



The Cutting Edge

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

2266 N. Temple Ave., Starke, 904.966.6299 Email: lcompton@ufl.edu

July 2015

I live in the southern part of Bradford County in the middle of forty acres of woods. Because there are so many beautiful oak trees on the property, I do a lot of shade gardening. I rely heavily on plants like caladiums and impatiens, ajuga and coleus. I recently learned about some new caladium cultivars from the University of Florida and though you might be interested in seeing them, too. Check out pages 6 and 7 to see what the researchers have been up to. Not a lot to plant in the garden in July, but still (and always!) a lot to do. See our calendars on pages 2, 3 and 4 for some ideas. If you grew up in the South, you probably know what a doodlebug is, but have you ever seen an adult doodlebug? Check out page 5 for more information. Don't miss the two upcoming Yikes! Spiders! presentations by Master Gardener Tom Sutton. Get the particulars below. And if you have ever thought about becoming a Master Gardener, take a look at page 8 and give us a call. We'd love to have you! Happy Gardening!

Laurie

Yikes! Spiders! How to Identify & Deal With Spiders at Home

Presented by U. F. Master Gardener Tom Sutton

Call 904-964-6299 to register for one of two available workshops:

Monday, July 20, 2015

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Bradford County Senior Center

1805 N. Temple Ave, Starke, FL

Monday, July 27, 2015

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Bradford County Public Library

456 W Pratt St, Starke, FL 32091

In the Garden: What to Plant in July

Although there isn't a lot to plant in the garden that will stand up to the heat and humidity of July, tropicals and perennials can still be added for color. Annuals for July include angelonia, coleus, impatiens, kalanchoe, and vinca. Bulbs to plant this month include gladiolas, spider lily and walking iris. If you would like to plant some vegetables despite the heat and humidity, try okra and peppers.



Spider Lily

In the Garden: What to Do in July

Now is a good time to start planning 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. Harvest season for figs and grapes begins this month. Fertilize fruit trees and shrubs after harvesting fruit. Prune mature blueberry plants after harvest. Cut back 1/4 to 1/5 of the older canes to a strong lateral or to the ground to stimulate new growth. Sharpen mower blades and remove no more than 1/3 the height at each mowing. Don't prune spring blooming shrubs and trees after mid July, or you will be pruning off next years blooms. Check ornamental plants weekly for scale, caterpillars, whiteflies and leaf beetles. If you find these pests, use a Florida Friendly insecticide like soaps, oils, Neem and Bt. Pull out unproductive vegetable plants like tomatoes. If disease problems are obvious on the vegetables you pull out of the garden, don't put them in the compost pile. Most home compost piles don't get hot enough to kill diseases.



Fig

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

Wildlife Calendar July

- Rudbeckia blooming along the roadsides.
- Swallow-tailed kites begin gathering for migration south for the winter.
- Mosquitoes and chiggers are abundant, so watch out while you're camping.
- Baby raccoons, foxes, armadillos, possums, and bobcats leave dens and begin following parents
- Sea oats flower along the Atlantic
- Scrub morning glory and butterfly weed begin to bloom



Nine Banded Armadillo

Did You Know? Armadillos are, to some degree, beneficial. Take a look at the list of insects they eat: earthworms, scorpions, spiders and snails. They consume large amounts of armyworms, cockroaches, ants, wasps, flies, beetles, grasshoppers and they will dig up entire yellow-jacket nests. But when looking for insects in the soil, armadillos dig numerous holes and can uproot flowers and other ornamental plants. If you trap them, you must re-release them on your own property. It is illegal to transport them.

Source: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw082>

In the Garden: What to Plant in August

Replace declining annuals with coleus, torenia, salvia and mums. Bulbs for August include iris and leopard lily. August is a good time to divide and transplant spring flower bulbs. Vegetables to plant include: bush, lima and pole beans, corn, peas, squash and tomatoes. If temperatures drop at the end of August, some cool season crops can be planted, like broccoli, collards and onions.



Leopard Lily

In the Garden: What to Do in August

Take advantage of Mother Nature and turn your sprinkler systems off when rainfall is adequate. If you have weeds, hand pulling may be the best option. You can try spot treating with a post emergent herbicide, but remember to water before treating if your soil is dry. Remove seed heads from crape myrtles and chaste trees to force another, smaller round of blooms. Prune roses, hydrangeas, society garlic and other perennials to remove spent flowers and encourage more blooms. Recommended mowing heights for lawn grasses :Mow bahia at 3– 4 inches; centipede at 1.5 to 2.5 inches, St. Augustine at 2 inches for dwarf and 4 inches for standard varieties, http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/



Chaste tree

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.



Blue Winged teal

Did You Know? One of the first migratory ducks to arrive is the Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*).

This small duck is an extremely fast flier, and can often be seen in large, hurried flocks circling freshwater ponds and lakes before landing. These ducks “dabble” which means they tend to stick their head and neck under water to forage for plants and aquatic animals. The male Blue-winged Teal has a distinctive white crescent between his eye and the base of his bill

Source: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pinellasco/tag/blue-winged-teal/>

In the Garden: What to Plant in September

Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of coleus, marigolds and chrysanthemums. Bulbs or bulb-types to plant now include amaryllis, calla, narcissus, iris and society garlic. Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. Fall is my favorite time to plant a vegetable garden! Plant cool season vegetable crops such as bush and pole beans, cucumbers, summer squash and tomatoes.



Society garlic

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. Remember that poinsettias require 14 hours of complete darkness each day for 6 to 8 weeks before flowering. Any interruption to this dark period can delay or prevent the plant from flowering. Harvest season for muscadine grapes lasts until mid-October depending on the variety, while persimmons and pecans begin their harvest season. 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.



'Winter Rose' poinsettia

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

Wildlife Calendar September

- Get feeders ready for returning birds.
- Hawk migration begins at St. Joseph Peninsula in Gulf County.
- 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.



Water Dropwort

Did You Know? Water dropwort, (*Oxypolis filiformis*), also known as water dewdrop or water cowbane, is a Florida native and is recommended for butterfly gardeners who want to try something different in their gardens. Water dropwort will grow in damp or moist areas of the garden and compliments naturalistic garden settings. Similar in form to the wide spread (non-native) Queens Anne's lace, it is a perennial and will spread by seed. Water dropwort is one of the few garden worthy native food plants for Black Swallowtail butterflies.

Source: http://www.nababutterfly.com/water_dropwort.html

Whats Buggin' You What's a Doodlebug?

Most of us that grew up in the South know about doodlebugs. They're the bugs who dig those upside down cone shaped pits in the sand, and then wait just under the surface to catch any unsuspecting bugs that may fall into their trap. This bug is widely recognized in its larval form and sinks into obscurity as an adult, at least as far as the public is concerned. If you've ever seen the adult form you probably had no idea what it was. A Doodlebug is the larval stage of the Antlion.

The larvae are about a half-inch long with bodies roughly the size and shape of an apple seed, short legs and no wings. Their most prominent feature is a fearsome-looking pair of oversized jaws that project forward from the head, a bit like a pair of old-time ice tongs. And those jaws are not just for show. Antlion larvae are ambush predators. Some species lie in wait under debris and seize small insects passing by. But the species most people are familiar with have a more ingenious way to obtain their meals.

The larva digs a pit; a cone-shaped depression roughly two or three inches in



Larval stage of an antlion

diameter in loose sand, by flinging up tiny portions of the material with its oversized head.

Then the antlion waits at the bottom of the pit, almost completely buried except its jaws. When an ant wanders by and crosses the edge of the depression, grains of sand start flowing downhill, carrying the ant along. If the ant tries to scurry back up and out, it's likely that the sand will be too loose to offer secure footing, and the ant will inexorably slide down to the bottom. When it reaches the waiting antlion, there's a quick flurry of movement, some flying sand, and then stillness as the antlion consumes its prey.



Adult antlion

The adults, which don't really have a common name aside from "adult antlions", have long, thin bodies, prominent antennae and four long, narrow, delicately veined, transparent wings.

Florida is home to 22 antlion species, more than any other U.S. state, including four that are only found in the Keys. Around the house, the best place to find them is any sandy outdoor area that's shielded from rain and is almost always dry. The pits are easy to spot, and no other creature makes a similar structure.

In areas where antlions are common, you may also see tiny ditch-like trails running through the sand. These are depressions created by antlion larvae seeking good places to excavate. It's said that these trails gave rise to the antlion's well-known nickname, the doodlebug, because the trails resemble doodles – simple, abstract drawings.

By: Laurie

Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in760>



Doodlebug pits

New Varieties of Caladiums

Originally discovered in the amazon basin of Brazil, caladiums are easily grown in our warm, humid climate, providing reliable color from spring to fall. Caladiums are grown for the color and pattern of their unique and vibrant leaves and do well anywhere in the landscape, but especially shine in shady areas. They also work well as hanging baskets or in pots. There are over 48 different cultivars of caladiums, but only two main types: fancy leaf, with large, heart shaped leaves, and lance leaf, with long, narrow leaves. Caladiums grow between 1 and 2 feet tall, and the leaves grow between 6 and 12 inches long. They grow from tubers and will mature to full size in one season, then naturally die back in the winter. Most caladiums thrive in partial shade with only 2 to 4 hours of direct sunlight, but some of these new cultivars have been bred to grow in direct sunlight. Even though these have been bred to take direct sun, minimal morning sun is ideal for caladiums, then shade for the rest of the day. Leaf colors tend to be more vibrant grown in the shade versus full sun. Caladiums can be bought already planted, or you can start them yourself. Plant in the ground in April. When planting the tubers, place the knobby side, or sprout side, up. Plant them 2 inches deep and 8 to 12 inches apart. Soils with high moisture and good drainage are perfect for caladiums. They should never sit in dry soil, or soil that is over-saturated. It helps retain moisture if you place mulch around the plant after the leaves have emerged. The caladium varieties pictured on these two pages were developed by Dr. Zhanao Deng and Dr. Brent Harbaugh of the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. Some of these varieties are in the stores already, but you may have to wait to purchase some of them.



'Berry Patch' is a new, spotted, fancy-leaved caladium variety. For overall plant quality, this caladium received the highest scores among the varieties tested in both growing seasons. With a vigorous growth habit, 'Berry Patch' can quickly fill a landscape space with many leaves. Additionally, 'Berry Patch' resists sunburn. These characteristics allow 'Berry Patch' to perform well in the landscape in full sun

'Cherry Tart' is an attractive lance-leaved caladium variety with a novel combination of leaf characteristics; bright red color, slightly undulate leaf margins and a broadly leaf shape. It was released in April 2011 by UF/IFAS. 'Cherry Tart' is well suited for producing potted plants and hanging baskets. It produces large numbers of bright red leaves and performs well in sunny and shady landscapes. Information about tuber availability and propagation agreements can be obtained from the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc.



The leaves of **'UF-331'** are lance-shaped and have a central vein in dark green and many large veins radiating from the central vein. Areas between the veins are white or red-purple, depending on growing conditions and leaf maturity, and are often translucent. 'UF-331' is intended for use in containers and landscapes and will be marketed under the trade name Angel Wing Dwarf Tricolor.



'**Cranberry Star**' is a new variety that is ideal for use as a potted plant or for growing as an accent or border plant in shady landscapes. It produces bright white leaves with green veins, similar to the leaves of 'Candidum', one of the most popular caladium varieties. However, 'Cranberry Star' is distinct in that it has numerous bright purple spots on its leaves. It is intended for use in containers and shady landscapes. Information on tuber availability and propagation agreements can be obtained from the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc.

'**Firecracker Red**' produces many large leaves with intense red color and performs well in sunny landscapes and large containers. It had excellent overall landscape performance ratings during its growing season. It was the tallest cultivar evaluated in this test. 'Firecracker Red' had similar performance in pots compared to the other red-leaved cultivars tested. Although it has potential as a container plant, it appears to be better suited for use in the landscape.



'**Garden White**' belongs to the white fancy-leaved cultivar group. It's very vigorous, large-leaved, tall, and sun-tolerant making it ideal for use in sunny landscapes or large containers. Landscape performance ratings were excellent for 'Garden White,' producing full plants with many colorful leaves and little sun burn. If used in small pots, 'Garden White' would perform best if de-eyed tubers were treated with a growth retardant.

'**Summer Rose**' petioles are red purple at the leaf attachment and gradually darken to brown at the petiole base. In the landscape trial, 'Summer Rose' had excellent performance ratings all through the growing season. 'Rose' also has potential for use as a potted/container plant.



The leaves of '**UF-340**' are lance-shaped and have a white penniform venation. The central and main veins and the interveinal areas are white, and the margins are green. 'UF-340' is intended for use in containers and landscapes. Its performance was outstanding both in pots and landscapes and it can do well in sunny or shady landscape locations. 'UF-340' will be marketed under the trade name Angel Wing Dwarf White.

Source: http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/uf_research/cultivars_caladiums.shtml

We Are Accepting Applications for the 2015 Master Gardener Course

Classes run from 8/26 to 11/4 from 9 to 2:30.

Pick up a brochure for more information or call 904-966-6299 to apply.

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 I look forward to sharing my knowledge with others?
- * Do I 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

12/6: Graduation in Gainesville

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

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.

Enrollment is limited so call 904-966-6299 today and learn how you can become a Bradford County Master Gardener

An Equal Opportunity Institution