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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

ALPHABET ISSUE

BY K. S. Kennen, MGv

A is for annual which in the gardening world is the term used to refer to plants that last one season. In Florida they are planted different times of the year to add variety and color to the landscape. One annual often seen often is impatiens.

B is for beautyberry, a favorite Florida native for both the gardener, pollinators, and birds. This long-branched, weeping bush with purple-blue clusters of berries is five to eight feet tall and wide.

C is for camelia . This native Asian shrub/tree has been in the Southern landscape for over 200 years. It flowers in the fall and winter and does well sheltered in part shade.



D is for dill, an herb that is the host plant for the black swallowtail butterfly. It is best started from seed in September through December. *Long Island Mammoth* is the best variety for Florida.



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

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Ɔ is for Echinacea. There are ten species in this daisy family. The common name for this group of flowers is purple cone flower. Plants are in bloom from spring through summer in Central Florida.



7 is for fertilizer.

The big question is, what to do with all that fertilizer sitting in the corner of your shed leftover from previous years?

Here are some general rules of thumb:

-Do not fertilize from June to September as per Lake County Fertilizer Ordinance #2017-55 (vegetable gardens are exempt).

- Do not fertilizer before a heavy rain.

-Fertilize only when needed and buy just the amount required.

-Select a fertilizer where the first element (nitrogen) and the third element (potassium) are equal or in a 2:1 ratio. The second element (phosphorous) should be 0 or as low as possible since our sandy soils already have a high content of phosphorous.

-Store fertilizer in a cool, dry, shaded place.

-Store fertilizer in the original container to preserve the label and wrap unused material in plastic or store in a plastic container.

-Clean up spills immediately.

-Liquid fertilizer is generally good for 8-10 years and dry fertilizer is effective indefinitely unless it contains an insecticide or herbicide, then it is only good for approximately 4 years.

-Dispose of unused or discarded fertilizer by calling 1.800.CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.com for procedures.



9 is for grub. The white grub is the larva of the Chafer beetle and can be a problem for turf grass. The grubs feed on the grass roots and can cause the grass to yellow and even die.

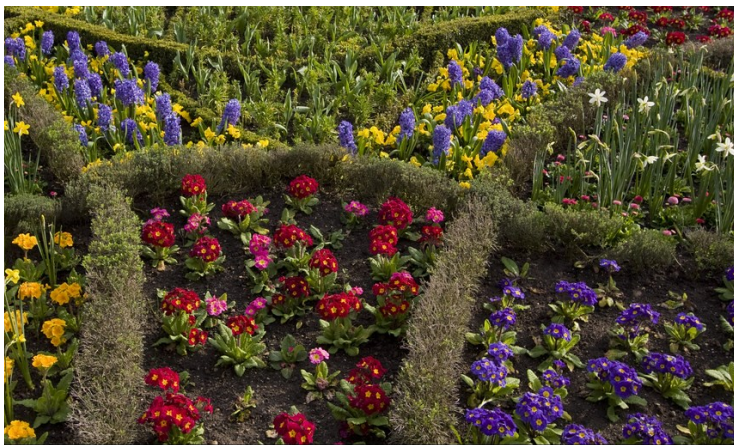
℥ is for holly. This plant can be used as a small tree, hedge, or even an accent plant. Yau-pon and dahoon are native hollies of Florida. If you want to have the red berries on your holly, be sure to have a female tree. One positive factor about holly is that it will tolerate a wide range of light and soil.



∞ is for indeterminate. This is a term used with tomato plants and means that the plant will continue to grow and produce fruit during the season. On the other hand, determinate tomatoes produce only for a single harvest.



ℓ is for jade plant (*Grassual argentra*). This succulent is a favorite as a houseplant. Like all potted succulents, be sure not to overwater and have adequate drainage to prevent root rot a common cause of death or poor growth. This evergreen plant has thick, glossy, smooth leaves and can add living color to any room.



℞ is for knot garden. This is a garden style popular during the 16th century in England. It is the use of such plants as herbs or shrubs planted in lines of an intertwining pattern within a level, square plane. The spaces between the lines can be filled with stones, gravel, sand, or flowering plants.

L is for lace wing. This beneficial insect is light green and less than an inch in length with net-like pairs of wings. It will feed on other insects that are harmful to plants, such as aphids and mealy bugs. The larvae also feed on harmful pests. Please welcome this bug to your garden.



M is for mulch. Mulch can be a variety of materials used as ground covers to retard weed growth; keep soil cool; and hold in moisture for plants. It can be such things as bark, leaves, straw, pine needles, etc.



N is for nasturtium. This easy to grow plant is originally from South America and can be grown year-round in Florida. Besides bringing colorful blooms to your garden, this plant is edible. The leaves and flowers can be used in salads and the seed pods can be pickled and used as you would use capers.



O is for oak tree. Oaks are relatively long-lived trees. There are 15 types of these in our state. The live oak is a favorite and memorable because of its size and majesty. Live oaks never drop their leaves and have elongated clusters of acorns. Champion trees are long-lived oaks. Wilson's tree is a Florida Champion with 36 feet circumference.

P is for pansy. Pansies are cool weather plants and come in a variety of colors such as red, white, purple, yellow and apricot. Some of the pansies will have a dark center that adds a cute little face image.



Q is for quince which is a deciduous tree with white flowers in spring and with fruit that matures in late summer. The fruit is very hard but can be made edible when cooked and made into preserves.



R is for root rot. This is a condition that is exemplified by dark, reddish brown roots. There can be slow growth, mushy stems, and wilted or yellow leaves. This decaying disease is the result of wet, soggy soil. Removing affected parts of the plant and repotting the plant may bring it back.



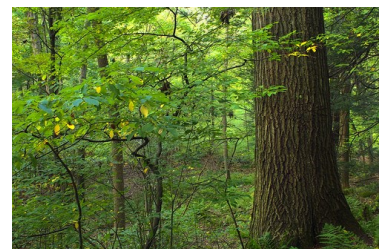
S is for salvia. This squared, stem, herbaceous plant comes in a variety of heights, colors, blooming seasons, and cold tolerance. Annual salvias are usually warm

season plants. Perennials are year round bloomers if there is no frost.

T is for terra cotta. This is earthenware is clay based and fired in a kiln. It is usually unglazed and when used as pots for plants, does not retain moisture since the material is porous.



U is for understory which is the term for a tree that likes to grow in the shade of another tree and is smaller than that tree, such as Simpson Stopper.



V is for variegated. In gardening this term refers to a coloration pattern on plant foliage, often green and white.



W is for water oak. This tree is found in a variety of habitats from lowlands to highlands. Its name seems to imply that it grows in the water but instead the name comes from the large amounts of water that is shed from the trunk when the tree is cut. Latin name is *Quercus nigra*.



X is for *Xanthosoma sagittifolium* or elephant ear. This plant is invasive. Do not buy or plant in your landscape.



Y is for yarrow. This semi-green, perennial herb has flowers in shades of red, pink, yellow, and white. Once established, the plant does not need irrigation.



Z is for zebra grass with the scientific name of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus'. This grass can be planted year round in zone 9 and be used as a mass planting, border, accent, screening, or even in a planter. This grass has very noticeable yellow strips across the foliage. This clumping grass can grow as tall as 7 feet. The grass has pinkish or silvery plumes that last into the winter.



Plant Clinic Clatter

To Goggle or Not to Goggle?

BY Sandra M. Bryan, MGV



So, a gentleman came into the Plant Clinic with a cutting from a large shrub that he wanted identified. He said it was in his neighbor's yard. The cutting boasted vibrant red berries clustered in bunches with waxy, dark green foliage. It was beautiful and I could imagine must be stunning in the landscape. I couldn't quite place the name. It was just out of reach in my mind but, I had seen this before.

After asking this gentleman all kinds of questions I said, "Let me do a little research and I'll give you a call." And off he went. Now, there is time for me peruse the internet.

So, I type in descriptions of the berries, hit enter and go to images. No luck. I type in descriptions of the leaves, hit enter then images. No luck. After several attempts to identify this plant I turned to Seek. The app Seek is an invaluable tool for me in the plant clinic. Seek advised that the plant is **Coral Ardisia**. Seek may soon become my bestie. There are several apps available to identify plants and insects.

Armed with a potential identification, I go to Google, type in Coral Ardisia, hit enter, and images. There it is.

The consensus is that this plant is Coral Ardisia so I now turn to EDIS. EDIS publication SS AGR 276 gave me a great deal of information to pass on to the client and a publication to refer him to for additional information.



Coral Ardisia is an evergreen that grows in multi-stemmed clumps. The leaves are dark green and waxy looking. It flowers in pink or white. The berries are bright red and globular. Some have white berries. It is also known as coral berry, spice berry and scratch throat. Hmmm, someone must have eaten this plant for that description to apply. But oh, doesn't that sound lovely? I want one in my yard.

BUT. University of Florida suspects the plant is toxic to livestock, pets, and humans. Classified as an invasive and noxious plant, it is difficult to control or eradicate. For information on how to control Coral Ardisia see EDIS publication AG 245 entitled *Herbicide Application Techniques for Woody Plant Control*.

On second thought, I don't I want one of these plants after all.

EDIS—Electronic Data Information Service powers **ASK IFAS** which is now the new branding for the site that provides timely research and information related to agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer resources, and youth development.

LIBRARY CLASSES

June presentations are about how to take care of your trees and be safe through hurricanes. July presentations are about easy to grow succulents with several examples of some you can grow in your landscape. These presentations are free but it is recommended that you sign up at the library by phone or in person.

June 17, 2024, 2-3 pm

Trees & Hurricanes

Umatilla Public Library

June 18, 2024, 12—1 pm

Trees & Hurricanes

Eustis Public Library

June 18, 2024, 4—5 pm

Trees & Hurricanes

Leesburg Public Library

June 19, 2024, 2—3 pm

Trees & Hurricanes

Tavares Public Library

June 19, 2024, 6—7 pm

Trees & Hurricanes

Marion Baysinger Library

Mt. Dora Public Library Presentation

June 9, 2024, 2 –3 pm

Houseplants

Free and no registration

July 15, 2024, 2-3 pm

Succulents

Umatilla Public Library

July 16, 2024, 12—1 pm

Succulents

Eustis Public Library

July 16, 2024, 4—5 pm

Succulents

Leesburg Public Library

July 17, 2024, 2—3 pm

Succulents

Tavares Public Library

July 17, 2024, 6—7 pm

Succulents

Marion Baysinger Library

Mt. Dora Public Library Presentation

July 14, 2024, 2 –3 pm

African Violets

Free and no registration

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. Come see the changes in the garden.

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.