WELCOME

UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers provide information for your home, lawn, and garden needs. We hope you enjoy the articles!

Thank You!

On March 23rd, the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Plant Sale raised over $14,700 and hosted over 900 visitors—both records for our annual sale! Why are we so excited? Because ALL proceeds from our annual plant sale are used to benefit our Discovery Gardens and Master Gardener Volunteer programs. The annual plant sale plants are grown, propagated, cared for, and ultimately sold by the Lake County MGV’s. MGV’s also take care of our beautiful Discovery Gardens located at the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office at 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares.

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Lake County MG Mission Statement

The mission of UF/IFAS Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers is to assist extension agents by providing horticultural education programs and current research-based information to the public through plant clinics, community outreach and Discovery Gardens.

For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office
lakemg.ifas@ufl.edu • (352) 343-4101 • FAX (352) 343-2767, http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lake/

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution
Summer Veggies: What Can I Plant in Lake County?

If you're up for the heat and humidity, you can grow vegetables in the summer. A handful of vegetables will do well in the heat and humidity, including sweet potatoes, southern peas, cherry tomatoes, and okra. Some spring crops like peppers and eggplant may continue into the summer. As long as the plants are healthy, there's no need to remove them if they're still producing fruit.

If you prefer to give your garden a rest during the summer, take advantage of the sun to solarize the soil. This kills nematodes, weeds, and other harmful pests with heat. Read more about soil solarization.

Be on the lookout during the summer growing season. The rains in late afternoon can sometimes cause diseases to be prevalent. Watch out for bean rust, a fungal disease. Most veggies prefer 60-70° temperatures.

For more information, Summer vegetables

June planting | July planting

PLANT PROFILES

Gold Summer Shrub

By Karen Kennen, Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV)

With the temperatures in June and July running from 73-90°, it is definitely a time to think about an ornamental that will survive and even flourish during the dog days of summer. One colorful shrub to consider is a Lantana camara hybrid. Many hybrids developed have both male and female flowers that are sterile. This is important since Lantana camara is invasive in Florida. Know what lantana to purchase. Bloomify Red, Bloomify Rose, Gold Mound, and New Gold are sterile and therefore recommended. An additional side-effect to sterility is that the plant becomes more floriferous.

The hybrid lantana requires low maintenance and can be grown in full sun with minimal water. If you want more blooms, regular watering is beneficial. This perennial grows 12”-15” tall and 18”-24” wide with a low, spreading growth habit.

For more information, Fact Sheet & EDIS EP544
Did you know you can see Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) in the Oriental Garden at the Discovery Gardens? Our Lead Master Gardener Volunteer there is Rob Simson. I interviewed him about the garden.

What makes this an “Oriental” garden?
Oriental-style gardens originated in Japan. Feudal Lords had small gardens created to represent their battles. This way they could brag about their victories to visitors.

Japanese gardens are all about spacing things out. The landscape plants and structures represent other objects, such as, islands bodies of water, like oceans, lakes & rivers. Most plants and objects are in groups of 3 for aesthetic purposes. Our Oriental Garden has a more Japanese influence. Of course, there are no set rules here.

What types of Oriental gardens are there?
The main purpose of Oriental gardens is tranquility and harmony.

Japanese Walking Garden - Important: shades of green, texture, shape and lots of space. Original Japanese gardens had no flowers or flowering trees/shrubs. Walking gardens are so important in the Japanese culture that even in the densely populated Kyoto, residents have crowded gardens, but with smaller plants.

Japanese Tea Gardens will include a water feature & a Pergola (teahouse) with stone seats. Most of them are in a forest area where people would follow a long pathway through the forest which would end at the tea fountain or basin. They would then take the bamboo cup, dip it into the basin for water. Then make tea in the teahouse, represented in our garden by a Pergola with two stone seats.

Zen Gardens are influenced from when India brought Zen & Buddhism to China then to Japan. A dry stream with raked patterns is often a focal point as seen in the center of our garden.

What objects are represented in Japanese gardens?
3 rocks together represent 3 Isles of Blest, Horai, Hojo, and Eishu, which Daoists believe are the home of immortals. Small shrubs & plants represent small-scale landscaping, like trees & bushes. Large patches of sand represent oceans or lakes. River rocks or gravel represent Rivers or streams. Mini stone Pagodas represent buildings. Mounds of shrubs represent mountains or waves as if shaped as moving towards an island structure.

Can we see such representations in the Oriental Garden?
Yes, we have all garden-style types and several representations:
- The center feature is our Zen garden. The sand represents the ocean with 2-sets of 3 rocks together. These represent the Isles of Blest.
- The front feature has 3 Azalea bushes that represent mountains with river rocks at their base to represent a river. There are storks standing in the river near a large flat stone, that represents a land mass – possibly an island. If we add small topiaries or tiny structures, it could also represent a city.
- There is a Tea garden water feature at the back representing that type of garden feature.
- Lanterns are used to light the path – figuratively and literally.

How do you decide on the plants? Unique features?
Important: shades of greens, textures, & shape.
Traditional plants found in a Japanese garden: Azalea, Bamboo, Camellia japonica, Cherry tree, Evergreens, Hosta, Hydrangea, iris, lotus, and wisteria.

How is this Oriental garden laid out?
AS you walk up to the garden from the entrance sidewalk, you see the 3 azaleas representing mountains. From there you walk past the Tranquility Tower with solar lanterns that represents a manmade structure.

What kind of maintenance is required?
Pruning and weeding are the biggest chores in an Oriental garden. Pruning is done twice a week in the summertime and only 1-2 times a month over the winter. Moving plants or replacing them depends on their health and size.
For instance, the *Camellia japonica* is a traditional plant, but it was planted in the wrong place for the size it will grow to. So, we’ll be moving it and the Weeping Juniper as well since it doesn’t look healthy or happy where it is along the fence. I’ve pulled the Mondo Grass up from around the Yaupon holly and am replacing it with Begonias.

**Are their special pruning methods used in Oriental gardens?**
Yes, there are several methods of tree sculpting or Niwaki in fact. The three used in our garden are: Cloud pruning or Tamazukuri – as seen in the Yaupon Holly, it is a rounding prune Euro-style or Pon-Pon – as seen in the Monterey Bay. A more layering pruning style Bonsai (Bone-sa-e) or “small tray/pot plant” is used for any plant that’s less than 2 feet tall & in a container or the ground. Small cuts are made as well as using bamboo or wire to train the branches in the shape/look you want.

**What special features to point out to visitors?**
Note how stone structures look weathered/patina or are imperfect. This is called, Wabi-sabi. It shows natural imperfections and the passage of time.

**What can a visitor learn from visiting this garden area?**
Most Oriental gardens have a formal symmetry, much like a European garden. They are pruned meticulously. Japanese Gardens, however, are not balanced and the counter-level space between plants is as important as the plants themselves. They have more of a flow to their appearance.

**What’s your Favorite plant in the garden**
Rob smiles as he claims he has a Love-Hate relationship with the Yaupon Holly. He loves working on training it and pruning, but it sure is a lot of work sometimes. His new favorite plant is the Weeping bottlebrush.

**What would you like to see happen with the garden in the future?**
In 2018 we painted the Pergola and will replace the sunscreen this year. We are also replacing the basin & water pump for the tea water feature and purchasing a Dwarf bottlebrush.
I would love to plant a *Cryptomeria japonica* (‘Black Dragon Cedar’), which is a dwarf cedar that grows 8-10’ tall and is a coned shape. The closest nursery I’ve found one in is Georgia, so I have to keep looking. If not, a Daphnemon or ‘Nelly R. Stephens’ Holly would also be great, but they would need training. More volunteer help is needed too.

**Glossary of Japanese Garden Terms,**
The *Japanese Garden*  
*Japanese Gardening Terms*
Rob Simson is a transplant from Seattle, Washington and first moved to Orlando, Florida in 2002. He soon became interested in gardening due to Florida’s longer growing seasons and different plant life compared to his native Pacific Northwest. Rob is a disabled veteran who served in the United States Army for five years as a paratrooper and finds gardening to be both relaxing and therapeutic. Although Rob appreciates all aspects of gardening, he particularly enjoys Japanese gardening styles including bonsai. Rob moved to Tavares, Florida in 2014 where he now lives with his wife and two sons.

**HEALTH TIP: Stay Hydrated!!**

BY MGV Regina Doherty

Summertime means HEAT & that means sweat. Staying hydrated is important year round, but it’s especially important when temperatures and humidity rises. The CDC recommends drinking 2-4 cups of cool fluids every hour when working in hot environments (see Table 1). This will help prevent heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Early warning signs to both include dizziness or headaches or change in breathing/respiration.

So, how much water should we drink in order to stay hydrated? Here are some myths:

**Myth 1:** We need 8 glasses of water each day. That depends on your age and sex. Men >18 require 13 cups/day where Women require 9.

**Myth 2:** Water is the only way to rehydrate. Water is best, but coffee, tea, 100% fruit juices and water-rich foods also provide enough fluid for our bodies.

**Myth 3:** Sports drinks are best when exercising. Again, water is still the best, but sports drinks will hydrate you faster when exercising vigorously.

See EDIS Publication FCS80036 for more myth busters.

**Table 1. Water: Adequate Intake**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Liters/day</th>
<th>Quarts/day</th>
<th>Cups/day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men 14–18 years</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 18+ years</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>~4</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 14–18 years</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>~2.5</td>
<td>9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women 18+ years</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>~3</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Total daily water intake from water, other beverages, and foods that are liquid at room temperature.

Source: Hydration in Hot Working Environments by Jeanine Beatty and Gail P. A. Kauwell

EDIS Publication FCS80018
**Pilea cadierei** : Aluminum Plant  
by Cathy Leavers, MGV

If you have a shady spot in your yard and want something to give the area a little pop, the Aluminum plant may be just the shrub for you. The foliage on this plant is striking and unlike any other—with shiny silver, irregularly shaped markings on leaves that are 2-4" long. The plant produces a thick ground cover about 12" tall in a shaded landscape. It will produce small, white flowers at the end of the stems in summer. The blooms are not at all showy and should be removed so as not to take energy away from the plant. *Pilea* can grow in sandy, loam or clay soil that is acidic to slightly alkaline and occasionally wet. Its growth rate is moderate and does spread, but can easily be kept under control.

Unrooted stems can be placed into the ground and will root if kept moist in a shaded location. You can propagate this plant quickly in this manner. It should be kept in a fully-shaded location, as the Aluminum plant will discolor in the sun. The main pests are mites, but this problem can be avoided if planted/kept in a fully shaded spot (miticide).

Irrigation is necessary in dry weather and regular fertilization will keep it thick and looking nice.

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**BUTTONQUAILS**

By Marsha Shelton, MGV  
(continued from our Apr/May issue)

...A few weeks later, as I was strolling through Rural King looking at chickens, I noticed the Buttonquail. What a surprise! I did not expect that. I read you can keep them as pets in an aquarium (I did have a 20-gallon aquarium at home), so I bought some and brought them home.

They are only 8 or 9 days old, but they can jump straight up 2 or 3 feet and they proved it to me!

I placed the tiny box into the aquarium, opened it carefully, then one jumped right up, hit the floor, and went under the rocker! The cat followed quickly, so I grabbed the cat, pried his mouth open, and retrieved the bird.

Now, they are full grown at 4 weeks so I started a habitat for them outside, 8' x 16' about 8' high & enclosed the area using ½" hardware cloth. Then planted it with plants they can eat, so by the time they were 4 weeks old they were laying eggs and loved it in their new habitat. I learned how to make small cages and an incubator from YouTube and hatched some of the eggs.

These little guys and girls are quite interesting. They mate for life, only the boys think they should have 2 or 3 girls in their lives. The males are thoughtful and will bring the girls gifts, like small stones and twigs. They are constantly chattering, almost talking under their breath. If the boys lose track of their girls they stand on their tippy toes and will make 3 loud chirps calling out to them.

Buttonquails can be raised indoors inside of a big aquarium or cages. My quail encounter has been fun and lives on. There are Texas A&M type quail and Coturnix Quail. Boys live about 5 years and girls live about 2 years. They top out at 4” tall and come in lots of color combos.

Hope you like my story, and maybe like raising quail as well.
**Scouting for Insects**

The heat and humidity of summer creates a thriving environment for our insect friends and foes. Butterflies are out in droves, but so are the chinch bugs, scale, aphids, and other plant pests.

One of the most important steps in reducing pest damage in the home landscape is to routinely scout your plants for insects to catch populations early. Scouting can be performed by flipping over leaves and looking for insects and other plant problems. Venture out into your landscape weekly and focus on the soft growing tips and older leaves. Plant pests tend to feed and harbor in these areas first.

Scan the landscape and look for abnormal growth on plants; this could be a sign of pest problems. If you see irregular growth, take a closer look, you may have an insect infestation lurking on the undersides of leaves.

Once an insect pest is located, bring it to the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Clinic for positive identification. You must know the identification of the insect you are dealing with in order to determine the best means of control. Place your insect specimens in a jar of rubbing alcohol or place a section of your plant containing the insect in a plastic baggie. Master Gardeners are available at the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If a harmful pest is identified and control is warranted, look for insecticide products containing soaps and oils first. These products offer effective control while minimizing the use of harsh pesticides. While using these products it is important to get thorough coverage on the insect pests. Soaps and oils work by suffocating and desiccating insects. These products do not have a residual effect and work by contact only. Will soaps and oils kill honeybees? Absolutely, if you directly spray the honeybee. This is why it is best to apply in the late evening when honeybees are not actively foraging.

On hardy plants, insects can simply be blasted off with a hard stream of water from a hose. If pest populations are localized, prune off the infected leaves or branches, bag them up and throw them in a sealed bag. If you scout plants and find pest populations early, insecticides may not need to be used at all.

Use our Plant Clinic to properly identify your insect problems and determine the best course of action. For information on Plant Clinics or other educational opportunities please contact 352-343-4101 or visit lakegardeningprograms.eventbrite.com.
THE 9 PRINCIPLES TO FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Landscaping the Florida-Friendly way means having a beautiful landscape that could save you time, energy, and money while protecting Florida’s future. For more information, http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/florida-friendly-landscapes/

As a home gardener we all have a hatred for the one thing that ruins our beautiful landscape…BUGS! Our first reaction is to get rid of them – by any means. So, we go to the store and tell the salesperson we have bugs on our shrub or roses or lilies and need to kill them. We’re then directed to the pesticide area and given advice on how to rid ourselves and our garden of these pests.

BUT, is this the best way to not only react to the devastation, but to control or handle it? Integrated Pest Management is the answer to how to Manage yard Pests Responsibly. Did you know only 1% of insects are actual pests?

Here are some answers to what’s bugging you:

♦ Yard pest identification: Is it bad, beneficial/, good or invasive? Identifying the insects in your landscape will help decide what methods to follow for controlling them if damage is occurring. The links in this article will help with that.

♦ What is a “Beneficial” and how do I attract them? A beneficial insect is one that helps keep the bad bugs at bay through biological control. These insects can be encouraged in yards by planting wildflowers, native plants, and banker plants.

♦ Do you need a pesticide, or will the insect move on? A VERY good question! If a pest is beneficial, it’s better to let it do its job of ridding your landscape of the plant damaging pests.

♦ Should butterfly caterpillar host plants be treated w/ pesticide since they’ll bounce back? Host plants are what larvae prefer to feed on while growing. For example, the Monarch caterpillar enjoys Milkweed. Having 1/3 of and plant decimated is OK, it WILL grow back. Do not use pesticides on any butterfly plants.

By MGV Regina Doherty
Managing Pests (cont'd)

- What does it mean to be preventative? Isn’t spraying my plants being preventative?
  Spraying plants usually implies you’re being reactive to existing pests. IPM helps us be preventive:
  - Plan your landscape well
  - Choose healthy plants
  - Fertilize & water appropriately
  - Scout for pests
  - Don’t overwater or over fertilize
  - Mow turf to proper height & prune selectively
  - Encourage beneficial insects

- When’s the best time to use pesticides? Spray in the early morning or late evening to reduce exposure to foraging bees. Avoid windy days as pesticides may drift and harm other plants or beneficials. Pests are more easily controlled in their early stages of development - larvae, nymph/juvenile—than adult stages. Be sure to read the label before applying pesticides.

- Which pesticides are most effective? EDIS publications are an excellent resource for this question. Which product to use is dependent on the insect identified.

- Who do I go to for Help? The Lake County Extension Plant Clinic is staffed by MG Volunteers happy to help you with all your questions (M-F 9am-4pm). You can do your own research on EDIS or you can call a Licensed Pesticide Operator.

Don't Miss These Events!

⇒ 7/12-8/2: Florida Friendly Landscape Design Series—Fridays 9am-12pm, 1951 Woodlea Rd. Tavares. Register here

MORE EVENTS: http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/events/?location=lake,
https://lakegardeningprograms.eventbrite.com

Subscribe to the Newsletter!
Email, juwanda.rowell@ufl.edu
One of the most magical experiences in the garden is watching a hummingbird hovering over flowers to get at the nectar within. One of the favorite foods of the hummingbird is the coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), also called trumpet honeysuckle or scarlet honeysuckle. It is native to the eastern United States and grows throughout Florida.

Despite its name, the coral honeysuckle is not fragrant, but apparently its nectar is delicious since it attracts not only hummingbirds but also butterflies. In later summer and fall, berries form that attract songbirds. The flowers are bright red and tubular, growing in clusters. The leaves are glossy green on top and silvery green underneath providing a nice backdrop for other plants. The leaves may drop in the winter but come back in the Spring, the vine flowering just in time for the return of the hummingbirds.

Coral honeysuckle is a vine and is perfect for fences and trellises. It grows rather vigorously and may need some pruning since individual stems can grow up to 15 feet in length. This vine can also be used as a ground cover or used to control erosion on steep slopes.

Coral honeysuckle blooms best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. It likes a more acidic soil but will do well in other soil types. It is a low maintenance plant once established, is drought tolerant and does not attract pests. I have had one in my yard for over 10 years and despite my benign neglect, it thrives.

These plants can be found at native and many conventional plant nurseries or started from cuttings.

This vine is a welcome addition to your landscape and will provide magical moments in the garden.

Source: UF/IFAS *Gardening Solutions*, *Lonicera sempervirens*, Trumpet Honeysuckle

Do not confuse coral honeysuckle with Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), which is invasive and has white or yellow flowers.
**Central Florida: June What to do calendar**

**WHAT TO PLANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUALS</th>
<th>Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include Celosia, Portulaca, Vinca, and some Coleus. See Annuals &amp; June What to Plant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Central Florida: July What to do calendar**

**WHAT TO PLANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PALMS</th>
<th>Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. See Palms &amp; July What to Plant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. St. Augustine blues may require iron application if they appear yellow.
2. Do not prune azaleas after July 4th as this could decrease spring flowering.
3. Use sun gauge to track rainfall and adjust irrigation system accordingly.
4. Remove feeding animals or vegetables so they do not harbor pests.
5. Empty containers with rainwater to deter mosquitoes.
6. Take frequent breaks and stay hydrated when working outdoors.
7. Solarize soil in vegetable garden to help control scarab beetles.

Central Florida Gardening Calendar

2019 Gardening Calendar
Invasive Tree: Triadica sebifera, Chinese Tallow or Popcorn Tree

With heart-shaped leaves, and bees humming around the yellow flower spikes the Chinese Tallow looks like a perfect shade tree and pollinator. Unfortunately, the berries that follow the flowers make this tree a CAT 1 invasive plant in all of Florida. The berries are easily spread by birds creating volunteer seedlings that can takeover &/or replace native plants and flora. The wood is brittle. Small to medium-sized branches (whose milky sap is poisonous) often split from the tree as it grows to 15 years old.

An import from China in the 1700’s, its seed oil was used for making soap and candles. Now, it’s used as an ornamental or street tree. Do NOT plant this invasive!

UFL/IFAS useful links,
https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/triadica-sebifera/
http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/triadica-sebifera/
https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/ST/ST58300.pdf
FWC Invasives
FL Natural Areas Inventory