



UF/IFAS EXTENSION *VOLUSIA COUNTY*

HUD-APPROVED FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CLASS

CLASSES IN ENGLISH

Session 1: Friday, December 5th at 9:00am - 1:00pm

Session 2: Friday, December 12th at 9:00am - 1:00pm

To register for English classes,

visit: <https://homebuyer.eventbrite.com>



Financial Well-being Series

This Series is designed to help participants build confidence in managing their personal finances and improving overall financial wellness. Each session offers practical, easy-to-apply strategies on key topics such as boosting credit, managing debt effectively, and understanding investments for long-term stability.

Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/bdh22949>

December 2: How to Start Investing.
Learn about types of investment accounts and how to begin investing safely

January 2: How to Boost Your Credit
Learn how to build your credit and increase your score.



Virtual class first Tuesday of the month.

Offered at two times:

Lunch and Learn: 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Evening: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

For more information, contact
Cyndi Longley at 561-233-1744 or clongley@pbc.gov





Turfgrass of Florida: *St. Augustine* Grass

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Basic Turfgrass Facts

- This grass is predominantly a warm-season variety, known for its quick establishment and good salt and shade tolerance, making it suitable for various environments. It thrives in soils with a pH range of 6.0 to 7.5. Some cultivars are particularly well-adapted to shaded areas, offering versatility for both sunny and partially shaded landscapes.

St. Augustine Grass Cultivars:

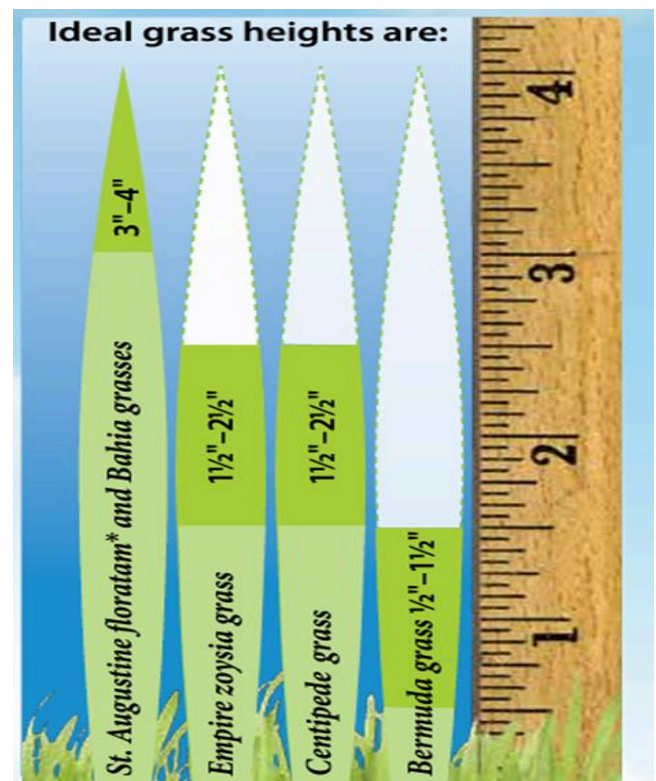
- Bitterblue* (1)**
- Classic* (2)
- Deltashade* (3)
- Floratom* (4)**
- Susceptible to gray leaf spot and Sugarcane Mosaic Virus*
- Palmetto* (5)*
- Raleigh* (6)
- Citrablue* (7)*
- Drought tolerant*

Dwarf Cultivars:

- Captiva* (1d)
- Delmar* (2d)
- Sapphire* (3d)
- Seville* (4d)*
- Provista
 - Glyphosate tolerant
 - Slower growing than Floratom
 - Less mowing needed

Optimal Cutting Height:

For standard grass cultivars, maintain a mowing height of 3.5 to 4 inches, while dwarf cultivars should be mowed at 2 to 2.5 inches. Avoid cutting too low to prevent scalping, pest problems, and plant stress. To minimize stress, never remove more than one-third of the leaf blade at a time and ensure mower blades are set correctly. In shaded areas, increase mowing height to support weaker grass stands. Maintain a consistent mowing schedule but avoid mowing too frequently to promote healthy growth.



Planting Recommendations:

For vegetative propagation, sprigging, sodding, or plugging should be performed in late summer, or early fall. Avoid mowing until at least 21 days after planting to allow proper establishment.

Sodding:

- Clear all existing turf to expose bare ground for optimal sodding.
- Lay sod pieces tightly together, like fitting a jigsaw puzzle, ensuring they lie flat.
- Water thoroughly after installation.

Sprigging:

- This method requires more time for growth compared to sodding.
- Cover stolons with soil, leaving the leaf blades visible.
- Keep the soil saturated until visible growth occurs.

Plugging:

- Create plugs by cutting sod with a sharp knife
- Space plugs 6 to 24 inches apart; closer spacing reduces weed competition.



Sodding



Plug

Irrigation Recommendations:

To establish healthy turfgrass, water $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch daily for the first two weeks, using the "cat can method" to measure irrigation coverage. After this period, reduce watering to 2-3 times per week or follow local watering ordinances. Keep the soil moist until the grass is well-rooted, then transition to an as-needed watering schedule. Mature grass should be irrigated based on signs of water stress, such as blue-gray leaf blades, wilting, or visible footprints. Avoid overwatering, as it promotes weed growth, including dollar weed. Schedule irrigation between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. to optimize water uptake and minimize pest risks. Evening watering is not recommended, as prolonged moisture fosters pest and disease development.



AVOID WEED & FEEDS!

Fertilizer Recommendations:

- InFlorida, majority of localities have a specific fertilizer ordinance, so it is important to understand the guidelines in your area. In Volusia County, at least 50% or more of the fertilizer used for lawns and landscapes must be slow-release to promote sustainable growth. Fertilization for St. Augustinegrass should begin 30-60 days after installation, with the first application by mid-April.

St. Augustinegrass thrives at a soil pH of 6 to 6.5. However, if the pH is too high, sulfur can be applied to lower it gradually, requiring multiple applications over time. Additionally, a soil test is recommended to identify any additional nutrient needs. Ideal fertilizer blends such as 16-4-8, 10-10-10, or 15-0-15 are suitable, but avoid overapplying nitrogen to prevent excessive thatch growth. Fertilizer is best applied at the following rates to remain in compliance with the recommended guidelines:

- 1-2 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. in mid-April
- 0.5-1 lb in late May
- 1-2 lbs in early October

| Location ¹ | Nitrogen Fertility Recommendations ² (lbs N/1000 sq ft/year) |
|-----------------------|--|
| North Florida | 2-4 |
| Central Florida | 2-5 |
| South Florida | 4-6 |

Integrated Pest Management Recommendations:

St. Augustine grass has its pros and cons and can often fall prey to various insects. Pests frequently attracted to St. Augustine grass are chinch bugs, webworms, armyworms, and mole crickets. These pests typically cause damage to the leaf blades by skeletonizing them or damage to the roots. Select a pesticide with an active ingredient of Spinosad, Chlorantraniliprole, Bifenthrin, Permethrin, Imidacloprid, or Carbaryl tend to be effective.

St. Augustine grass is no stranger to weeds and disease as well. A few common weeds are chickweed, dollar weed, and Bermuda grass along with common diseases such as gray leaf spot, brown patch, and take all root rot. Finding a product that serves a dual purpose can reduce the cost and amount of product purchased. Here are a few active ingredients for weed and disease control. Noticing the overlap in products is always a plus.

Control methods for weeds:

- Pendimethalin (Pre)
- Atrazine (Post)
- Dicamba, penoxsulam, bifenthrin (Post)
- Penoxsulam, sulfentrazone, 2-4-D, dicamba (Post)
- Sulfentrazone (Post)

Control Recommendation for diseases (systemic):

Fungicides for PREVENTATIVE control:

- Myclobutanil
- Propiconazole
- Triadimefon
- Azoxystrobin (may include propiconazole)

- Pyraclostrobin (may include triticonazole)
- Thiophanate methyl
- Chlorothalonil

- Contact fungicide, may require multiple applications.
- Fluoxastrobin
- Flutolanil

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AVOID WEED &
 FEEDS!

Turfgrass Alternatives for Zone 9b & 10a Recommendations:

Repurposing your landscapewithgroundcoverscanenhancesustainability and support pollinators. Options like *Perennial Peanut*, *Shore Juniper*, *Powderpuff*, *Asiatic Jasmine*, *Twin Flower*, *Golden Creeper*, *Sunshine Mimosa*, and *Turkey Tangle Frogfruit* are excellent choices. These groundcovers typically require less fertilizer and irrigation, making them low-maintenance and eco-friendly alternatives to traditional turfgrass. Additionally, their diverse blooms and foliage make them attractive and beneficial for pollinators, promoting a healthier landscape ecosystem. For more information on recommendations visit, <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/apps/plants>.



**Turkey Tangle
Frogfruit**



Shore Juniper

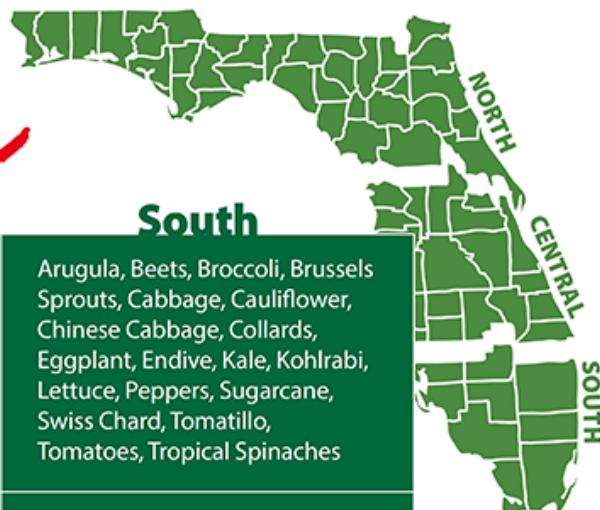
**Perennial
Peanut**



Under the ordinance, the application of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous is prohibited from June 1 through September 30 of each year, during flood watches and on saturated soils.

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EDIBLES TO PLANT IN December



North

Central

South



EASY TO
TRANSPLANT

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli,
Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage,
Cauliflower, Chinese
Cabbage, Collards, Kale,
Kohlrabi, Sugarcane, Swiss
Chard

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli,
Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage,
Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage,
Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi,
Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels
Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower,
Chinese Cabbage, Collards,
Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi,
Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane,
Swiss Chard, Tomatillo,
Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches



TRANSPLANT
WITH CARE

Celery, Mustard, Spinach

Celery, Mustard, Pineapple,
Potatoes, Spinach

Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery,
Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard,
Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole
Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet
Potatoes



USE
SEEDS

Carrots, Onions (bunching),
Radish, Turnips

Carrots, Onions (bunching),
Peas (English), Radish, Turnips

Beans (bush, lima, pole),
Cantaloupes, Carrots,
Corn, Cucumbers, Onions
(bunching), Peas (English,
southern), Radish, Squashes,
Turnips, Watermelon



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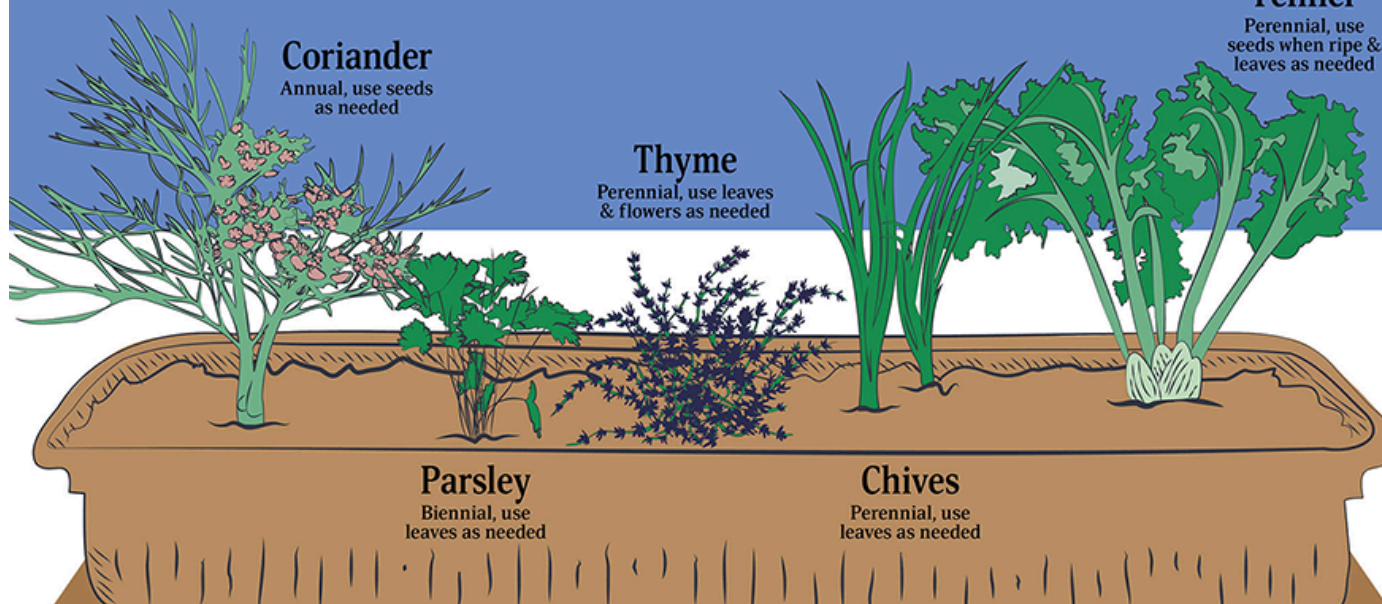


Gardening
SOLUTIONS

GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu
Text only: go.ufl.edu/EdibleText

Plant These Herbs

WINTER



Coriander

Annual, use seeds
as needed

Thyme

Perennial, use leaves
& flowers as needed

Fennel

Perennial, use
seeds when ripe &
leaves as needed

Parsley

Biennial, use
leaves as needed

Chives

Perennial, use
leaves as needed

LIBRARY PLANT CLINICS & TALKS

DEBARY HALL

2nd Thursday of each month

11:30am - 12:30pm

DELTONA REGIONAL LIBRARY

2nd Thursday of each month

2:00pm - 3:00pm

DELAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

1st Tuesday of each month

1:00pm - 2:30pm

NEW SMYRNA BEACH REGIONAL LIBRARY

1st Tuesday of each month

1:30pm - 3:00pm

PORT ORANGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

3rd Tuesday of each month

2:00pm - 3:00pm

SUGAR MILL GARDENS 2nd

Wednesday of each month

9:00am - 11:00pm

ORMOND ENVIROMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER

1st Wednesday of each month

10:00am - 12:00pm

Scan for a
list of topics



EXPLORE VOLUSIA DECEMBER EVENTS

DEC
5

Deep Creek Eco-Buggy Tour

- 🕒 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
- 📍 Deep Creek Preserve
964 S. State Road 415, New Smyrna Beach

DEC
8

Spruce Creek Park Paddle

- 🕒 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- 📍 Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve
6171 Ridgewood Ave., Port Orange

DEC
16

Lake George Eco-Buggy Tour

- 🕒 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
- 📍 Lake George Forest and WMA
998 Ninemile Point Road, Pierson

DEC
18

Wiregrass Hike

- 🕒 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- 📍 Wiregrass Prairie Preserve
1751 Lopez Road, Osteen

DEC
19

Ecosystem Engineers Paddle

- 🕒 9 to 11:30 a.m.
- 📍 Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve
90 Divito Drive, New Smyrna Beach

DEC
30

Gopher Tortoise Hike

- 🕒 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- 📍 Deep Creek Preserve
964 S. State Road 415, New Smyrna Beach





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URBAN HORTICULTURE PAGE



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PAGE

