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Lake County MGV 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

Bulbous Favorites

BY K.S. Kennen

When I moved into my home over 30 years ago, I was lucky to have two bulb plants that were already a part of my home's original landscape from 1955. They are the crinum and gloriosa lily.

The crinum lily is a deep red wine color and grows on the south side of my house in the sun most of the time. The soil there is sandy and the plants receive water only when it rains. I also was introduced to the lubber (a big grasshopper) when I found about 50 or 60 small, black ones on the lilies. I found out that they love this lily as a food source. I was able to eradicate them by drowning or clipping. And after two years, they have never reappeared.

The crinum lily can have white, pink, red, or even striped blooms. There is one that is native to Florida and this white bloom is called the swamp lily. It likes wet feet and can be found growing beside a lake or by riversides.

In the 1900s Louis Percival Bosanquet began hybridizing the crinums at his nursery near Fruitland Park, Florida. He developed a deep pink bloom and named it Ellen Bosanquet after his wife.



The other plant in my yard, the gloriosa lily, really isn't even a lily but a vine. This Florida friendly plant can grow in full sun or shade. My plant is in the shade of a crepe myrtle but I have noticed some plants coming up around the corner near my crinum lilies. These plant's tubers can spread to areas you do not expect. The

gloriosa is not a lily but a member of the crocus family. The fiery red and yellow bloom is very striking. This plant does make an interesting cut flower with its colorful inverted bloom which blooms all summer. The tendrils that attach to a trellis or other plants form on the end of the plant's leaves. Like the crinum lily, grasshoppers do seem to like to munch on this plant but control is easy with hand removal.

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

Cauliflower

BY Karen S. Kennen



gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/cauliflower.html

Cauliflower is a crop that is produced commercially mainly in West Central Florida and is an easy one for a home gardener to plant and grow in their garden. This cole crop, a cultivated variety of the species *Brassica oleracea*, is one of the vegetables in the mustard family. Planting of seed or transplants can be done from September through January and you can plan on harvesting a head of cauliflower in 75 to 90 days.

Select a site that receives at least eight hours of sun and be sure the soil has been amended with compost or other soil enrichment. Also, since cauliflower likes even moisture, be sure the site has water holding capacity and a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. Be sure rows and plants are 18 inches apart so the leaves have enough room to grow and create large heads and no small ones which are called button heads. Apply a high nitrogen fertilizer every three weeks and be sure to keep weeds out so the cauliflower does not have to compete for water or nutrition to grow. Also, adequate moisture level is necessary to have good flower heads if not consistent moisture, the overall size of the curds will be smaller and of poor quality.

In the past, there was a procedure called blanching which consisted of gathering the green leaves and securing them over the forming head of cauliflower in order to protect it from the sun. Now cultivars have been developed where the leaves naturally curl over the forming head and protect it. One such cultivar is 'Snowball'. Unlike broccoli, once the head has been harvested no other heads will be available for harvesting and you can pull up the cauliflower plant. Some other cultivars you might want to try are Cheddar with its yellow colored head or Violet Queen with a bright purple head. There are very few problems with pests or diseases. Occasionally there may be aphids and you can just trim off the infected leaf or grasshopper or cabbage worms that can just be removed by hand and destroyed. So, give this a try and you can make some cauliflower and pepper soup.



Cornell University



Iowa State University

Plant Clinic Clatter

Dear Master Gardener,

Hello. I am looking for help with my zoysia. The center island has yellowing patches. The blade is yellowing from on top and going down to the soil. No changes to watering schedule. I have mealy bugs in the backyard. It is right now only on my center island by driveway. Thanks. Hope the pictures are helpful.



Dear Homeowner,

Looking at the photos, it appears to be large (brown) patch. This is a fungus that unfortunately shows up in some lawns starting in the fall through about April and is a common ailment for zoysia grass. If it becomes an annual event in your lawn, a preventative fungicide application could help.

Conditions such as rainfall, excessive irrigation or periods of high humidity elicit the infection, especially when grass remains wet for more than 48 hours. Large patch is a fungus that affects leaves closest to the soil and spreads quickly. It does not infest the roots. Other common zoysia grass disadvantages are hunting billbug pest, large patch disease, thatch forming, and intolerance of drought.

More resources: EDIS [EENY207](#) | [Dec 2018](#) newsletter | [Large patch](#) | EDIS [SS-PLP-5](#) | [Cool season fungus](#)

Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Clinic

Bring your plant, insects, and soil problems to our Plant Clinic for advice Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 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.

What's Cooking?

BY Lori Johnson
Family & Consumer Science Agent

Roasted Cauliflower and Red Pepper Soup

Did you know that cauliflower is a vegetable that is naturally high in fiber and a one cup serving can supply 100% of your daily vitamin C and 50% of vitamin K.

Recipe adapted from Taste of Home

Ingredients:

- 2 medium red bell peppers, halved and seeded
- 1 large cauliflower head, cut into florets (about 7 cups)
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, minced
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup 1% milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper



Directions:

1. Preheat broiler. Place peppers skin side up on a foil-lined baking sheet. Broil 4 inches from the heat until skins are blistered, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and let stand covered for 20 minutes. Preheat the oven to bake at 400° F.
2. Toss cauliflower with 2 tablespoons olive oil, spread onto a single layer on foil lined baking sheets. Roast until tender, 25-30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove skin from peppers and chop.
3. In a 6-quart stockpot, heat remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft and golden, stirring occasionally. Add the garlic, rosemary and paprika and stir for 1 minute. Stir in flour until blended, about 1 minute. Next, gradually stir in stock, bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook and stir until thickened.
4. Stir in cauliflower and peppers. Puree soup with an immersion blender. Or cool slightly and puree in batches in a blender.
5. Stir in milk, salt and pepper and heat through.

****Make a batch to freeze in freezer safe containers. To use, thaw in refrigerator overnight. Heat through in saucepan, stirring occasionally. Add a little milk or stock if needed.**

Treemendous: Magnolia Trees Provide Important Habitat

Jamie Daugherty, RHA

Magnolia trees are in the magnoliid plant group (or clade). This group shares characteristics with both monocots and eudicots. There is still a debate surrounding when this group evolved compared to the monocot and eudicot groups. To me, this makes magnolias and other magnoliids particularly interesting. Magnolias themselves are in the family Magnoliaceae. In Florida we have four native trees, with many additional crosses and cultivars for landscapes. Our native magnolias are:

Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
Bigleaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*) North FL only
Star Magnolia (*Magnolia Kobus* var. *stellata*) North FL only
Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

Native magnolia trees act as a keystone species in the native magnolia-beech forests that occur in the Florida panhandle. Dominated by both magnolia and beech trees, these forests are referred to as climax ecosystems. A climax ecosystem is a balanced system that is considered the final stage in ecosystem succession (change over time). This system remains largely unchanged unless a catastrophe destroys it.

What is a keystone species? They are the most vital organisms in an ecosystem. Should they be removed, the ecosystem would experience significant decline, if not total failure. For example, in scrub ecosystems, gopher tortoises are keystone species. Hundreds of organisms live in their burrows; the process of digging cycles nutrients. Burrows are also places for animals to take refuge during a fire. The tortoises also eat ground vegetation thereby limiting succession through new plant growth. Without them, the system would crash.

Before I get into what magnolia trees do, I want to note that both magnolia and beech trees are keystone species in these areas. This article focuses on magnolias.

Magnolias have several traits that make them a keystone species. Many animals, including insects, depend on these trees for food and shelter. The large leaves fall and prevent seedlings of trees from growing, helping to keep the forests stable. They also help to create a dense canopy that keeps the temperatures stable for the plants and animals in the understory.

One of the best magnolia beech forests that I have ever seen was in Florida Cavers State park in 2017. Sadly, in fall 2018, hurricane Michael wiped out 80% of the trees in the forest. This is one of those rare catastrophes that can change a climax ecosystem. While they are still working on recovery, this is an interesting place to watch to see what happens with the system over time.

Year End Recognition Meeting

This year with relaxed standards for gatherings, the master gardener volunteers met in person to remember those we have lost this past year, share a meal, and recognize exceptional service of members.

ODE TO GARDENERS

*Gardeners know-
a seed becomes a plant for pleasure
a seed becomes a plant for nourishment*

*Gardeners know-
a shrub gives shelter to birds
a shrub gives us our borders*

*Gardeners know-
a tree provides shade to any under its boughs
a tree provides a home for many within its
boughs*

*Gardeners know-
the cycle of growing
never ending
ever changing*

*Gardeners know-
those departed
can be visited
when we walk in our gardens*

By K.S.Kennen



You are missed:

Millie Estess
Sue Geiger
Sharon Kurtz
Maria Phillips
Mic Mulhern

Thanks to board members for their service:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| RHA | Jamie Daugherty |
| President | Sandra Bryant |
| Treasurer | Art Swanton |
| Member at Large | Karen Kennen |
| Secretary | Jean Davidson |



Garden of the Month

October – Oriental Garden



Jamie Daugherty, RHA
and Rob Simson

The Oriental Garden has shrubbery trimmed to represent clouds, along with bamboo muhly, weeping bottlebrush, and ornamental mulberry tree. The garden is designed to bring a feeling of calm and serenity to its visitors.

November – 5 Senses Garden

The Five Senses Garden was selected for the garden of the month for the month of November. Like the name states, it consists five different gardens with each one representing plants demonstrating a different sense. There are raised, concreted garden containers: one for smell, one for sound, one for hearing, one for taste, and one for touch. These gardens are used as instructional tools for visiting elementary students.



The smell garden has mint, lavender, rosemary, garlic, tarragon, and other plants that are very aromatic and will easily release their unique scent when touched.



The touch garden has aloe, yarrow, climbing rose, and crown-of-thorns as some of the plants that would definitely bring a reaction if you touched them.

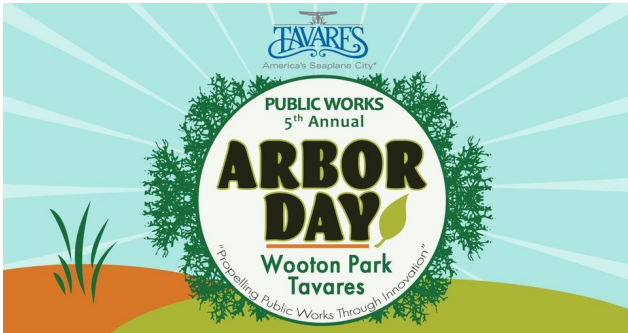
Classes and Events

Tree Presentation

Date: January 11, 2022

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Marianne Beck Memorial Library
112 W. Central Ave. Howey-in-the-Hills



Free Tree Giveaway/Educational Presentation

Date: January 15, 2022

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Place: 100 E. Ruby St. (Wooten Park)



Succulents Presentation

Date: January 16, 2022

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: W.T. Bland Library
1999 N. Donnelly St, Mt. Dora.

W.I.S.E .2022

Wildlife and Invasive Species Education

Registration for one or both days includes lunch from Oakwood Smokehouse

****On-Site Registration - \$40.00 per day,**

lunch not included**

Limited free educational materials will be available

Date and time:

Tue, Jan 25, 2022, 8:00 AM –

Wed, Jan 26, 2022, 5:00 PM EST

Location:

West Central Florida Agricultural
Education Center (Sumter Fairgrounds)

7620 SR 471

Bushnell, FL 33513

REGISTRATION and cost information:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wildlife-and-invasive-species-education-wise-2022-tickets>

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. During the winter months check out what is in bloom.