

Winter 2019, Issue 8

In this Issue

Title	Page
Arbor Day Tree Giveaway.....	1
Upcoming Programs.....	2-6
Florida Friendly Landscapes.....	7
Lawn Care Tips.....	8-9
All American Selections®.....	10

Veggie Garden

Jan/Feb is the time to plant Irish potatoes, broccoli, kale, and other cool season crops. Begin planting warm season crops in March for a spring harvest. For a complete list, download the North FL Gardening Calendar: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP45100.pdf>
or The Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

Celebrate Florida Arbor Day with SJC Master Gardeners on Friday, January 18, 2019

We will be giving away bareroot native trees at the following locations from 8:30 am until noon (unless trees run out sooner):

Bartram Library, Hastings Library, Southeast Branch Library, Publix at Murabella, and Publix at Nocatee.

Native tree species include:

Wild Black Cherry, River Birch, Shagbark Hickory, Dahoon Holly, American Snowbell, Winged Elm, Southern Red Cedar, Elderberry, and Arrowwood Viburnum.



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County
Terra Freeman ▪ terraf@ufl.edu ▪ (904)209-0430 ▪ FAX (904)209-0431

Upcoming Programs



UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Plant Clinic and Help Desk

Unproductive crops? Lawn suffering from insect damage? Citrus tree exhibiting symptoms of a nutrient deficiency? Air potato woes? Wondering what crops will grow in Florida this time of year?

Master Gardeners are available to answer your diagnostic questions at **St. Johns County Extension office Master Gardener Help Desk at (904) 209-0430, many weekdays from 9 to noon.** You can drop off a sample, or call in with your questions.

Master Gardeners are also on hand to assist with your gardening questions at the **Master Gardener Plant Clinic** on the **second and fourth Tuesday of each month**, from **10 am to 1 pm**, located at **Home Depot** at: 1750 US Hwy 1 South, St. Augustine

Certified Arborist Training

Wed. Jan 23rd and 30th

9 am to 5 pm

Register on Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/y7ouh4y8>

\$60 per person (limited to 20 people)

Tree Selection, Plant Health Care, Urban Forestry, Water Management,
Tree Biology, Pruning, and more!

Located at GTM National Estuarine Research Reserve

9741 Ocean Shore Blvd; St. Augustine, FL 32080

Upcoming Programs

Celebrate Florida Arbor Day with Tree Installation and Pruning Workshop

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

10 am to 12:30 pm

Tree Installation with Daniel Lippi, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor

Proper Pruning Techniques with Terra Freeman, ISA Certified Arborist and Horticulture Extension Agent

Registration is free, but preregistration is required at:

<https://arbordayworkshop.eventbrite.ca>

Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Auditorium:

3125 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092

Citrus in the Home Landscape

Friday, January 25, 2019

10 am to noon



Presented by Joe Kirby, Horticulture Program Assistant, UF/IFAS Extension SJC

Program will cover citrus species, cultural requirements, nutrition, insect pests and diseases

\$5.00 fee; Preregistration required at: <https://citrushomelandscape.eventbrite.ca>

Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Auditorium:

3125 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092

Upcoming Programs

Zoysia Lawn Care Workshop: Earn FDACS CEUs

Wednesday, February 6, 2019; 10 am to noon

Presented by Joe Kirby, Horticulture Program Assistant, UF/IFAS Extension SJC

**Program will cover zoysia grass establishment, fertilization, irrigation,
mowing, insect pests and diseases**

\$10.00 fee; Preregistration required at:

<https://zoysialawncare.eventbrite.ca>

Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Auditorium:

3125 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092

Rain Gardens

Friday, February 15, 2019

10 am to 11 am

**Presented by Terra Freeman, Urban and Commercial Horticulture Agent,
UF/IFAS Extension SJC**

**Explore the many benefits of installing a rain garden, design essentials, and
appropriate Florida-Friendly plant selection**

\$5.00 fee; Preregistration required at:

<https://sjcraingardenworkshop.eventbrite.ca>

Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Wind Mitigation Building:

3111 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092

Upcoming Programs

St. Augustine Lawn Care Workshop: Earn FDACS CEUs

Wednesday, March 6, 2019; 10 am to noon

Presented by Joe Kirby, Horticulture Program Assistant, UF/IFAS Extension SJC

Program will cover St. Augustine lawn establishment, fertilization, irrigation, mowing, insect pests and diseases

\$10.00 fee; Preregistration required at:

<https://staugustinelawncafeventbrite.ca>

Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Auditorium:

3125 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092

Lawn Care Best Management Practices for Homeowners

You can have a beautiful lawn!

Monday, February 25, 2019; 10 am to 11 am

Presented by Barbara Purple, SJC Master Gardener

Learn how to properly maintain your lawn while avoiding common problems and pitfalls. We will discuss the different types of warm season grasses; proper irrigation, mowing, and fertilizing practices; and insect, disease and weed control.

Registration is free, but preregistration is required at:

<https://lawncareforhomeowners.eventbrite.ca>

**Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Wind Mitigation Building:
3111 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092**

Upcoming Programs

Bats

Wednesday, March 13, 2019; 10 am to 11 am

Presented by Kelly Ussia, SJC Parks Naturalist

Florida is home to 13 species of bats. Bats are unique winged mammals that play an important role in our ecosystem. Join St. Johns County Naturalist, Kelly Ussia, for an engaging and educational hour devoted to these amazing creatures!

Registration is free, but preregistration is required at

<https://batprogram.eventbrite.ca>

Located at: UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Auditorium:

3125 Agricultural Center Dr.; St. Augustine, FL 32092



Save the Date:

EPIC Flower and Garden Expo

March 30 and 31, 2019



Florida-Friendly Trees

Terra Freeman, Urban and
Commercial Horticulture
Agent, UF/IFAS Extension
St. Johns County

This article provides information on three of the types trees we will be giving away at Arbor Day Tree Giveaway, all of which produce white flowers, but provide different services in the landscape.



American Snowbell, or *Styrax americanus*, boasts showy white, recurved flowers that bloom profusely each spring. This small (6' – 10' tall and wide), loosely branched native understory shrub/small tree is naturally found in swamps and wet woodlands and readily adapts to moist areas in suburban landscapes. American snowbells thrive in fertile, acidic, hydric soils in part sun to shade, making this an excellent addition to a rain garden or that moist area in your yard where the grass doesn't thrive. Flowers provide nectar for pollinators, especially bumblebees and butterflies; and fruits are food source for birds.

Arrowwood Viburnum, or *Viburnum dentatum*, is an multifaceted addition to the landscape – suitable as a specimen, large background shrub or planted en masse. This large (6' to 15' tall and wide), rounded, deciduous shrub is native to hammocks and swamps throughout the east coast. While drought tolerant, arrowwood viburnum prefers moist to wet conditions, making it another excellent addition to a rain garden. Produces creamy, white flowers in flat-topped clusters that bloom each spring, followed by summer fruits that are favored by songbirds and small mammals. Host plant for spring azure butterflies.



Photo credit: Carol Foil



Photo credit: Andreas Rockstein

Wild Black Cherry, or *Prunus serotina*, is most suitable for spacious landscapes that have room for this large (60' to 90' tall, by 25' to 50' wide) native tree to grow unencumbered by competition from pavement or lawn. Fairly easy to grow, it prefers full sun to partial shade on soils that are well-drained and not compacted. While drought tolerant, black cherries prefer rich, moist soil, so be sure to provide 2 to 3 inches of mulch to retain moisture at the roots. Produces small, white, fragrant blossoms in the spring, followed by small, bitter fruits which mature during summer and fall. While the fruits are an excellent food source for birds and other wildlife, they can also pose a mess underneath the tree, making it most suitable to be planted away from walkways and other pavement. Larval host for a myriad of butterflies.

Winter Lawn Care

Carol O'Hagan,
Master Gardener,
UF/IFAS Extension
St. Johns County

January – Help! My lawn is brown after we have had a few cold nights! This is entirely normal as your lawn has become dormant and should stay that way until spring. What should you do though? First, resist the urge to water. Lawns only need about ½ inch of water per week during the winter. If you have perennial weeds it should be okay to apply a weed control product, but make sure it is labeled for your type of grass. The three major grasses here are St. Augustine, Bahia and Zoysia. It is NOT okay to apply a weed and feed at this time as you do not want to encourage growth during this dormant season. Stimulating turf growth during the cold season risks more damage to the new grass during colder snaps, and too much water can create an environment conducive to fungal disease.

February – I'm really anxious to get a head start on my lawn care. What can I do now? If you had crabgrass in your lawn before the cold weather set in then February is a good time to apply a pre-emergent weed killer. This is also a good time to do some lawn mower maintenance. Do you need to change the spark plugs, oil the machinery or sharpen your blades? You might also check that your mower deck can be moved easily, as you want to make sure you are never cutting more than 1/3 of the leaf blade when you mow.

March – This is a good time to start shopping for fertilizer - although we typically wait until April, when lawn is actively growing, to apply. When shopping for a spring fertilizer look for the middle number to be 0 to 2, as our lawns typically have enough phosphorus. You should also look for a fertilizer with slow release nitrogen that will provide nutrients to the plants' roots over an extended period of time. If you've never done a soil test on your lawn the winter is a great time to do this to help set yourself up for success in the spring. More information can be found at <http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Resources

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/osceolaco/2018/02/09/winter-lawn-care/>

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/lawns/lawn-care/spring-lawn-care.html>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/58719/said-a-blade-of-grass>

Said a Blade of Grass

By Kahlil Gibran

Said a blade of grass to an autumn leaf, “You make such a noise falling! You scatter all my winter dreams.”

Said the leaf indignant, “Low-born and low-dwelling! Songless, peevish thing! You live not in the upper air and you cannot tell the sound of singing.”

Then the autumn leaf lay down upon the earth and slept. And when spring came she waked again—and she was a blade of grass.

And when it was autumn and her winter sleep was upon her, and above her through all the air the leaves were falling, she muttered to herself, “O these autumn leaves! They make such noise! They scatter all my winter dreams.”



Figure 1 <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/991612>



Take Advantage of the Cooler Weather

Shirley Barber,
Master Gardener,
UF/IFAS Extension
St. Johns County

Cooler weather has arrived! During this time, you can rest on your laurels and take a break from the garden, or you can make use of what can be the most productive time in the garden.

Check out the new seed catalogs where you might find your next favorite flower. You have plenty of time to seed spring flowers and vegetables. Dreaming of a new vignette in your garden? Now is the time to get it started. Try your hand at other projects; such as, rebuilding tired garden beds in need of refurbishing; moving plants to more suitable locations; installing hardscaping; correcting drainage issues...the list goes on. So, don't miss the possibilities the cooler weather presents.

Consider adding some cool season color and edible plants to your landscape: snapdragon, petunia, dianthus, pansy, sweet alyssum, parsley, kale, fennel or Swiss chard...to name just a few.

Petunia 'Tidal Wave® Red Velour', the 2015 All-American Selections® (AAS) flower winner, played a starring role in the St. Johns County Extension Botanical Gardens for the last three years during the Spring months. This beauty quickly covered its allotted space and then romped over adjacent plants while strutting its gorgeous deep red velvety blooms. Living up to the Petunia Tidal Wave® series reputation, these vigorous trailing plants produce magnificent blooms slightly larger than 2 inches that recover quickly even after hard rains.

'Tidal Wave® Red Velour' is easy to grow from seed and deserves a place in your landscape. Plant in full to part sun in a well-drained area. Deadheading is not required as new blooms continuously pop up making this plant a carefree solution to cover an area quickly.

Enjoy the cool weather and this most productive time of the year. Visit the gardens at the St. Johns County Extension Center where you could be inspired to build your dream garden.



Petunia 'Tidal Wave® Red Velour', Photo by Shirley Barber