



Volume 45 March 2024

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The Lake County Mission Statement

The Mission of the UF/IFAS Mater 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 through Discovery Gardens.

Garden Scoop

Foodscaping

BY K. S. Kennen, MGV

When you plant edible plants alongside and with ornamental plants in your home landscaping, you are foodscaping. This is a newer term that in the past was referred to as edible landscaping, but both have the same meaning and method: incorporation of plants you can eat with plants that are for looks. Adding edibles to existing landscape can be as easy as having an edging that consists of a row of lettuce that will look interesting and provide you with food. As with any garden design think texture, color, and height variation. These elements add interest to any landscape.

For texture try using curly, leaf parsley with its deep green, curled leaves. Dill is another edible herb that adds light, wispy texture to your landscape. You might want to be adventurous and plant carrot seed in a border or group to have some feathery texture. Also, don't forget that you can plant the seeds in a large pot to allow you to move the texture to different locations.

Color is such a fun thing to add in the form of edibles to the landscape. The first and easy to grow, colored plant is Swiss chard with its upright, bold colored leaves and midrib colors of white, yellow, orange, red, or green. For a cool color and exciting texture, try to grow blue-colored kale as an accent in both your garden and use in your salad.

Height variation is easily established by growing vining vegetables on trellises. Try pole beans or even cucumbers. The climbing vegetables add interest behind a neatly trimmed row of small shrubs. During the cool months, try planting peas to grow on the trellises.

Don't forget to have perennials that are edible and can easily be added to your landscape. For shrubbery, try having a trio of blueberry bushes in a garden landscape. Small, fruit bearing trees add an accent when blooming and when producing fruit. Try a citrus favorite, Meyer lemons, which grows great even in a pot. You might also try one of the "Gulf" series of plums instead of planting a small tree that just has pretty blooms and is not edible.

Add just one edible plant to your landscape and you will be on your way to becoming a foodscaper.

RESOURCE:

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/types-of-gardens/>

For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office lakemg.ifas@ufl.edu ▪

(352) 343-4101 ▪ FAX (352) 343-2767

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Foodscape Edibles

K.S. Kennen, MGV

Swiss chard or *Beta vulgaris* needs at least six hours of sun and since it is heat tolerant, it can be planted from September to May by seed or transplant. It can be harvested in 40 to 60 days after planting and the leaves should be picked from the outside of the plant when they are young and 6 to 8 inches long. The midribs are often treated like celery or asparagus and prepared separately from the leaves.



Dill or *Anethum graveolens* is an aromatic herb that is started from seed in a sunny location from September to December. The best variety for Central Florida is “Long Island Mammoth.” It should only need water once a week. Allow it to go to seed so you can have plants in the next season.



Pole beans are a popular plant to grow and can do well even in poor soil. They would be perfect growing on a fence as part of your foodscape. ‘McCaslan’, ‘Kentucky Wonder’, ‘Rattlesnake’, and ‘Blue Lake’ are some great varieties for Florida gardens. You can plant seeds in two seasons: February to August and August to September. These beans are ready to harvest in 50 to 60 days.



The university has developed several varieties of blueberry bushes that should do well in Lake County. Plant blueberry bushes in a group or in a border. Remember that the bushes are deciduous in winter. Plant in a sunny area, add compost, and cover with bark mulch. Be sure to read the article “Blueberry Gardener’s Guide for complete information, And keep in mind that you can grow them in containers. (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG359>)



Meyer lemons are a wonderful citrus to have in your foodscape because when bearing fruit in the fall and winter, it’s dark green foliage with white blooms adds interest to your landscape. This is a cross between a sweet orange and lemon and provides a much sweeter flavor than regular lemons. This will also do well when grown in a container.



https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/fruits/meyer_lemon.html

Plant Clinic Clatter



Article and pictures by: Regina Doherty

DEAR MASTER GARDENER: I would like to plant flowering shrubs that will bloom in March. Can you help me?

DEAR HOMEOWNER: Azalea (*Rhododendron spp.*), Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, *C. vernalis*), and Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia grandiflora*) are your answer. They will provide various colors of bloom for your landscape. If you want to see such plantings, visit our Discovery Gardens' Southern Shade Garden in March to see the different varieties available.

Resources: EDIS [ENH37](#), Azalea | [CIR461](#), Camellia | [FPS77](#), YTT



Azalea in Southern Shade Garden

DEAR MASTER GARDENER: My starleaf begonias are blooming, but I've noticed bullseyes on the leaves and small black grasshoppers on the flowers. I've attached photos in hopes you can identify what these may be.

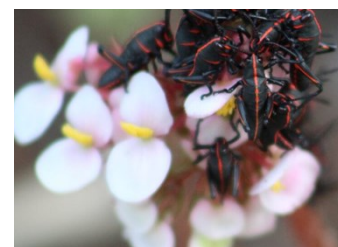
DEAR HOMEOWNER: Thank you for the photos! The leaves look like they have bacterial leaf spot – common during Florida's rainy season or too much overhead watering. Prevent this by watering your plants at the base. You can remove leaves that have spots and/or treat the leaves with a Copper fungicide.

The black grasshoppers are actually instar-stage Eastern lubbers. Lubbers are a gardener's bane and hard to control. The only time you can control them with insecticides is before they mature or when they are black with red stripes in color. Once they start changing to yellow, insecticides are ineffective. but smashing them works! You can spray them with Bifenthrin products with no harm to your plants. Keep in mind that most insecticides are NOT selective and will kill any insect. Know that insects tend to decimate 1/3 of our gardens and that trying to control them can be costly and futile at times. Other pests you may encounter include: mites, mealybugs, scale, whiteflies, nematodes, and slugs/snails.

Diseases that begonias are prone to include bacterial leaf spot, powdery mildew, botrytis blight (fungus that attacks the flowers), Pythium root rot, and rhizoctonia crown rot. To prevent these issues, make sure to choose only healthy plants; have proper air circulation; use clean tools for pruning; and water appropriately. Contact your county extension office if you encounter any unresolved problems. REMEMBER: BEFORE using any chemicals in your landscape, READ THE LABEL. It's the LAW!



Leaf Spot



Lubbers

Discovery Gardens

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 am until 4 pm. The gardens are constantly changing with the seasons. Come see the changes.

Tree Talk: Mulberry

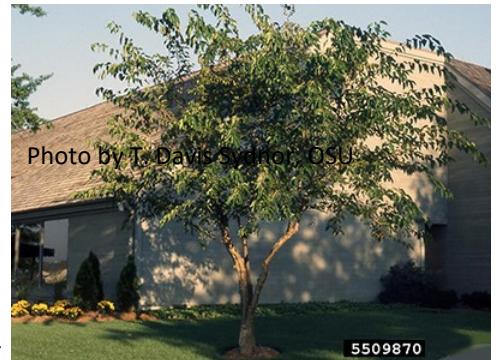
BY Karen S. Kennen, MGV

When thinking about adding a fruit bearing tree to your foodscape, you might want to look into the mulberry tree since it will do well in our sandy, infertile soil. And once established, it can tolerate drought. This deciduous tree will bear fruit from late spring and throughout the summer. Once the tree is established, it does not need fertilization and will bear fruit within two years. You might want to prune it the first few years to establish its shape. Older trees only need to have dead wood, crossing branches, or damaged wood removed. It is important to know that the trees can be monoecious or dioecious. It would be preferable to purchase a monoecious tree since you would only need one tree because it will have both male and female plant parts to allow for fertilization and pollination so there is no need to have two trees, male and female.

Categorization of mulberries could be by the color of the fruit since people speak of white, black, or red mulberries. The red mulberry is a native tree that can grow 30 to 50 feet high and wide. The fruit is slightly tart and sweet and grows from 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches in length. The white mulberry tree can grow from 40 to 60 feet tall and 40 feet wide. The fruit is not just white but can also be pink, blue, and purple. The term white mulberry comes from the white color of the flower buds. It grows from 40 to 60 feet tall and 40 feet wide. The fruit has a sweet flavor but is not as flavorful as the red and black mulberry. The black mulberry is native to Asia and the Middle East and can grow from 30 to 40 feet tall and 35 to 50 feet wide. The berries have a unique sweet-tart flavor.

The variety, Dwarf Everbearing Mulberry, might be a perfect specimen for your foodscaping since it can be grown as a small tree, 8 to 10 feet, or a bush and even in a pot. This is a medium sized, ever-producing plant that may give fruit year round when grown in pots.

For more information refer to <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/florida-edible-native-plants.html>



Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Clinic

Bring your plant, insect, and soil problems to our Plant Clinic for advice Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The plant clinic is staffed by volunteers. Please call ahead at 352-343-4101 to be sure that someone is in the clinic to assist you with your question.

You may also send photos of your local problems to Jamielyn Daugherty at jdaugherty@ufl.edu or to the plant clinic at lakemg@ifas.ufl.edu.

Master Gardener Volunteer's Field Trip Tours January 2024

The Villages Grown is a community food system that has hydroponic greenhouses as one of its components. Members were able to tour these well-functioning greenhouses. Thousands and thousands of plants were growing in a clean, healthy environment. Thus the hairnets.



Palm Walk Workday

It was nice to see so many volunteers turn out to work in the palm walk garden. The garden has been without a lead for a while so it was in need of some intensive clean up. The fronds that were falling were removed and any that were hindering passage on the wooded walkway were removed. Soon there will be mulch added to further freshen up the area. Hopefully other workdays will materialize in the future. Thanks to Marsha Copenhaver for organizing the event.



An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Andra Johnson, Dean. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

LIBRARY CLASSES

March presentations will introduce the Nine Principles of Florida-friendly Landscape. These presentations are free but it is recommended that you sign up at the library by phone or in person.

March 13, 2024, 6—7 pm

Florida-friendly Principles

Marion Baysinger Memorial Library

March 18, 2024, 2 – 3 pm

Florida-friendly Principles

Umatilla Public Library

March 19, 2024, 12—1 pm

Florida-friendly Principles

Eustis Memorial Public Library

March 19, 2024, 4—5 pm

Florida-friendly Principles

Leesburg Public Library

March 20, 2024, 2—3 pm

Florida-friendly Principles

Tavares Public Library

Mt. Dora Public Library Presentation

March 24, 2024, 2 –3 pm

Vegetable Gardening

Free and no registration

Saturday In the Garden Presentation

March 16, 2024, 11-12:00

Pressed Flower Art

Register on Eventbrite. Cost is \$10

Location: Lake County Extension 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares



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