



# SEASONS IN WAKULLA COUNTY

Horticulture, Agriculture, Natural Resources  
Quarterly Report  
October - December 2024, Volume 6



## 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](mailto:wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu)**  
**Web: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/>**

## Helpful Links

### **Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Information**

[mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu](http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu)  
**UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions**  
[gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)  
**Florida-Friendly Landscaping (TM)**  
[ffl.ifas.ufl.edu](http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu)  
**UF/IFAS Solution For Life**  
[solutionsforyourlife.com](http://solutionsforyourlife.com)  
**Ask IFAS**  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>



For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County  
[wakullamg@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto: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
Renovation of Courtyard Pond	Page 6 - 7
Master Gardener Volunteer Conference	Page 8 - 9
Vegetable Gardening: Winter Crop	Page 10
Weed of the Month - Torpedo Grass	Page 9
August Veggie of the Month - Beets	Page 10
December Flower of the Month - Christmas Cactus	Page 11
Winter to Spring Calendar: Gardening Tips	Page 12 - 13
Stay on the Vine - Upcoming Events	Page 14
Save the Date - Plant Sale	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.



## Renovation of Courtyard Pond



Photo courtesy  
of Mary Cortese

MGV Rita Schuetz working on pond renovation



Final stage of the  
pond renovation

Photo courtesy of Rita  
Schuetz



## Renovation of Courtyard Pond - continued

Office  
Manager  
Sherry  
Balchuck  
cleaning pond



Photos courtesy of Mary Cortese



MGV Trainee  
Jiujing Gu  
placing plants in  
renovated pond



## Master Gardener Volunteer Conference



MGV attendees: Dianna Whitmore, Shannon Whitmore,  
Rita Schuetz, Dianne Amburn, Mary Cortese

Photo courtesy of Restaurant Waiter

The 39th Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Advanced Training Conference was held in Kissimmee, Florida from October 20 - 23, 2024. MGVs from across the state of Florida came together to receive the most up-to-date and relevant horticulture information from University of Florida/IFAS Extension experts.



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



## Master Gardener Volunteer Conference - continued

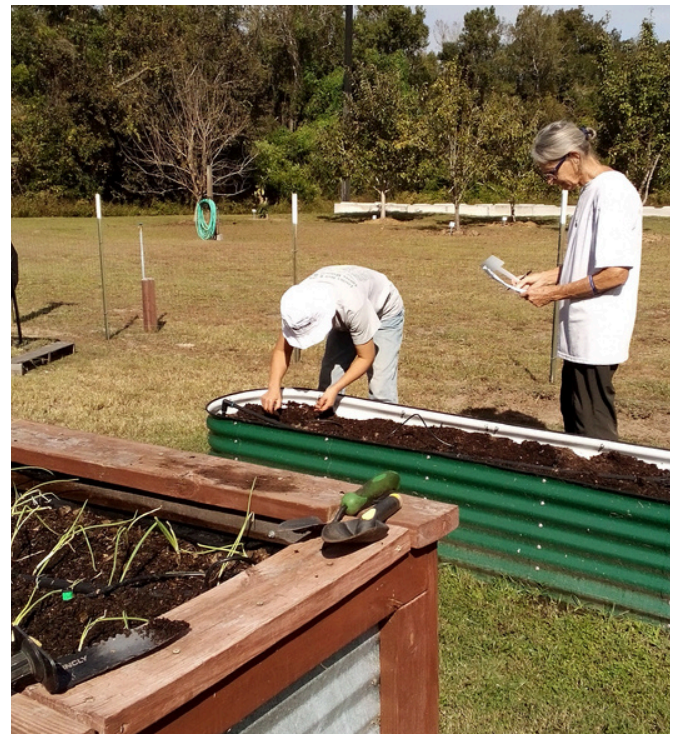


Photos courtesy of Mary Cortese

Mary Cortese, Rita Schuetz, Dianna Whitmore and Shannon Whitmore all participated in the 4-H Plant ID and Judging Contest. Contestants were challenged with identifying four groups of plants: fruits and nuts, vegetables, flowers and foliage plants and ornamental plants (woody plants, vines, groundcovers, and ornamental grasses). Each group contained 50 plants. This is an annual event held at the Master Gardener Conference and/or District meetings and provides the opportunity to study horticultural plants and their parts and products. Participation in the contest helps improve abilities to recognize, use, grow, and appreciate all things horticulture.



## Vegetable Gardening: Winter Crop



Photos courtesy of  
Mary Cortese

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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



## December Flower of the Month Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*)

Christmas Cactus are popular winter-flowering houseplants native to Brazil and are available in a wide variety of colors including red, rose, purple, lavender, peach, orange, cream, and white. They grow as epiphytes among tree branches in shady rain forests and soak up the high humidity, dappled sunlight, and warm temperatures. Their pendulous stems make them a great choice for hanging baskets.



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

# Winter to Spring Calendar: Gardening Tips

By Michele Hackmeyer, MGV

## JANUARY:

**Plant:** Cool-season annuals such as pansy, viola, petunia, and snapdragon. Bulbs: Crinum, and agapanthus, but mulch to protect from cold temperatures. Camelias: Japonicas are blooming and available in local nurseries. Deciduous fruit trees: Give their roots time to develop before spring. Vegetables: Irish potatoes, broccoli, kale, carrots, and lettuce.

**Irrigation:** Watering plants is still important in winter if rainfall is scarce.

**Pruning:** Begin pruning non-spring flowering shrubs and trees. **Do Not** prune azaleas until after they bloom. Trim crape myrtles to remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve appearance and form, if desired. Hard pruning (AKA Crape Murder) is not required. Prune grape vines.

**Pest Control:** Control persistent scale insects on citrus, shrubs, camellias, and deciduous fruit trees by applying horticultural oil while plants are dormant.

## FEBRUARY:

**Plant:** Continue planting cool-season annuals and crops. Install new shrubs but be sure to consider mature size to determine location.

**Irrigation:** As needed during dry periods.

**Pruning:** Prune roses by removing damaged canes to improve overall form. Fertilize afterward and add mulch. **DO NOT** prune citrus until spring as cold temperatures may injure new growth.

**Fertilize:** Citrus and other fruit trees if not done in January.

**Lawn:** Apply a preemergence weed killer (**NOT** “weed and feed” fertilizer) when temperatures rise to 65 degrees for 4-5 days to prevent warm-season annual weeds. Timing is critical for good control. Do not fertilize lawns until March. It’s a waste of money and time since plants not growing don’t need it.



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



# Winter to Spring Calendar: Gardening Tips - continued

By Michele Hackmeyer, MGV

## **MARCH:**

**Plant:** Consider planting warm-season annuals at the end of the month. Warm-season crops (basil, corn, cucumber, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes) can be planted as well, but be prepared to protect from frost. Plant new shrubs well before the summer heat.

**Irrigation:** Based on plant needs and rainfall. New plants ALL need regular watering until established. For shrubs this means weekly, slow watering that reaches all the way down to the bottom of the root ball. Consider adding micro-irrigations that drips a small amount of water over a long period of time. Be sure to continue regular watering throughout the hot summer months.

**Fertilize:** Your lawn ONLY after the grass has been greening for at least three weeks. Annual flowers and roses need to be fertilized throughout the growing season.

### *References:*

*Florida Gardening Calendar - Solutions for Your Life - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS*

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/florida-gardeningcalendar/>

*Design and Care of the Southern Landscape by David Marshall*



**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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

## Stay on the Vine - Upcoming Events

**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.



See you there!



# Save the Date

Saturday April 5 9-12 noon

*Wakulla County*  
**MASTER GARDENER**  
VOLUNTEERS'

## Annual Plant Sale

*Wakulla County Extension Office Arena*

*84 Cedar Avenue*

*Crawfordville, Florida*

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

An Equal Opportunity Institution



FLORIDA  
**MASTER  
GARDENER**  
VOLUNTEER



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



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**

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

3039 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL, 32327

## ANONYMOUS LOCAL BUSINESS

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

  
**JUST FRUITS**  
AND EXOTICS  
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**

Photo courtesy  
of Rita Schuetz



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