



Volume 31 May 2022

Inside this issue:

Yellow Leaves, contd	2
What's Cooking: Cucumbers . 3	
Ask IFAS	4
Clinic Clatter	5
Garden of the Month	5
Treemendous: Thanks to Volunteers	6
Classes & Events	7 & 8

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

Yellow Leaves

BY K.S. Kennen

Why are my hibiscus leaves yellow?

This is the question that led to the topic of this article: chlorosis. Chlorosis is the yellowing of leaves due to lack of chlorophyll in the plant. Interestingly enough the condition in my hibiscus that drew me to researching and writing about chlorosis wasn't even a sign of not enough chlorophyll for the plant, but rather a reaction to temperature changes of up and down and up again that is common in our spring and fall.



When there is not enough chlorophyll being produced, it could be one or a combination of cultural conditions. If there is too much or too little water; if there is too much or too little of light; if there is too high or too low temperatures; and if there is too high or too low pH, any can result in chlorosis. A specific example of overwatering is when a gardener asked why their desert rose had yellow leaves since she watered it every other day. With this information it can be deduced that the yellow leaves were most surely due to overwatering since once every other week or two is when this plant should be watered. She was washing away any chance of the plant producing enough chlorophyll.

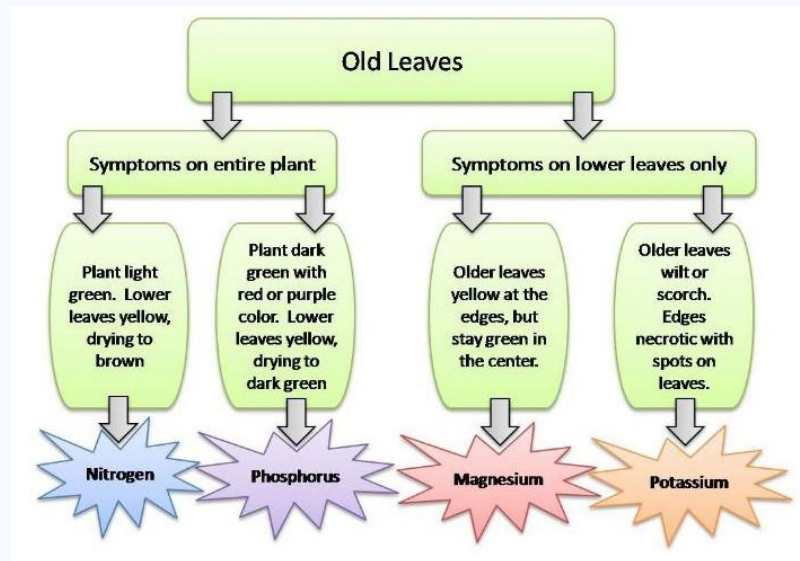
Another condition many gardeners think causes yellow foliage is the lack of nitrogen, so they will increase the amount of nitrogen their plants receive. This might work but the plant could also lack several other nutrients that can cause chlorosis. Leaf yellowing can also be caused by manganese, zinc, or nitrogen deficiencies. One way to determine which nutrient the plant is lacking is by noting what foliage is turning yellow first. Iron deficiency starts on young, newer leaves and later works toward the older leaves. Whereas, deficiencies in zinc, manganese, or nitrogen starts on inner or older leaves first and then progresses outward.

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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Yellow Leaves, continued

BY Karen Kennen, MGV



Early nitrogen deficiency of China doll (*Radermachera sinensis*). UF/IFAS



Magnesium deficiency in rose UF/IFAS



Potassium deficiency in black olive UF/IFAS

One important thing to do whenever you consider determining the reason for yellow leaves and treating your plant is to test your soil pH. Iron becomes more insoluble and is not as available to plants if the pH is above 6.5 to 6.7. In other words, when pH is outside optimal zones for different plants, some nutrients become tied up and unavailable. For example, iron is most available to plants in acidic soils. Overly alkaline soil can block normal iron uptake, even though iron is present in the soil.

The second thing to consider is the cultural conditions. The conditions to note are light, water, and temperature but be sure to consider any damage done to the roots of the plant or over spray of any herbicide that could have caused lack of nitrogen absorption and therefore result in yellow leaves. For further information refer to <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP362>.

What's Cooking? Cucumber Salad

BY Lori Johnson
Family & Consumer Science Agent

Did you know: Cucumbers are mostly water but do have vitamin K which helps our bones and in blood clotting. They also provide some vitamin A which is important in skin and eye health and Vitamin C which helps with immunity. Don't forget the fiber! Fiber which helps with gut and heart health.

Cucumber Salad with Radishes, Lemon, and Mint

Recipe adapted *Vegetables Illustrated*

Ingredients:

- 3 cucumbers, peeled, halved lengthwise, and sliced thin
- 1 small red onion, sliced thin
- 6 radishes, trimmed and sliced thin
- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup sour cream or plain Greek Yogurt
- 3 tablespoons fresh mint, chopped
- 2 teaspoons lemon zest, grated
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Salt and Pepper, if desired



Directions:

1. Spread the cucumber slices in a single layer on a paper towel on a baking sheet, refrigerate for 20 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine the vinegar and onion and let stand for 20 minutes.
3. Whisk sour cream/yogurt, mint, lemon zest, and sugar in a large bowl.
4. To large bowl add cucumbers, radishes, and onion-vinegar mixture. Stir to combine.
5. If desired sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper.

UF/IFAS – University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

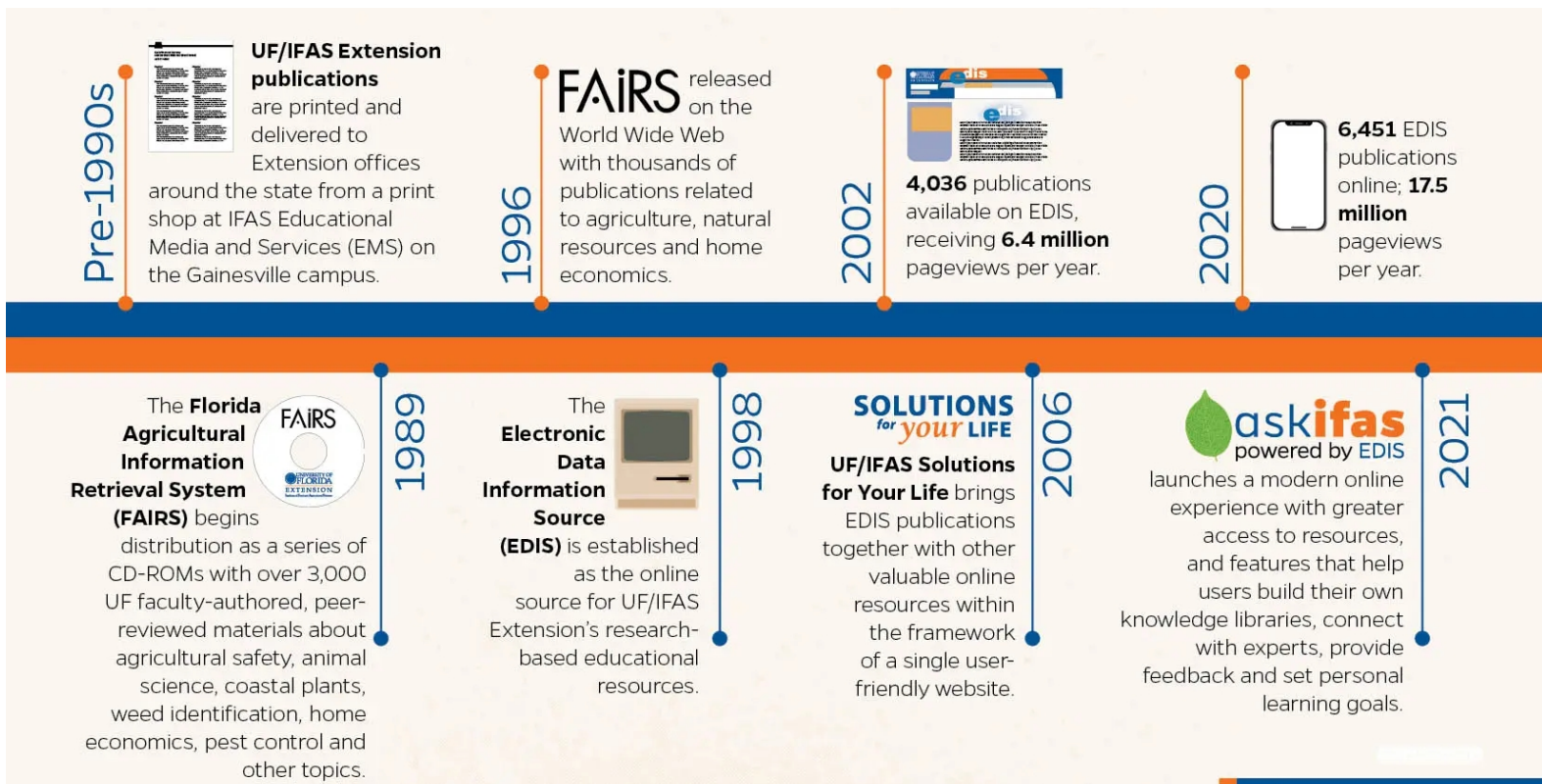
When asked a questions the first place to look for research based answers is on the IFAS website: <https://ifas.ufl.edu/>

WHAT IS IFAS?

Rebranded as “Ask IFAS” in April 2021, UF/IFAS’ Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) is evolving to meet the needs of audiences, as well as the faculty who provide research-based, timely information about agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and youth development.

The more user-focused website has moved to the next level of engaging and empowering extension audiences with:

- Trusted and relevant publications and content
- Easy to use on any device
- Improved ability to connect with UF/IFAS experts



Gardening Solutions

This is the site that EDIS will send you to for answers to many of gardening questions. UF/IFAS Extension's Gardening Solutions program can help you discover the incredible array of plant species common in Florida yards, including groundcovers, flowers, edibles, shrubs, trees and, of course, weeds. And if a green lawn is your goal, advice on choosing, establishing and maintaining turfgrass and alternative groundcovers is offered.

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>



Plant Clinic Clatter

DEAR MASTER GARDENER: I live on a canal and keep hearing this deep honking sound coming from it. It's a deep throaty sound and I'm wondering if it's an alligator.

DEAR HOME OWNER: Are there aquatic plants or brush "hiding" areas in the canal?

DEAR MASTER GARDENER: Yes, there are those large, leafy plants and those purple, pickle-looking plants at the end (photos attached).



Philodendron selloum



Pickerelweed

DEAR HOMEOWNER:

The large *Philodendron selloum* and *Pontederia cordata* AKA Pickerelweed at the end of your canal are perfect cover for aquatic wildlife. This being gator mating season, the sound you are hearing is most likely a gator making its presence known. If you haven't seen the gator, it's most likely a juvenile. That being said, be sure to follow alligator [safety rules](#): keep your pets and children away from the water's edge; and do NOT FEED it! Gators really want to be left alone. They don't go looking for trouble, but will cause it when provoked, get defensive, or have a free meal.

Garden of the Month

The garden of the month is the wetlands which is led by Master Gardener Volunteer Jan Malone who has been a volunteer since 2017. One well-growing plant in this wetlands is the pickerelweed. This plant plays an important part in the wetland garden to stabilize soil and the edge of water bodies.



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.

Thanks to Treemendous Volunteers

Jamie Daugherty, RHA

Volunteers are a vital part of what makes our programs function. They provide on and off-site educational programming; answer plant questions; offer garden tours; maintain and renovate the Discovery Gardens; and SO much more! Our Master Gardener Volunteers go through an intense horticultural training class to get started in the program. After their first year, they maintain continuing education units and keep up with required volunteer hours to help them stay current.

In the past few months, a Discovery Garden Apprentice Program was started. This program allows interested individuals to volunteer in a limited capacity while they wait for the next Master Gardener Volunteer training class to start.

I want to take the time to thank all our volunteers for everything that they do!

What do the volunteers do in the garden?

- Propagate plants for our annual plant sale (our major fundraiser for the garden and educational programming each year)
- Maintain the 25 themed gardens including renovating gardens, weeding, planting, and anything else the gardens need
- Assist with construction, irrigation repairs and installation, and anything else that our Garden Tech needs extra hands for
- Manage a bee apiary in partnership with the Lake County Beekeepers Association
- Happily talk to anyone with questions when they are out working in the gardens

With what educational programming are they involved?

- MGVS Speakers Bureau- a request-based program. Organizations request a topic and the Speakers Bureau volunteers work to offer those classes.
- Garden Docent Tours- These guided tours offer groups more information about the garden.
- Plant Clinic- this on-site resource allows the public to contact the MGVS with plant questions via phone, e-mail, or in person.
- Mobile Plant Clinic and Table Event- Volunteers venture out to events with either our newly redesigned mobile plant clinic or a table. Stop by to say hi; ask plant questions; and get information about upcoming programming.
- Newsletter- This newsletter is written and edited by our Master Gardener Volunteers!

Our volunteers impact the community by reaching more areas than we could reach without them. Thank you for all that you do! I appreciate each one of you!

If you are you interested in the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, Discovery Garden Apprentice Program, educational presentations, or want to make a donation? Contact me at jdaugherty@ufl.edu.



Volunteers
are the ♥ of Extension



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Classes

Registration opens soon for this new online program:

The Science of How Plants Work Part 1

Cost \$30 with book, \$15 without

Included Book: *The Nature of Plants: An Introduction to How Plants Work* by Craig N. Huegel

Wednesday 5/25: Plant Tissues and Organ Systems.

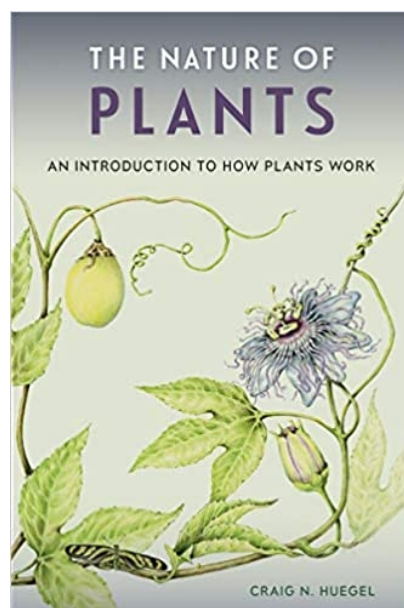
Taught by Jamie Daugherty (UF/IFAS Lake County Extension) and Lisa Sanderson (UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension) 10am-12pm

Wednesday 6/8: Roots and Woody Growth.

Taught by Jamie Daugherty (UF/IFAS Lake County Extension) and Lisa Sanderson (UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension) 10am-12pm

Wednesday 6/15: Fruits, Flowers and Fruit Dispersal.

Taught by Jamie Daugherty (UF/IFAS Lake County Extension) and Dr. Bill Lester (UF/IFAS Hernando County Extension) 11am-1pm



The Science of How Plants Work Part 2

\$30 with book, \$15 without

Included Book: *Soil Science for Gardeners* by Robert Pavlis

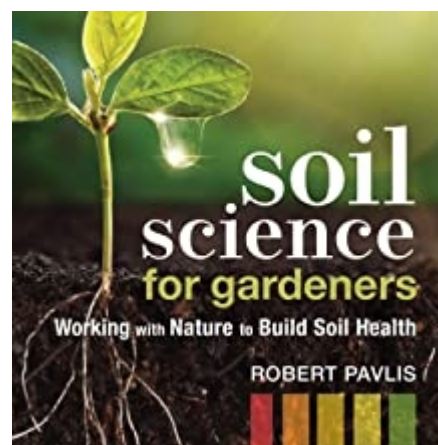
Wednesday 7/6: Soils and Plant Nutrition.

Taught by Jamie Daugherty (UF/IFAS Lake County Extension) and Dr. Bill Lester (UF/IFAS Hernando County Extension) 11am-1pm

Wednesday 7/13: Ethnobotany. Taught by Jamie Daugherty (UF/IFAS Lake County Extension) and Lisa Sanderson (UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension) 10am-12pm

Wednesday 7/27: Tropism and Chemical Signaling in Plants.

Taught by Jamie Daugherty (UF/IFAS Lake County Extension) 11am-1pm



Cost for both classes with books \$55, without books \$25.
Books can be picked up or mailed.

Classes

May 21st

Get Your Grill On: Beef Basics from Pasture to Plate

Presented By:

Lori Johnson, Family & Consumer Science Agent & Meg Brew, CED & Livestock Agent

Time: 9:30-12 pm

Cost: \$15 per person

Location: UF/IFAS Lake County Extension Office, 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares

*Weather permitting class will take place outside in our Discovery Gardens, in shaded areas. In the event of extreme heat or rain the event will be held indoors.

Learn about modern day beef production, nutrition, safe handling, basics of grilling and ideas when grilling beef. Class includes a beef taste test and additional recipe sampling.

Advance registration required: <https://bit.ly/3s1qpBB>

May 26th

Trees and Hurricanes

Time: 3pm-4pm

Free

Location: Leesburg Public Library 100 E. Main St. Leesburg, FL 34748

Concerned about your trees and storms? Come learn about how to maintain trees to limit risks associated with storm events.

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. The spring plants are beginning to bloom.



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.