



THE SEMINOLE

GREEN TUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



Creating an Edible Landscape

Have you ever marveled at the beauty of a well-tended vegetable garden. Fennel fronds gracefully swaying in the breeze, sweet potato vines rambling to and fro, and collards standing stately and proud. Garden vegetables rival the beauty of any ornamental landscaping plant. So why shouldn't we use more vegetables and edibles in our landscape? The design principles for edible ornamentals are basically the same as those for strictly ornamental landscapes. However there are a few points to remember when introducing edibles into your landscape. Don't forget the principle of right plant, right place

Edibles come and go with the seasons, so basic plants of your landscape should remain green year round, such as evergreen ornamentals. With this backdrop of green a colorful combination of plants, trees, flowers, herbs and vegetables create a varied and interesting yard. Start small and simple. Begin with one experimental garden and take risks.

Introduce aesthetically appealing support structures, such as trellises, arbors, pergolas, teepees and espaliers. When covered with healthy edibles, these structures can become artistic sculptures.

Introduce containers to provide color and textures. Unusual planters can set a theme for a garden.

Garden walls, edging, wattle, borders, curbing and raised planters keep the garden neat and organized. Connect the planted areas with winding paths. One can use brick, pavers, gravel, mulch or stones for pathways. Pathways also allow easy gardening access.

Employ a variety of colors, texture, form and size. You can create a color theme or a concept theme, such as a sensory garden, a tropical garden, or cottage garden.

Use gardening and growing techniques to create an interesting garden. Shade houses, green houses and living walls enhance an artful landscape.

Select plants that you want to eat. Including fruit trees, berry bushes, herbs, lemongrass and edible flowers. Don't get rid of plants too quickly. Let the plants go to seed. Some can serve as an ornamental long after it is edible. Dill and chives have beautiful flowers.

When planning, consider the layout and capacity of your existing irrigation system. Edibles need water to become established.

Have Fun! Rosiland Creasy popularized the concept of landscaping with edibles more than a quarter century ago. The latest edition of her classic book, Edible Landscaping, Now You Can Have A Gorgeous Garden and Eat It Too, is both educational and inspirational.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> reference # ENH971 (type in search bar)

FALL 2014

Inside this issue:

Creating an Edible Landscape	1
Get The Dirt	2
FYN & Pollinators	3
"Ask A Master Gardener"	4
Teaching Garden News	5
Pest Alert: Rose Rosette Virus	5
Events	6

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HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Gabrielle Milch

pH Soil Testing Test performed Thursday
Results in 1-2 weeks by phone
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon. - Fri. 8:00am - 4:00pm

Got a disease? Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - noon
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Bring in a sample Free service

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - noon
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free publications on many lawn & garden topics

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Get The Dirt - Changing pH

Using healthy soils for gardening is very important. There are several things you need to consider when getting ready to plant in your yard. The soil composition, water holding capacity and pH are all important factors. Soil pH can vary in different parts of your yard. For best growth and performance, always choose landscape plants suited for the natural pH of your soil. While there are additives that can raise or lower the pH of soils, the effects of these materials are often short-lived. Adding composted materials to your soils over time will help build your soils and added lime or sulfur may not be required.

However, if you are determined to change your soil's natural pH to grow a specific plant, you have the two following options.

1. Raising the pH of Acidic Soils

To raise the pH of acidic soils, add a liming material like calcium carbonate or dolomite. Dolomite has the added benefit of supplying magnesium, which is often deficient in Florida soils. The primary reasons for liming acidic soils are to increase crop yield and to enhance fertilizer efficiency. Lime also effects the solubility of other elements; therefore, some plant nutrients are made more available by liming, while toxicities caused by excessive concentrations of other plant nutrients are reduced. In addition to neutralizing soil acidity, calcitic limestone supplies the plant nutrient calcium, and dolomitic limestone supplies both calcium and magnesium. While a correct liming program is beneficial for plant growth, excessive liming can be detrimental. Deficiencies and imbalances of certain plant nutrients may result from excessive lime application.

To obtain maximum benefit from liming and to determine the type and quality of lime to apply, soil and plant factors must be taken into account. The first step is to properly collect a soil sample from the area to be limed. Samples are normally taken to a depth of 4-6 inches. You can bring your soil sample to the Seminole County Extension Center located at 250 W. County Home Rd.

Sanford, Fl., or call 407-665-5550 for information.

Soil Testing	Test performed Thursday
	Results in 1-2 weeks by phone
	Fee \$2.00 per sample
	Samples accepted Mon. - Fri. 8:00am.- 4:00pm

Lime should be incorporated into the soil whenever possible since lime reacts with soil. However, it has little immediate effect on the soil pH below the top inch or so. Therefore, lime should be applied and incorporated 3-6 months prior to planting. The frequency of lime application will depend on many factors, including fertilization program, soil type and crop. Typically, lime application should seldom be more frequent than every 3 years, with the exception of intensive hay fields that receive high ammonium-nitrogen fertilizer application rates.

If the soil is at or above the target pH, soil calcium in the soil should be sufficient for optimum plant growth. If the soil pH needs to be increased and level of magnesium is low, liming with dolomitic limestone is a relatively inexpensive method for adjusting pH and supplying magnesium. Magnesium can be added to the fertilizer.

2. Lowering the pH of Alkaline Soils

Lowering the pH of strongly alkaline soils is much more difficult. In fact, there is no way to permanently lower alkaline construction materials. Under these circumstances, it is best to select plants which are tolerant of high-pH conditions to avoid continuing plant nutritional problems. Soil pH can be temporarily lowered by adding elemental sulfur. Bacteria in the soil act to change elemental sulfur into sulfuric acid, effectively neutralizing soil alkalinity. However, the effects of elemental sulfur are localized to the area that was amended, and the effect is temporary. Soil pH will begin to rise shortly after soil bacteria exhaust the added sulfur supply. This effect will require repeated applications of sulfur to ensure the soil remains at the desired pH. If too much sulfur is added, or if it is added too frequently, it can actually injure or kill your plants. Therefore, it is important to never apply sulfur in excess of 5 to 10 pounds of sulfur per 1000ft² per application. If you decide to apply sulfur, make sure to monitor your plants. UF-IFAS typically do not recommend adding sulfur.



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently | 7. Recycle |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff |
| 4. Mulch | 9. Protect the Waterfront |
| 5. Attract Wildlife | |

Dry Out Mosquitoes

Do you really need convincing about reducing mosquitoes around your home? If so, here are three reasons: we can (1) reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases, (2) decrease pesticide use and (3) spend less local government funds on area-wide control. And let's not forget fewer mosquitoes, less bites!

There are about 3,500 species of mosquitoes in world, with 80 species occurring in Florida -only some of which feed on humans and carrying disease. As far as the biting and blood-sucking goes, adult females need that extra blood boost for their developing eggs. These females are attracted to the carbon dioxide that humans exhale! They also like moist, shady, and protected areas to rest. Their eggs must be laid in the water: permanent water, floodwater or container water. The eggs will hatch, live aquatically during the larvae and pupae stages then take flight as adults.

Source reduction, i.e. eliminating the water in which to lay eggs, will go a long way in reducing mosquito populations around the home. Water holding containers, such as rain barrels, should have a screen or lid to prevent mosquitoes from reaching the water. Flush out bird baths and bromeliad plants every three to four days. Repair torn windows and door screens. Also fans can keep mosquitoes away since they're weak flyers.

Remember fish, copepods (small crustaceans), dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, birds and bats will eat mosquitoes during their different life stages. If you have a permanent pond perhaps add mosquito eating fish (topminnows, sunfish). If you have standing water that cannot be drained, adding Bti, (Mosquito dunks) a type of bacteria, specifically kills mosquito larvae, midges and blackflies. Interestingly, genetically engineered mosquitoes are now being researched, which could pass genes that either prevent disease transmission or reduce the mosquito population.

For more information, pick up our newest "Florida Resident's Guide to Mosquito Control" free from the Seminole Extension Office.

To schedule a FFL program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Taryn Sudol FFL coordinator, at 407-665-5575 tsudol@seminolecountyfl.gov or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. Check www.FloridaYards.org



“Ask A Master Gardener”

407-665-5550

Central Florida Trees

- ◆ *Acer Bueterianum*
'Streetwise' (Trident Maple)
- ◆ *Callistemon citrinus*
(Red Bottlebrush)
- ◆ *Comus foemina*
(Swamp Dogwood)
- ◆ *Elaeocarpus decipens*
(Japanese Blueberry)
- ◆ *Eriobotrya japonica*
(Loquat)
- ◆ *Feijoa sellowiana*
(Pineapple Guava)
- ◆ *Ilex x attenuata*
'Savannah' (Savannah Holly)
- ◆ *Ilex cassine*
(Dahoon Holly)
- ◆ *Ilex mytifolia*
(Myrtle Holly)
- ◆ *Juniperus chinensis*
'Spartan' (Spartan Juniper)
- ◆ *Lagerstroemia indica*
(crape myrtle)
- ◆ *Ligustrum japonicum*
(Ligustrum)
- ◆ *Loropetalum chinensis*
"Zhuzhou" (Loropetalum)
- ◆ *Mycianthes fragrans*
(Simpson's Stopper)
- ◆ *Myrica cerifera*
(Southern Wax myrtle)
- ◆ *Osmanthus americanus*
(Devilwood)
- ◆ *Osmanthus fragrans*
(Sweet Olive)
- ◆ *Pinus glabra*
(Spruce Pine)
- ◆ *Planera aquatica*
(Water Elm)
- ◆ *Podocarpus macrophyllus*
(Podocarpus)
- ◆ *Prunus angustifolia*
(Chickasaw Plum)
- ◆ *Prunus caroliniana*
(Cherry Laurel)
- ◆ *Tabebuia umbrellata*
(Yellow Trumpet Tree)
- ◆ *Viburnum obovatum*
(Walters Viburnum)

In botany, a tree is a perennial plant with an elongated stem, or trunk, supporting branches and leaves in most species.

Q. The tree in my yard is looking poorly. I have many bare spots and dead branches. What should I do?

A. Trees are important landscape components of your yard. They are long term investments and provide much beauty and function in your yard. We often get questions from the public regarding the health of peoples trees. Making a diagnosis of a tree problem is not an easy task. Many trees suffer from multiple issues. There are biotic and abiotic disorders.

The most common issue starts when the tree is first planted. Many trees are planted too deeply and after many years of development can fail for multiple issues. Most upland trees roots need oxygen exchange and the ideal planting allows for the root flare to be just above the land surface. Encircling roots is a problem that can cause the tree to grow irregularly and eventually shorten a trees life. The encircling roots are caused by the tree being in the growing pot for too long and not being trimmed properly before planting. Root issues often appear in the crown of the tree and the braches start shutting down and dying back. Compacted soils and root impacts can also cause the decline in health of your trees.

Improper pruning is another issue that can cause problems in your trees. If you top a tree and remove the apical buds, the lateral buds beginning to grow new shoots. This can cause improper growth and balance. Also, physical and mechanical injuries have a great impact on the trees health. The use of string trimmers to edge the tall grass at the base of the tree can cause decline and contribute to the death of a tree. Weather related issues such as flooding, droughts, and extreme temperatures cause decline in trees.

Check for pest infestations. Insects are not always the cause of problems with trees but can certainly impact them. Some insects, "depending on the variety of trees," can be devastating and cause serious decline and death. There are many tree diseases that can also contribute to poor health. Rusts, fungi, parasitic plant and insect infestations are all impactful of trees.

Old age and the urban environment are all complications in a trees health. If you have more questions you can bring in a sample to our Help Desk or contact a certified Arborist.

Unfortunately we cannot make house calls. Good luck growing.





The Teaching Gardens Of Seminole County

To educate and encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open
to

the public
during regular
business hours.

For more
information,
to request a
speaker, or
arrange group
visits, contact
the garden
coordinator.

Public History Center • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

One of the most recent innovations in public education is gaining momentum at the University of Central Florida's Public History Center (UCF PHC) in Sanford. What better way to help students learn and experience history than to immerse them in a historically significant building? In 2012, the PHC was established in one of the oldest continuously occupied school buildings in Florida. The building has been the setting of many educational endeavors since it was built in 1902.

The building's maintenance challenges associated with graceful aging are far outweighed by its rich and continuous history of community service by professionals, volunteers and a small team of Seminole County Master Gardeners. established in 1998 A rich heritage of community service at this location has been established, both inside and outside the building. That spirit of community service is an important aspect of history that will be passed along to students of history, both young and old. This site has a history of demonstrating adaptability and perseverance through multiple significant mission changes, which are good traits to pass along to people of all walks of life, whether gardeners, docents or history students.

To contact the PHC call 407-936-1679 email: publichistorycenter@ucf.edu.

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO

Saturday, November 1, 2014 at Seminole County Extension Center

9am to 3 pm 250 W. County Home Rd., Sanford 407-665-5550

This year our guest speakers will be Tom Maccubbin and Robert Bowden.

Our mini talk will be presented by our plant vendor. We will have a new area for

Kids ages 5-12. Our demonstration garden will be an organic vegetable garden

Come out and have some fun!!

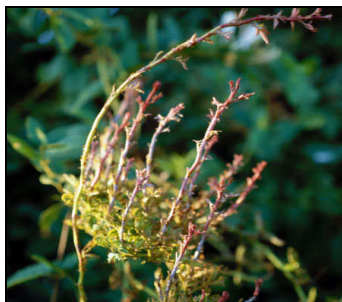
For more info go to gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov



PEST ALERT: Rose Rosette Virus (RRV)

Even the seemingly invincible Knock Out roses, with their reputation for superior pest and disease resistance, have succumbed to a virus known as rose rosette disease. And while Knock Out roses are its most famous victims, the disease is a threat to all commercial hybrid roses, including favorites such as hybrid tea roses, floribundas, grandifloras and old-fashioned varieties. The cause is a microscopic mite that goes by the name of *Phyllocoptes Fructiphilus*. While wingless, they spread from rose to rose on puffs of wind and transmit RRV to other roses when it feeds on them. These mites are very small, about ¼ the size of spider mites, and cannot be seen with the naked eye. Severe thorn proliferation and rapid elongation of branches are characteristic to RRV. Multiple stems also may be produced at the ends of branches with small twisted leaves, resulting in a "witches' broom" appearance. Other symptoms include unusual reddening of the leaves that persists even with age, unusual leaf shape, leaves developing from flower bud tissue, dying branches, and severe yellowing and stunting of the plant. Plants infected with RRV usually die within one to two years. Routine scouting and early identification are key. There is no cure for RRV, however, if symptoms are caught early, pruning affected canes down to the ground and destroying them can stop the spread and allow the unaffected portions of the plant to recover. Homeowners and landscapers can reduce their risk by pruning and disposing of old growth on their roses in late winter. This will help to remove any overwintering mites. This is recommended only for homeowners and landscapers. Growers should destroy any symptomatic plants. If a heavily infected shrub is found in the landscape, it should be removed

and destroyed. When removing roses, be sure to remove the entire root structure. While the virus does not appear to persist in the soil, it can survive root tissue. Provided all roots are removed, it is okay to replant roses at the site.



Witches broom



Excessive thorn formation



Irregular reddening of leaf



Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

— — — — —
Your Community Resource For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information
— — — — —

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
extensionservices](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionservices)

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UF IFAS Extension
Seminole County Residential

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB Free quarterly Newsletter

To receive by email

gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov

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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

Did you know.....

You can send an insect to the University of Florida to be identified for \$8.00. Forms are online @ edus.ifas type in search box RFSR010.

Did you know....

You can send soil samples to the University of Florida for a more extensive report for \$7.00.- \$10.00. Forms are online @ edus.ifas type in search box soil testing.

EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

October 8 , 2014
6:30pm-8:30pm

For The Birds

FREE!!!

Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
407-665-5575

fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

October 23, 2014
6:30pm-8:30pm

Landscape Design

FREE!!!!

Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575

fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

October 25, 2014
10:00am-2:00pm

Pumpkin School

Public History Center

301 W. 7th St. Downtown Sanford
Pre-Regist \$25 adults /\$15 children
crafts, scavenger hunt, activities
For Questions 407-936-1679

publichistorycenter@ucf.edu

November 1, 2014
9:00am-4:00pm

Seminole County Gardening EXPO
FREE !!!!!

Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Expert Speakers & Demonstrations
Educational Exhibits,
Plants & Horticulture items for sale

gmlch@seminolecountyfl.gov

November 8, 2014
9:30am-11:30am

Florida-Friendly Ways to Save Water
FREE!!!

Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575

fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

December 13, 2014
9:30am-11:30am

Composting & Mulching

FREE !!!!!

Seminole Extension Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575

fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

