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**Inside this issue:**

E, F, G, H, I . . . . .	2
J, K, L, M, N. . . . .	3
O, P, Q, R . . . . .	4
"S" is for squash . . . . .	5
T, U, V, W . . . . .	6
X, Y, Z. . . . .	7
Thanks . . . . .	7
Events and	
Discovery Garden . . . . .	8
Plant Sale Happening . . . . .	9

**Lake County MGCV 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.

# Garden Scoop

## ALPHABET NEWSLETTER

Editor Karen S. Kennen, MGCV

### \* A \*

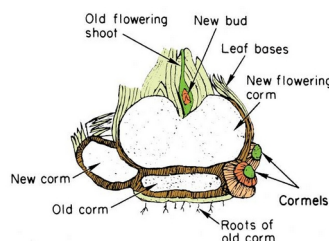
is for *Asteraceae*, a plant family that has over 25,000 species of flowering plants and includes such flowers as daisies, marigolds, zinnias, and sunflowers. The Florida state wildflower, coreopsis, is in this family. Of the 440 species in our state, 331 are native and 41 are endemic, found only in Florida.



Stokes' Aster

### \* C \*

is for corm, which is an underground, swollen, plant stem found in some plants. Crocus, snake lily, and gladiolas all have corms and like all corms are vertically oriented and must be planted with the new bud facing upward for the plant to grow properly



### \* B \*

is for bamboo which is a grass with over 700 species and some can grow over 100 feet tall. There is a wild bamboo that is native to Florida. There are two types of bamboo: runner and clumping. As indicated by its name, the running bamboo can be very invasive and grow rapidly. Whereas, the clumping bamboo is a slow grower, one to two inches a year, and will stay in one place.


 All photos are from  
 UF EDIS website

### \* D \*

is for deadheading which is removing dead blooms so a plant will not put energy into producing seeds and will continue to produce blooms while looking neat. Roses are an example of a plant that should be deadheaded.



## \*E\*

is for endemic which describes a plant that is found only in one specific area. An example is *Prunus geniculata*, a species of plum commonly called scrub plum. It is endemic to Florida, where it occurs in the Lake Wales Ridge on the central ridges of the peninsula.



## \*F\*

is for fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), a large clumping Florida native that is perfect to add texture to your landscape. This plant can grow to be four to six feet tall so if you are limited on space plant the dwarf variety (*Tripsacum floridanum*).

## \*G\*

is for gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), a medium sized butterfly found throughout the southern United States. The caterpillar of this butterfly loves to feed on the purple passionflower vine. Adults move northward in spring and form temporary breeding groups. Starting in late summer and continuing through fall, huge numbers of adults migrate southward into peninsular Florida.



## \*H\*

is for hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) which has a large leaf. Florida has a native hydrangea called Oak Leaf and it has a pure white bloom. The Big Leaf hydrangea can have blue (acidic soil) or pink (alkaline soil) blooms depending on the soil pH. This bush is a shade lover and will provide large blooms during the warm months of the year.



## \*I\*

is for ixora. This sun-loving, ever-blooming shrub is perfect as a specimen plant, screen, border, or edge planting. The plant comes in yellow, red, pink, orange, and white. Be sure to get the right size since some can grow to be 15 feet tall so you might be better with the smaller type that only grows to 4 to 6 feet.

All photos are from UF EDIS

## \*J\*

is for jardiniere which is French for “gardener”. It essentially is a decorative planter or plant stand that is used to add decorative substance to the design and structure of your garden. It often is a large urn planted with flowers and adorned with elaborate carvings. The garden in early years, 1800s, that used jardiniere were culinary and herb gardens.



## \*K\*

is for kale, a member of the cabbage family which has green or purple leaves that do not form a head. Botanist David Fairchild introduced kale into the US from Croatia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was used as a decorative plant until the 20<sup>th</sup> century when gardeners realized it was not only easy to grow but had exceptional nutritional value with such vitamins as K, C, A and B6. It is important to know that boiling the kale removes most of its nutritional value except for A, K, C, and manganese. In Northern Germany, kale served with bacon and Kohlwurst (kale sausage) is a well loved comfort food.



## \*L\*

is for loquat which is an evergreen tree that grows 20 to 30 feet in the partial shade and bears edible, yellow, pear-shaped fruit in the late winter until early spring.



## \*M\*

is for *melapodium divaricatum*, butter daisy, which is a mid-sized, annual that can give year-round color to your flower bed. This medium-sized plant can be used as ground cover, a border plant, or in a container. It is somewhat drought tolerant and needs to be monitored for powdery mildew during our humid summers.



## \*N\*

is for nicotine plant or Nicotina which has a fragrant white, green, pink, or purple trumpet-shaped bloom. The tall varieties can grow up to 5 feet and work well in the back of a flower bed. There are hybrid varieties that do well in pots that are only 2 feet tall. This annual does self-seed so be sure to control by pulling unwanted plants.



## \*O\*

is for oleander (*Nerium oleander*) which when planted responsibly, meaning no pets or small children because of the toxicity of all parts of the plant, can be an attractive plant in your garden. This flowering tree/shrub is fast growing and is often used on highways because it can survive the heat and exhaust of all the vehicles. The plant comes in blooms of white, pink, coral, and yellow.



## \*P\*

is for phlox (*phlox drummondii*). This is a plant that is native to Texas but can be seen along roadsides in Florida blooming in the early spring until temperatures go above 85 degrees. This clumping plant grows 6 to 12 inches tall and comes in red, lavender, pink, and white. This annual will reseed and come up every spring. The species is named for Thomas Drummond, who sent seeds from Texas to England in 1835.



## \*Q\*

is for queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) and is planted often in Florida because of the availability and fast growth. Unfortunately they do take some care



to keep neat when the fruit falls to the ground and the tree needs dead fronds trimmed. They also can suffer from various nutritional deficiencies and disease.

## \*R\*

is for radish (*Raphanus sativus*) which, an easy vegetable to grow September through March. Both the root and young, fresh greens are edible. The root is crunchy and crispy and comes in white, red, pink, purple, yellow, green and even black. Recommended varieties for Central Florida are two sweet varieties: Sparkler and Cherry Belle.



is for summer squash.

## **What's Cooking? SQUASH**

Lori Johnson, Family & Consumer Science Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County

Did you know: squash has Vitamin C which helps cuts and wounds heal. It also keeps our immune system strong. Squash contains potassium which helps our muscles contract and keeps our blood pressure stable.

## **Sweet and Spicy Roasted Squash**

Recipe credit: Squash: 50 Tried and True Recipes

### **Ingredients:**

- 2 yellow squash
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 3 tablespoons honey

### **Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Cut each squash in half.
2. Cut each piece in a crosshatch pattern.
3. Place on a baking sheet cut side up.
4. Combine oil, salt, garlic, and thyme.
5. Spread over cut surfaces and bake 20 minutes or until tender when tested with a fork.
6. Drizzle with honey before serving.



## \*T\*

is for thyme, an herb which is a perennial in the mint family. Plant this in the spring in a sunny location. It can be propagated by seeds, cuttings, or division. Thyme is native to the Mediterranean and was used by the ancient Egyptians in the embalming process.

Common thyme has a slightly lemony, mint flavor. There are many other flavors that have been developed, such as orange and caraway.



## \*V\*

is for vermiculite which is a mica based material that has excellent water retention abilities. There



are several sizes for different purposes. The small size works well as a seed starting medium. You can mix vermiculite with peat moss and potting soil to create a perfect potting mixture. Be sure to use horticulture vermiculite since construction grade is treated with chemicals harmful to plants.

## \*W\*

is for watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) which is a part of the Cucurbits family along with cantaloupes and honey dew melons. Florida is the leading US producer of this produce because we can grow them from December to April. This sweet tasting melon can be grown in full sun and comes in red, pink, and yellow insides. If you want to grow this plant be sure to give the vine plenty of room and plant seeds 12 to 24 feet apart to allow for the growth of the 6 to 50 pound melons.



## \*U\*

is for Ugly Fruit (Shiranui Mandarin), a hybrid between a Ponkan tangerine and a Kiyomi Tangor (sweet orange x satsuma mandarin). They are easy to peel, sweet, and seedless. Most are grown in California but some Florida citrus growers are experimenting with growing this citrus.



All photos are from  
UF EDIS website

**\*x\***

is for *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, also known as straw flower, which is a heat and drought tolerant annual that can be grown from seed. This plant is native to Australia and comes in a wide range of colors. It works well as a cut flower and can also be used in dry flower arrangements because like its name the blooms feel like they are already dried to a straw like texture.



**\*y\***

is for yucca which is a tough plant that can make a great specimen planting in yards. There are three species that are native to Florida: Spanish bayonet (*Yucca aloifolia*), Adam's needle (*Yucca filimentosa*) and mound Spanish dagger (*Yucca gloriosa*).



All photos are from UF EDIS website

**\*z\***

is for zebra longwing which is Florida's state butterfly, appropriately named because of its striped, long wings. The host plants are many of the passion vines including the native corkystem passion vine.



## THANKS

So many times, when everything runs smoothly in the workplace, or in a volunteer setting, there are a few key 'behind the scenes' people that put in an extra effort to help out. Every MGCV that works in the gardens, greenhouse, or plant clinic knows Ron Musgrave. This guy works diligently to assist us in creating the garden look that we want to achieve. Next time you are in the gardens, check out the grape arbor, where I am the lead. Ron helped me pull this together. Other MGCV's have told me that he will drop whatever he is doing to help them out in their gardens. And he always says, "I'm happy when the MGCV's are happy."

And, if you know Ron, you certainly know Wanda Rowell. My experience in working with Wanda in the plant clinic and with the plant sale, shows me that she has the dedication and concern to get the job done and make it right. Her door is always open to help you out.

I just want to shine a light on these two individuals and thank them for their commitment.

Delphine Salai, MGCV

# Garden of the Month – Backyard Fruit Habitat

Congratulations to Master Gardener Volunteer Susan Follick, the lead of Backyard Fruit Habitat Garden. This is a garden of edibles. There area variety of edible perennials, bushes, and trees. One edible tree is the loquat with its pear-like small fruit. Another edible is the blueberry bush with its luscious berries. There are even some pineapple plants in this garden.



## Events

Please refer to our website for future offerings. The site for is at <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu.lake/> or <https://lakegardeningprograms.eventbrite.com> Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability. religion, or national origin.

### **Dish Garden Design**

DATE: Saturday, June 18, 2022

TIME: 10:00am-12pm

LOCATION: UF/IFAS Extension Lake County, 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778

COST: \$15 Go to the following to register

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saturday-in-the-gardens-dish-garden-make-and-take-tickets-199390742077>

Limited to 20 participants

Come and join Master Gardener Volunteer Diane Venetta for a hands on workshop. Create your own dish garden to take home! Cost includes all supplies to create your dish garden. Each participant will create one dish garden.

We need at least 10 registrants by June 13, 2022 in order to hold this class.

Registration Open! <https://lakediscoverygardensprograms.eventbrite.com>

### **The Science of How Plants Work Part 2 \$30 with book, \$15 without:**

Included Book Soil Science for Gardeners by Robert Pavlis

- Wednesday 7/6: Soils and Plant Nutrition. 11am-1pm
- Wednesday 7/13: Ethnobotany. 10am-12pm
- Wednesday 7/27: Tropism and Chemical Signaling in Plants. 11am-1pm

All classes are via Zoom. You will be sent the link after you register for the classes.



## Discovery Gardens

Please plan a visit to over twenty different gardens located at 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares. The hours are Monday through Friday and the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Just like your yard, Discovery Garden changes with the seasons and will reveal something new with each visit. Pictured to the left is a garden that will give you order and peace when you walk through it.

# Plant Sale Happening

By R. Doherty



Ready to sell our MGV propagated plants!



Our newest addition from our OWN APIARY!



Over 150 patrons entered the gates at 8am with just over a total of 950 for the day! We sold 2/3's of our plants! All proceeds from the sale are used by the UF/IFAS Extension Lake County Office for the maintenance of our Discovery Gardens, community horticultural outreach, and other educational programming in the local area.

