



The Cutting Edge

Master Gardener Vision “to be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida”

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July 2016

Where Does the Time Go?

July already and, as usual, I haven't finished my spring planting and cleaning and now it's too hot to be outside for long! If you are able to work in the heat, check out our What to Plant and What to Do in the Garden articles on pages 2, 3 and 4. We have featured our new Butterfly Demonstration Garden on page 5. Our Master Gardeners did a fabulous job planting this garden and the butterflies were visiting it even before everything got planted! Because of the seriousness of the Zika virus threat, **we have made our What's Buggin You section two pages in this issue.** Find out more about the virus and what you can do to protect yourself on pages 6 and 7. If you would like to know more about the Master Gardener program, see page 8. **We are recruiting right now for the 2016 Master Gardener class which starts August 31st.** If you have always wanted to learn more about gardening, and would like to work with some great people, consider the Master Gardener program!

Happy Gardening !

Laurie

Purple Passion Plant

Passion flowers (*Passiflora incarnata*) are a great addition to the home garden. This plant has outstanding ornamental features and commonly blooms in red, blue, purple, pink and white. Also known as maypops, passion flowers have a high drought tolerance and prefer full sun, or morning sun with some afternoon shade. As well as being native to Florida, they also have the convenience of being able to be grown year round. The passion flower is attractive to butterflies and humming birds and is also known to be the larval food for Gulf Fritillary and the Zebra Longwing butterfly. Because the butterfly larvae can (literally!) eat this to the ground in several days, you may want to place it in an out of the way place in the garden. **There are at least five other native species to the *Passiflora Incarnata*: *Lutea*, *Multiflora*, *Pallens*, *Sexflora*, and *Suberosa*.** However the passion flower is by far the most pigmented with pink and purple.



By: Olivia Faulks and Laurie Compton

In the Garden: What to Plant in July

Traditional plant selections are limited due to the heat and humidity in July, but tropicals and perennials can still be added for color.

Annuals for July include celosia, crossandra, coleus, impatiens, ornamental pepper, and vinca. Bulbs to plant this month include Aztec lily, gloriosa lily, gladiolas, spider lily and walking iris. If you would like to plant some vegetables despite the heat and humidity, try okra, peppers, eggplant and watermelon.



Japanese eggplant

In the Garden: What to Do in July

Now is a good time to start thinking about your fall garden. Start looking at garden and seed catalogues and develop a plan. Remember that your vegetable garden needs 6 to 8 hours of sun a day, so choose an east, south or west exposure to get the most benefit from the sun. Fertilize herbaceous plants that are heavy bloomers to encourage more flowers. Plants that produce a lot of flowers quickly deplete energy sources and need additional fertilizer. Don't prune spring blooming shrubs and trees after mid July, or you will be pruning off next years flowers. Pull out unproductive vegetable plants like tomatoes. If lawns need greening up, try using iron or manganese instead of nitrogen.. This will green up lawns without causing excessive growth.

Source: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/



Old seed catalogue

Wildlife Calendar July

- Rudbeckia bloom along the roadsides.
- Shorebird migration starts in mid-July, peaking in August.
- Mosquitoes and chiggers are abundant; watch out while you're camping.
- Later this month young alligators and crocodiles will begin to hatch
- Sea oats flower along the Atlantic
- Scrub morning glory and butterfly weed begin to bloom



Butterfly Weed

Did You Know? Some scientists argue that Tropical milkweed, also known as butterfly weed (*Asclepius curassavica*), should not be planted, because increased availability of the plant, coupled with warmer winters, may have an unhealthy impact on Monarch butterflies and their migration. The science is undetermined on that question. In the meantime, gardeners are left to make their own calls. Is it better to have a questionable milkweed source in your yard to provide Monarchs with nectar and host plant, or not? Let's see: Tropical milkweed is easy to grow, widely available, prolific bloomer, favorite host plant for Monarchs and a great nectar source for all butterflies. I know where I come down on that. You'll see butterfly weed in my yard. But I'll be sure to keep it out of wildscapes and slash it to the ground in the winter.

Laurie

In the Garden: What to Plant in August

The hottest days of summer limit what can be planted. Try vinca, gaillardia, bulbine and coleus. Bulbs that can be planted, even in late summer, include Aztec lily, butterfly lily, walking iris and spider lily. Herbs that can be planted (from transplants, NOT seeds) include ginger, Mexican tarragon and rosemary. This month starts the fall planting season. A final crop of warm season vegetables, like pepper, beans and summer squash can be planted along with some cool season crops. If temperatures drop at the end of August, try planting broccoli, collards and onions.



Gaillardia

In the Garden: What to Do in August

Damaged areas in the lawn may be the result of insects, disease, or irrigation problems. Determine the cause so the proper remedy is used. Only remove 1/3 of the grass blade to reduce stress on the lawn. If older palm fronds are yellowing, you may have a magnesium or potassium deficiency. Apply an appropriate palm fertilizer. Prune roses, hydrangeas, society garlic and other perennials to remove spent flowers and encourage more blooms. http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/



Oak Leaf Hydrangea

Wildlife Calendar August

- Young sea turtles are hatching so watch where you're walking on the beach.
- First flocks of blue-winged and green-winged teal arrive to winter on Florida lakes and wetlands.
- Yellow warbler migration begins.
- Two-year old black bear cubs will wean from their mothers.
- Thousands of great southern white butterflies can be seen migrating through coastal areas.



Male Great Southern white butterfly,

Did You Know? Great Southern Whites (*Ascia monuste*) are one of five white butterflies commonly found in Florida. Spanish needles, a weedy wildflower, is a favorite nectar plant as are lantanas and verbenas. The butterflies are often seen visiting the flowers in open areas on and near the beaches. The adult butterflies have a wingspan of 1 3/4 to 2 1/4 inches. Females may be dark gray in summer. The average lifespan of males is 5 days; of females, 8-10 days. Some Great Southern Whites migrate when temperatures are in the mid-70's (F) or above. Typical migrations are 20 to 40 miles and last two days or less. Movement is usually northward in summer and southward in winter.

Source: <http://www.nsis.org/butterfly/butterfly-sp-white-gs.html>

In the Garden: What to Plant in September

Refresh summer beds with ageratum, celosia, zinnia and wax begonia for color into the fall. Add color, texture and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of Elephants Ear (Alocasia). Other bulbs to plant include calla, narcissus and zephyr lily. Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as mint, rosemary, and basil. Plant cool season vegetable crops such as radish, carrot, cabbage and lettuce.



Alocasia micholitziana
'Frydek'

In the Garden: What to Do in September

By late September, fertilize your poinsettias for the last time this year, and shelter them from light exposure at night. Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets and sod webworms are still active this month. Bahia, Bermudagrass, Zoysia, and St. Augustine lawns should be fertilized this month. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers, but choose one that has equal amounts of nitrogen and potassium (the first and 3rd numbers. If not done in August, prepare the fall vegetable garden. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose.



'Fall Army Worm'

Source: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/

Wildlife Calendar September

- Get feeders ready for returning birds.
- Blue crabs migrate from the shallow panhandle coast to deeper water for the winter.
- Bald eagles return to nest sites and begin courtship.
- Manatees begin to concentrate in rivers, bays, and near power plants.
- Start listening for Spadefoot toads after heavy rains.
- Water Dropwort is blooming this month.



Blue Crab

Did You Know? Some crabs swim. Most crabs, like stone crabs and spider crabs, walk or run across the bottom. However, crabs in the family Portunidae have specially modified back legs called swimmerettes. These paddle-shaped legs rotate at 20 to 40 revolutions per minute, allowing the crab to quickly swim through the water. One of the most well known crabs in the Portunidae family is the blue crab. In fact, the scientific name of the blue crab is *Callinectes sapidus*, which translates to "beautiful, savory swimmer."

Source: <http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/crustaceans/blue-crabs/faq/>

Come see our new butterfly garden!

If you haven't already seen our new butterfly demonstration garden on the south end of the Bradford County Extension office, come take a look at the plants our Master Gardeners put out for the butterflies and pollinators. Here are just some of the plants in the garden:



Lantana

What would we do without lantana? Also known as shrub verbena, lantana is native to the West Indies but naturalized in Florida. It is grown in Florida for its beautiful flower colors and great adaptability to different environmental conditions. It is widely planted in butterfly gardens and recommended for dry areas in the landscape.

A host of the cassius blue butterfly, plumbago needs full sun for best growth and flowering. Plumbago will grow on any fertile, well-drained soil, becoming drought-tolerant once established. It responds well to an application or two of fertilizer during the growing season to encourage continuous growth and flowering.



Plumbago

Available in white, pink, red, and lavender, penta blossoms are extremely popular with butterflies and are long-lasting as cut flowers. Tolerant of a wide range of soil types, pentas prefers fertile, well-drained soils, regular moisture, and will grow quickly in full sun or light shade. Plants will flower fairly well with as little as 2 to 3 hours of sun each day.



Pentas

Passion flower is a perennial flowering vine native to Florida, and can be grown easily. The gorgeous, three- to five-inch flowers come in shades of lavender or purple, with a wavy fringe over five petals. The middle of the bloom looks like a helipad, with a tiny yellow bean-like pollen sac suspended overhead. Each flower lasts about a day during the summer and early fall. The ovoid, green fruit is edible, if not very tasty.



Partially opened passion flower

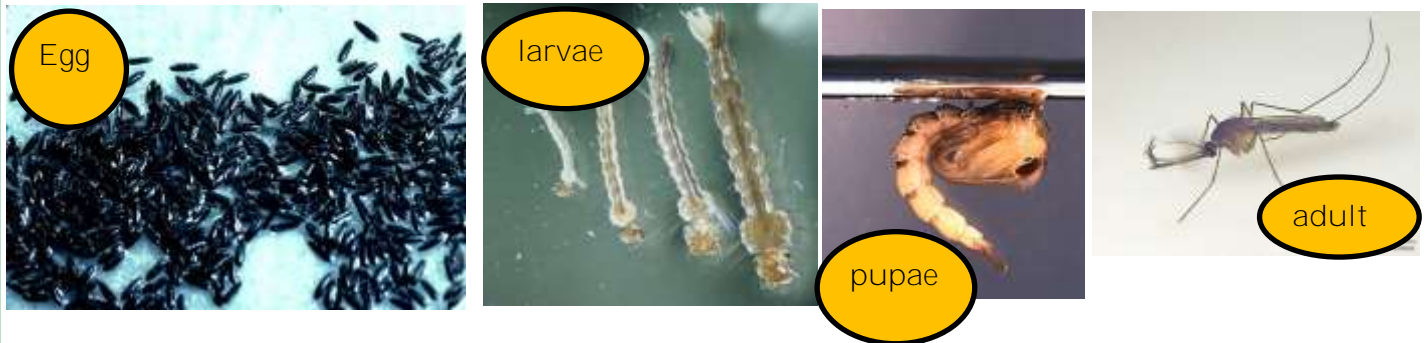
Butterfly garden at the
Bradford County Extension office.



Whats Buggin' You? Mosquitoes!

Summer in Florida! While the long days and warm temps provide ample opportunities for us to enjoy our favorite outdoor activities, the summer heat and rainfall make it necessary to plan to address mosquito confrontations while outdoors.

Mosquito Biology There are lots of kinds of mosquitoes; about 3500 species worldwide, 150 in Florida and about 28 in Bradford County. The specifics of their lifecycles varies according to feeding habits, egg characteristics, time of the day they are active, water source for oviposition/larval habitats, length of time to develop through the 4 life stages, number of generations per year and flight range.



Mosquitoes are divided into two groups:

Permanent water - inhabits stagnant areas in ponds, lakes (edges), rivers (backwaters) and swamps (standing water). Their eggs cannot dry out and they hatch in 24 to 48 hours.

Floodwater - inhabits low lying areas of pastures, salt marshes, and containers (including moist soils and sides of containers). Their eggs must dry out and they are stimulated by “future” flooding

Mosquitoes vector or carry diseases to many organisms, including dogs, frogs, livestock, birds and wild mammals. Female mosquitoes must feed on blood in order to reproduce, and it is during this blood feeding that a mosquito can become infected with a virus or other pathogen. Eventually, a virus makes it back to the salivary glands of the mosquito where it can be transmitted to another organism. This process can take 2 to 3 weeks (extrinsic incubation). If she bites during this extrinsic incubation time, she is not infective and cannot pass on the virus. After the extrinsic incubation period, she can infect with every bite for the remainder of her life.

Mosquito-borne diseases in Florida – Some of the important diseases and the mosquitoes that carry them are constantly being monitored throughout the state. They include:

Mosquito	Diseases
<i>Aedes aegypti</i> & <i>Aedes albopictus</i>	Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever & Zika
<i>Culiseta melanura</i>	Eastern equine encephalitis
<i>Anopheles quadrimaculatus</i>	Malaria
<i>Culex nigripalpus</i>	St. Louis Encephalitis and West Nile

Homeowner Responsibilities Homeowners need to destroy mosquito breeding habitats around their homes and take precautions to keep from getting mosquito bites. It is especially important for homeowners to help manage container mosquitoes around the home because they live in close proximity to humans and they transmit mosquito diseases like Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever, Zika, St. Louis Encephalitis and West Nile virus.

The mosquitoes pictured below, (Yellow Fever on left and Asian Tiger mosquito on right) are carriers of Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever, Zika diseases and they are regularly trapped in Bradford County:



INSPECT YOUR
YARD FOR
MOSQUITO
BREEDING SITES
AND TAKE
ACTION!!!

From boats to bird baths, mosquitoes can breed in any containers!



PRECAUTIONARY ACTIONS:

- EMPTY, DRAIN, TURN OVER OR COVER CONTAINERS THAT TRAP ANY WATER.
- FLUSH BIRD BATHS AND PLANTS LIKE BROMLELIADS THAT CATCH WATER EVERY 2 TO 3 DAYS. **Link: Bromeliad-inhabiting Mosquitos in Florida**
- USE MOSQUITO BITS, OR DUNKS (ACTIVE INGREDIENT: BTI), IN CONTAINERS THAT CANNOT BE DRAINED
- USE MOSQUITO REPELLANTS WISELY. (THEY PROVIDE VARIED AMOUNTS OF PROTECTION!) **LINK [HTTP://EDIS.IFAS.UFL.EDU/IN419](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN419)**
- STAY INFORMED, TALK TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY
- ZIKA VIRUS INFORMATION HOTLINE FOR CURRENT FLORIDA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, AS WELL AS ANYONE PLANNING ON TRAVELING TO FLORIDA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. 855-622-6735

We Are Accepting Applications for the 2016 Master Gardener Course

Classes are every Wednesday from 8/26 to 11/4 from 9 to 2:30.

Download a brochure at

<http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2016MGtraining.pdf>

Or call for more information 904-966-6299

What is the Master Gardener Program?

Since 1979, the Master Gardener Program has provided gardeners with extensive education in home horticultural principles. Participants who complete the program are certified as a Master Gardener by the UF/IFAS Extension. Master Gardeners are required to volunteer 75 hours within the first year following the training.

Working with the Extension Agent, Master Gardeners provide volunteer service through gardening activities. This service could include answering gardening questions, conducting plant clinics, working with school gardens, and other activities that promote environmentally friendly horticulture practices.

Is the Master Gardener Program for you?

- *Do you want to learn more about growing plants and gardening?
- *Are you eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- *Do you look forward to sharing your knowledge with others?
- *Do you have enough time?

If you answered yes to these questions, the Master Gardener Program may be for you.

Tentative Program

Classes are on Wednesdays 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

8/12: Application deadline

9/2: Plant Communities, Water Sheds, Invasive Plants

9/16: Soils & Fertilizers, Composting, Lawn Irrigation

9/30: Lawns & Lawn Pests

10/14: Vegetable Gardening

10/28: Growing Fruit, Landscape Trees

8/26: Orientation

9/9: Botany, Plant Propagation

9/23: Florida Friendly Landscaping, Weeds

10/7: Entomology, Household Pests

10/21: Plant Diseases, Houseplants, Wildlife

11/4: Pesticides, Perennials & Customer Service

12/6: Graduation in Gainesville

Master Gardeners are required to volunteer 75 hours within the first year following their training, and 35 hours per year thereafter to remain an active Master Gardener.

Cost for the 10 week course is \$100.00 per person and \$130.00 for couples.

Call 904-966-6299 today and learn how you can become a

Bradford County Master Gardener