



SEASONS IN WAKULLA COUNTY

Horticulture, Agriculture, Natural Resources
Quarterly Report
August - September 2024, Volume 5

Mission Statement

UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension is a federal, state, and county partnership throughout Florida, with the mission to improve our lives by developing knowledge in agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences and to make that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. The partnership includes Florida Cooperative Extension, University of Florida (UF), Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) and the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners.

UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County
84 Cedar Avenue
Crawfordville, FL 32327-2063

Phone: (850) 926-3931
Email: wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu
Web: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/>

Helpful Links

Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Information

mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions

gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida-Friendly Landscaping (TM)

ffl.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Solution For Life

solutionsforyourlife.com

Ask IFAS

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



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County
wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 5
An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Table of Contents

Mission Statement	Page 2
Table of Contents	Page 3
Advisory Committee	Page 4
Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers	Page 5
Extension Office Open House	Page 6
Fall Seed Library Kick-Off	Page 7
International Coastal Clean-Up with KWCB	Page 8
Weed of the Month - Torpedo Grass	Page 9
August Veggie of the Month - Beets	Page 10
September Flower of the Month - Salvia	Page 11
Spotlight on My Favorite Plant - Firebush	Page 12
Gardening Calendar - Fall Activities	Page 13
Stay on the Vine - Upcoming Events	Page 14
Garden Therapy	Page 15
Sponsorship	Page 16
Ad Templates	Page 17
Our Generous Sponsors - Ads	Page 18
Your Ad Could Be Here	Page 19
UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension Staff	Page 20



Horticulture, Agriculture, Natural Resources Advisory Committee:

The activities offered by UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County are based on statewide priorities, national initiatives, current research, and local community needs. In an effort to best represent Wakulla County, the Horticulture, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Extension Advisory Committee was developed. The Extension Advisory Committee provides advice to Extension Faculty in the creation and updating of program plans to make sure that Extension programming reflects both the mission and vision of the organization as well as the interests and requirements of the community.

Are you passionate about the environment, agriculture, or gardening? Here's a fantastic opportunity to make a difference! We invite you to consider joining the UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Horticulture, Agriculture, Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Your voice matters, and this committee is a platform for you to contribute ideas and perspectives. To express your interest or for more information, please contact the Extension Office @ 850-926-3931, option 5. Let's grow together and make a positive impact on Wakulla County!

Advisory Committee Members

Nelson Ball, Lorraine Calaway, Katasha Cornwell, Bryan Green,
Tonya Green, Kellie Keys, Kenny Manning,
Robert Manning, and Kaitlyn Sheffield



Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers

Dianne Amburn, Maxine Chentnik, Linda Clemens, Mary Cortese, Michele Hackmeyer, Ruth Jacobs, Jenny Lorch, Roy Malberg, Rita Schuetz, Diana Whitmore, Shannon Whitmore

Master Gardener Trainees

Rhonda Blake, Dewana Britten, Alicia Crites, Jiuqing Gu, Abby Lisboa, Pennie Slaughter, Nicole Sullivan, Jeffery Zou

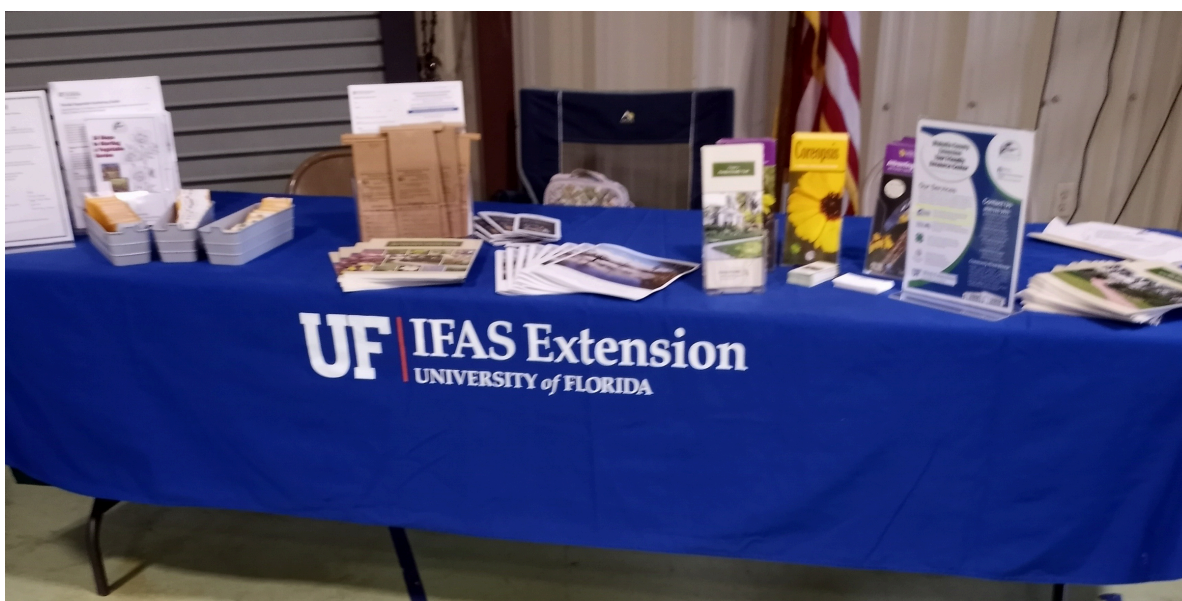


For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County
wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 5
An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Extension Office Open House



The Wakulla County Extension Office hosted its annual open house on Saturday, August 24. All areas of administration were represented. The Master Gardeners provided horticulture information and free seed packets to those attending the event. Thank you to Dianne Amburn, Michele Hackmeyer and Shannon Whitmore for volunteering.



Fall Seed Library Kick-Off

What is the Seed Library?

The UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteer 2024 Fall Seed Library Program is a community-based initiative that provides access to a collection of seeds for local gardeners and growers.

Objectives:

The objective of the Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteer 2024 Fall Seed Library Program is to provide small packets of seasonally appropriate seeds to encourage members of the community to try growing their own vegetable plants from seed.

Instructions for Use:

The Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteer 2024 Fall Seed Library Program is conveniently located at the Wakulla County Library at 4330 Crawfordville Hwy, during operating hours.

- Select up to 3 packets of seeds from the Wakulla County Library.
- Follow planting and care instructions given with seeds.
- Pick and enjoy what you've grown!

Seeds Offered:

Bolero Carrots, Top Bunch Collards, Redbor Kale, Allstar Gourmet Mix Lettuce, Evergreen Hard White Onions, Sugar Snap Peas, Donato Radish, Auroch Spinach, Bright Lights Swiss Chard and Purple Top White Glove Turnips.



International Coastal Clean-Up Keep Wakulla County Beautiful



Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers participated as a vendor at the September 21, 2024 Keep Wakulla County Beautiful Coastal Clean-Up event held at Woolley Park. Michele Hackmeyer and Jiujing Gu shared horticulture information with area residents.



Weed of the Month: Torpedo Grass

If the FBI had a most wanted poster for weeds, chances are torpedo grass (aka bullet grass and creeping panic) would make the cut. Introduced as a forage crop for cattle when J. Edgar Hoover was just a lad, it has become one of the worst invasive plants in the United States. Found across the urban landscape, it really thrives around water - so much so that it is found in most of the public waters in Florida. This tall perennial grass does produce seeds, but its real way of invasion is through its pointed and rigid rhizomes - which is where it gets its name. The rhizomes of torpedo grass are like the Hydra - when cut, they grow back. This ability to regenerate make torpedo grass hard to defeat. For small areas hand weeding can work if you carefully remove “all” of the plant. Herbicides are the best method to contain this public enemy.

*Author: Robert Annis, UF/IFAS Blog Posted July 30, 2024
Entomology and Nematology Department Weed of the Month*



Photo Credit: UF/IFAS

August Veggie of the Month

Beets



All parts of the beet are edible from the root to the stem and leaves. Beets are an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, especially B vitamins, potassium, and magnesium. They do not have much fat but do naturally contain some sodium. The health properties found in beets may support the health of your brain, heart, and digestive system. Now is a good time to grow beets in our area.

This information was provided by the Alachua County UF/IFAS Extension



September Flower of the Month Salvia



Salvias are excellent plants for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden and they have no serious pests. They come in several colors and sizes and are a good choice for a cut-flower garden.



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County
wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 5
An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Spotlight on My Favorite Plant: Firebush

By: Michele Hackmeyer, MGV

July and August in North Florida are typically extremely hot and humid. Many spring-blooming shrubs have finished and are now resting. Even those of us that are native Floridians begin to wither the minute we step outside. There is one shrub in my full sun (10+ hours per day) yard that thrives in this heat and is in full bloom.

Firebush, *Hamelia patens*, is a native plant that grow about 5-6 feet tall and equally as wide. It can be kept smaller by pruning, but it prefers to be left alone and will produce more flowers. Throughout the summer and until the first frost, it gives an abundance of bright orange-red tubular 1.5" flowers that are very attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. This time of year, the sulfur butterflies are all over it! The dark black fruits that follow are enjoyed by birds. Once established, it is fairly drought tolerant, though it does best with regular watering (summer rain). It is salt tolerant and grows in any kind of soil as long as it is well-drained and tolerates a wide soil pH range. Here in North Florida (USDA Hardiness Zones 8-9), it dies back to the ground in winter but comes back every spring. Leave the plant all winter and prune back to about 6" in late winter to early spring before bud break.

Now that's my kind of plant: hardy, low/no maintenance, and attractive. And if that's not enough, it has no serious insect or disease problems! If you need something a little smaller, there are dwarf varieties/cultivars on the market. Check their cold hardiness before planting in the panhandle.

The UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Office, 84 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville, has an excellent example of firebush just to the right of our main office building.



Gardening Calendar: Fall Activities

There is still time to add warm weather annuals for color including ageratum, celosia, zinnia, or wax begonia. Plant chrysanthemums now for fall color and, as it cools more, begin planting cool weather annuals like pansies and viola. Plant or divide bulbs and daylilies.

Begin planting some cool season herbs such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary and basil. For existing pots of mint, consider giving it a “haircut”: trimming back long stems.

You might begin planting your fall garden, but check the soil temperature first. Most cool season vegetable seeds need cooler soil temperatures for germination, 65 - 70 degrees.

Late September is the last time for fertilizing your lawn. Choose a fertilizer with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need for it. (Get soil test kits and instructions from the Wakulla County Extension Office.)

Gather pine straw to use as mulch and to protect the roots of tender perennials this winter.

Plan for how you will protect citrus from freezing temperatures; water well at least a day before the freeze and consider using covers that extend all the way to ground, all around the plant. This technique uses the warmer ground temperature to keep the plant warm.

Apply dormant oil sprays to control scale insects on trees and shrubs.



Stay on the Vine - Upcoming Events

10/26/2024 - St. Marks Monarch Butterfly Festival: Butterfly lovers throughout the southeast states will descend on St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to see and learn about butterfly migration.

1/18/2025 - Wakulla County Arbor Day: Annual tree giveaway program for Wakulla residents. To be held at Hudson Park.

3/9/2025 - Wakulla Wonderful: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Celebrate the history of Wakulla County.

4/5/2025 - Annual Plant Sale: Join us for our annual spring plant sale held in the Extension Arena. Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

5/10/2025 - Garden Tour: Wakulla County Garden Club “Beyond the Garden Gate” tour of six gardens. The Extension Office grounds will be one of the featured stops on this tour.

Mark Your Calendars Now!



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County
wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 5
An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Garden Therapy

With the heat such as it is you may find gardening stressful rather than rewarding at times. The sun is hot, the bugs are fierce, and sometimes Mother Nature just won't cooperate. Sometimes, it's more fun to put the shears down, relax, and read the gardening memes for some old-fashioned entertainment. A real gardener cannot take themselves too seriously. As you start your new day look in the mirror and tell yourself you look radishing and find your inner peas. Go out and spread hap-pea-ness, lettuce romaine calm and try not to carrot on. Stand back and look at how your hard work is paying off. I bet you if you take a real hard look, you will say I am a gardener down to-ma-toes. Screaming Kale yes! Oh, my gourd, let us turnip the music and lettuce celebrate. You and gardening were mint to be. So bay leaf in your self and garden to your own beat. We are rooting for you.





The UF/IFAS Wakulla County Master Gardener Volunteers Program is entirely dependent on support from funds generated by the kindness of monetary donations, plant sales, and volunteers providing their personal time maintaining the Extension center grounds. By becoming a Sponsor, you will help volunteers make a difference by sharing their experience and knowledge with the public. The results are significant and meaningful to the community.

Benefits of Your Sponsorship

Pride and satisfaction knowing your contributions to the Wakulla County Master Volunteer Program are helping county residents.

Free advertisement promoting your company business in our quarterly newsletter “Seasons in Wakulla County” sent out to over 300 residents and businesses.

Sponsorship Options

Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000 - Whole Page Ad

Gold Sponsor: \$500.00 - 1/2 Page Ad

Silver Sponsor: \$250.00 - 1/4 Page Ad

Bronze Sponsor: \$100.00 - 4-Color

No Logo Sponsor: \$50 - Information Only

**Sponsor now and see your ad in the November 2024 newsletter
Thank you for supporting your local Wakulla County Master
Gardener program!**

¼ page ad **\$250.00**

Silver Sponsor

½ Page ad **\$500.00**

Gold Sponsor

Whole Page ad **\$1,000.00**

Platinum Sponsor

Please make all checks payable to: **“University of Florida Foundation.”**

Sponsor now and see your ad in the next edition January 2024, newsletter.

Thank you for supporting your local Wakulla County Master Gardener program.

Business Name: UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension
Address: 84 Cedar Ave.
Address: Crawfordville, FL 32327
Phone: 850-926-3931
Web: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/>

No Logo Information “Only”

\$50.00 Sponsor

Business Name
Address
Address
Phone
Web

Company Information and Logo

4-Color \$100.00

Bronze Sponsor

Page 17

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



2611 Crawfordville Hwy
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 962-8134



2219 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-6526



874 Commerce Blvd.
Crawfordville, FL, 32327
(850) 421-0111

ANONYMOUS LOCAL BUSINESS

**Thank you for your continuing
support to our Master
Gardener Volunteer program**



3361 Crawfordville Hwy,
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-5559

Lindy's Fried Chicken, Inc.
2120 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

A-AAA **HARRISON BAIL BONDS**
MIKE HARRISON / OWNER

Wakulla: 850-926-2299	Franklin/Gulf: 850-670-3333
Leon/Cell: 850-510-2469	Liberty/Calhoun: 850-643-4400

3039 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL, 32327



30 St Frances St, Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-5644

*Your Ad
Could Be
Here*



UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension Staff

**Samantha Kennedy M.S., County Extension Director &
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent III**

**Vacant, Horticulture, Agriculture, and
Natural Resources Extension Agent I**

Rachel Pienta PhD, 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent III

Sherry Balchuck, Office Manager

Patricia Standeford, Administrative Assistant

Christy Pearson, 4-H Program Assistant

Danielle Cimino, 4-H Program Assistant

Amy Frazier, Nutrition Educator



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County
wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu ▪ (850) 926-3931 option 5
An Equal Opportunity Institution.