26th Street, follow to 19th Ave. and turn right (north) at entrance of IRC Administration complex. Turn right (East) at stop sign in parking area and continue through the roundabout. Building B is on the left just past the roundabout.

From U.S. 1 (coming from the south)
Heading on U.S. 1 north, turn left (west) at the light at 26th Street. Follow to 19th Ave. and turn right (north) at entrance of IRC Administration complex, continue with first instructions to Bldg. B.

From Interstate 95
Take Exit #147 onto Route 60 eastbound (20th Street) to Vero Beach. In approximately 6 miles turn left (north) at the light at 27th Ave. Turn right (east) at the next stop sign at Atlantic Blvd., follow to 19th Ave. and turn left (north) at the entrance of IRC Administration complex, continue with first instructions to Bldg. B.