



- Table of Contents: To go directly to a page, scroll over subject line, hold down the Ctrl key and click the mouse or press "Enter."
- To return to the Table of Contents: scroll over Return to "Table of Contents" and click the mouse or press "Enter."
- If a link to a website link will not work for you, copy and paste it into your browser.

Contents

Planting Calendar	2
Central Florida Gardening Calendar.....	2
April	2
May	2
June.....	2
Ball moss, Spanish moss and Lichens	3
Are they safe?.....	3
Plant of the Month	4
Zephyranthes spp.	4
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program	5
Wild Babies	5
Beware of momma -	5
Do not feed	5
Assess the distress	5
Fun Quiz	5
HORTICULTURAL SERVICES	6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR	8
COMMERCIAL	8
FARM TOUR RESULTS	8
Sold out!.....	8
Expo – the exciting results	9



Planting Calendar

Central Florida Gardening Calendar

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

Vegetable gardening offers fresh air, sunshine, exercise, enjoyment, mental therapy, nutritious fresh vegetables, and economic savings, as well as many other benefits.

April

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02100.pdf>

New varieties of **coleus** do well in sun or shade and provide vivid colors and patterns for months.



<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG31900.pdf>

DAYLILIES: Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daylily will insure months of color from these low maintenance plants.

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP00600.pdf>

Herbs: Add **nasturtiums** to your herb garden. Also

known as Indian cress, Mexican cress, and Peruvian cress. The leaves are peppery flavored like watercress and are used in salads and as a garnish.

Likewise, use the colorful flowers for the same purposes. The

green pods are made into pickles, which are equal to or superior to pickled capers. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mv099>



<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MV/MV09900.pdf>

Vegetables: Continue planting warm season crops such as bean, cantaloupe, and okra. Mulch well to prevent weeds, and provide water if the weather has been dry.

May

Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, torenia, wax begonia, coleus, and ornamental pepper.

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, **Aztec**, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming.

Herbs: Plant heat loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary.

Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are **okra**, southern pea, and sweet potato.



June

Annuals: Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus.

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms.

Herbs: Plant heat loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary.

Vegetables: Vegetables to plant now are **Okra**,

southern pea, calabaza, **Malabar spinach**, and sweet potato.



For complete information on vegetables, turf and flowering planting times and care, go to the Central Florida (yearly) Planting Calendar:

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Ball moss, Spanish moss and Lichens

Are they safe?

Ball Moss (*Tillandsia recurvata*), Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) and Lichens are **Epiphytes** or “air” plants that survive on moisture and nutrients in the atmosphere. They are closely related to the pineapple which is in the Bromeliad family. Also in this category is the unique Resurrection Fern. Some other common native bromeliads include the round Ball Moss and Orchids.

Without soil as a source of nutrients, epiphytic plants have evolved the capacity to obtain minerals dissolved in water that flows across leaves and down branches.

All these plants are **epiphytic**, which means they grow or can grow on other plants. Although epiphytes may attach simple root structures to their host plant, they do not parasitize or kill the host plant; they simply use it for support.

They are often referred to as air plants because most have aerial roots; however, Spanish moss does not have any



It uses its long, thin, scaly stems to wrap around the host tree and hang down from the branches. The leaves are covered with cup-like, permeable scales that 'catch' moisture and nutrients from the air and from pockets on the surface of the host.

Many animals use Spanish moss for protection, taking cover in thick masses of pendant strands.

A number of insects and other invertebrates hide and breed in Spanish moss and various bromeliads. Zebra Longwing butterflies communally roost in Spanish moss. Entire ecosystems in miniature including frogs, lizards and other vertebrates may be present in some large bromeliads. Spanish moss is also a significant component of the nests of several species of birds.



Another misconception about Spanish moss is that it harbors a biting insect commonly called a chigger or

redbug. The natural habitat of these creatures is mostly damp, low areas with heavy natural vegetation. Fallen moss—and any plant material on or near the ground—may contain chiggers, but moss in trees hanging above the ground rarely harbors them.

Homeowners should consider the ecological benefits of Spanish moss and the other epiphytes and let the plants grow unless heavy infestation is endangering the health of the tree **through reduced light**. In such cases, hand removal is possible on small trees by standing on a ladder or using a pole. Use caution, as tearing out of firmly attached clumps may damage tree twigs, opening the way for secondary infection in the tree by fungi or insects.

Ball moss can survive on utility lines, fences, rocks, and other non-plant substrates proving that this plant is not parasitic. Uses for these are in rock gardens and home decorating.



Lichens

As with Spanish moss and ball moss, lichens are often blamed for the decline and death of shrubs and trees. And, as with Spanish moss and ball moss, although lichens are frequently seen growing on the bark of plants, they do not cause harm.

Lichens are interesting organisms consisting of a fungus and an alga growing together in a mutually beneficial relationship. The fungus obtains water and minerals from the air and the material it is growing upon and provides structure and protection for the alga. The alga provides carbohydrates and vitamins the fungus needs to grow. This is a symbiotic relationship.

The basic gardener's rule: Ask or research before acting. A few of these plants in your landscape creates diversity and the real “Florida” appeal.

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP48500.pdf>



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Plant of the Month

RAIN LILY

Zephyranthes spp.

Florida Native

Perennial

Full Sun/ Light Shade

These dainty, funnel-shaped blooms pop up seemingly overnight after a heavy rain when grown in the wild, appearing in various shades of white, yellow, pink, rose, red, or orange. AKA: "zephyr lilies" or "fairy lilies." One of the many benefits of living in Central Florida is that the rain lilies grow very well.

Rain lilies are petite, so while they won't be the flashiest bloomers in the garden, they do naturalize well. They weave in and around your established plants beautifully, filling in a bare spot here and a hole there. Rain lilies produce colorful starry flowers late in the summer and into early fall; especially welcome then, as many other plants are looking a bit tired. And they ask for very little in return.

The narrow, grass like foliage blends in well in rock gardens and borders. Of course, remembering them would be helpful in protecting them from other cultivation in the same area.

They look great tucked into the front of a border planted along a pathway or added to a rock garden. They're also excellent for inter-planting with groundcovers, such as lilyturf (*Liriope* sp.) since they pop up, bloom and before long, disappear. Rain lilies add a surprising burst of color when they bloom. Grow them in generous groupings for a splendid show.

Rain lilies also adapt readily to life in pots-an easy way to enjoy them anywhere: another place for inter-planting.



References: Plant factsheet

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FP/FP62100.pdf>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Taryn Sudol
FYN Extension Agent
UF-IFAS Extension at Seminole County
407-665-5575
tsudol@seminolecountyfl.gov
www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program

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

Wild Babies

Spring and the onset of summer means babies! Pups, cubs, hatchlings, ducklings, cygnets, colts! While tremendously cute and fuzzy, these newborn critters also come with defensive parents or run into danger situations. Our chances of encountering wildlife increases which means we have to be smart about our interactions.

Beware of momma - An angry bear, coyote, alligator, or even angry blue jay ready to protect their young... need I go on? We don't want to be in an unlucky situation where a mother feels like you are an immediate threat to her young. A mother isn't necessarily more aggressive but she is active and defensive. Be aware of your surroundings. Consider if a dog walk would be particularly risky. Make your presence known (talk; jingle your keys, etc.). Give any animal a wide berth so they have ample room to flee.

Do not feed - This is an all-around, universal rule. Do not feed *wildlife*. Most wildlife-human conflict originate because someone began feeding the animal. Their fear declines and their boldness increases. That's not to say the plants in your yard shouldn't provide food; berries, acorns, nuts, seeds, and foliage all provide necessary nutrition depending on the species, but this is a natural source of nourishment and not something they'd associate with humans.

Assess the distress - You may find a young creature that appears orphaned or abandoned. **Bringing the animal into your home to care for it may be the worst thing you could do.** While your TLC intentions may be honorable, you cannot match the care the parent will

provide. In most cases, the animal's parents are nearby and are waiting for you to leave the area. If the animal you see can fly, run or defend itself, it probably does not need help.

Remember: **do not try to give the animal any food or water** since some animals have specialized diets. If it has signs of sickness or injury call the humane society, our Extension office, the county's animal services or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. We can all refer you to a wildlife rehabilitator. This profession can assess the situation further. Check on it every couple hours.

Enjoying Florida wildlife is a privilege. Taking these precautions will help ensure it continues for many years to come.

Fun Quiz

Can you match the wildlife species with the name of its young?	
1. Alligator	A. Colt
2. Bear	B. Cub
3. Coyote	C. Cygnet
4. Mourning dove	D. Hatchling
5. Opossum	E. Joey
6. Sandhill crane	F. Pup
7. Swan	G. Squab

Answers: 1. D, 2. B, 3. F, 4. G, 5. E, 6. A, 7. C

Seminole County Animal Services	407-665-5201
Seminole County Extension	407-665-5550
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission	352-732-1225
Wildlife Rescue/Back to Nature	407-568-5138

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

Working for you and with you

Soil Testing

The University of Florida recommends that you test your soil every season in order to maintain optimal results.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss494>

The Master Gardener Help Desk will test the pH of your soil in the office: \$2.00 per sample.

Call for instructions or request a copy of the brochure that fully explains the proper way to collect samples: 407-665-5550.

For a more comprehensive soil test, the Help Desk personnel will provide you with the requirements and cost to send your sample(s) to the University of Florida.

Weekdays: 9 am – 12 pm AND 1 pm – 4 pm
407-665-5550

Master Gardener Help Desk

An experienced Master Gardener will help solve garden problems through discussion, knowledge and computer research.

Other services include, but are not limited to:

- Plant Problems: bring us a sample of your plant, including the flower and the pest.
- Plant identification and care
- Irrigation questions and solutions
- Bug and treatment identification
- The Help Desk has a wide range of FREE printed copies of University of Florida IFAS publications. Come on in and browse the collection.

PLEASE NOTE:

At this time, we are not equipped to send pictures nor perform house calls.

Classes

The Extension Service continually offers specific classes relevant to the season and needs of the community. Class offerings include:

- Vegetable Gardening
- Micro Irrigation
- Rain Barrels
- Hydroponics
- Organic Gardening
- Container Gardening
- Butterfly Gardening
- Vermiculture (Worm Humus) Farming

School Gardening

The Master Gardeners have launched an extensive on-site interactive school gardening program. Currently, the gardeners are concentrating working with the students at Goldsboro Elementary School. Other schools planned for 2016. For more information: G. Milch: 407-665-5558.

Master Gardener Expo

Held in the Spring of each year. Includes local horticulture vendors and craftsmen; food; popular gardening speakers; demonstrations; children's section, etc. Great fun!

See pictures from March 5, 2016 click here: [Expo – the exciting results](#)

Plant Sale

This is an event that residents look forward to each year! This event offers beautiful locally grown plants and generous donations from local nurseries. Traditionally held at the Seminole County Extension Service Complex.



Seminole County Garden Walk

This is a neat opportunity to visit extraordinary private gardens throughout the county. Residents open their gardens to the public for a day. A printed guidebook includes a map of the location of each garden. You choose which gardens you want to see. A Master Gardener stationed at each garden will answer any questions you may have.

Theme & Demonstration Gardens

- ❖ **Micro Irrigation:** The Florida Friendly Landscaping Florida Native Plant garden, Butterfly garden and the vegetable garden at the Seminole County Extension.
- ❖ **Butterfly Garden** at the Seminole County Extension complex: This garden includes a small pond and ground bee houses.

"Ask a Master Gardener" booth at special events

You will often find this service at local municipal events such as May Day; Arbor Day; Plant Sales; Expos/community celebrations, etc.

If your community or business would like to have an "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at your event, contact the extension.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Your community resource for gardening and landscaping information

Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

250 W. County Home Road

Sanford, FL 32773

407-665-5550

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionservices

*Located at the intersection of Hwy. 17-92
and County Home Road*

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free Quarterly Newsletter

*To receive or cancel e-news, or to receive printed
copies, contact:*

mastergardener@seminolecountyfl.gov

Contributors:

Taryn Sudol

Mary Allen

Useful websites

University of Florida IFAS-Extension

<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>

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

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.com>

To view the complete Monthly Planting Calendar
online:

[Florida Gardening Calendar - UF/IFAS](#)

[Extension: Solutions for Your Life](#)

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE,
HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS,
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND BOARDS OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

WATERING SCHEDULE

Restrictions and Tips

EFFECTIVE --- March 13, 2016 through November 5, 2016. THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE MANDATORY IN SEMINOLE COUNTY AND INCLUDE THOSE ON PRIVATE WELLS OR LAKES, ETC. THESE RESTRICTIONS apply to everyone in Seminole County who uses water for lawn and landscape irrigation, regardless of whether the water comes from a private well, surface water or a water supply utility. NO WATERING BETWEEN 10 a.m. TO 4 p.m.. ANY DAY

Residential customers with odd-street addresses water on Wednesday and Saturday

Residential customers with even street addresses water on Thursday and Sunday

Non-Residential customers (business, schools, churches, recreational facilities, etc.) water on Tuesday and Friday

Reclaimed water customers may water two times a week according to your address year round (Follow the odd, even schedule for Daylight Saving Time) These restrictions are mandatory in Seminole County and include those on private wells or lakes, etc.

NO WATERING BETWEEN 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. ANY DAY

**THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE MANDATORY IN SEMINOLE COUNTY
AND INCLUDE THOSE ON PRIVATE WELLS OR LAKES, ETC.**

If you see Watering Violations, report them!

- Watering is allowed at any time with a hand-held hose provided it is fitted with an automatic shutoff nozzle. This applies to all sources of irrigation water.
- **Personal vehicle washing** allowed only if you use a hand-held hose fitted with an automatic shutoff nozzle.



Stop landscape runoff before it reaches the storm drains.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Classes, Community Events and CEU courses

<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/extension-services/>

COMMERCIAL

The Seminole County Commercial Horticulture/Agriculture program provides education and training based on the latest research from the University of Florida.

CEU classes

<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/extension-services/commercial-resources/>

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/education/index.shtml>

Training & CEUs

Many training programs, certification opportunities, and continuing education units (CEUs) are available through Extension, often in conjunction with FDACS and the USDA. Get information about the courses and materials offered for professionals in Florida's agriculture, building construction, childcare, nutrition, horticulture, and pest control industries.

Agricultural Production

Building Construction & Development

Child Care

Food & Nutrition

Horticultural Production

Pest Control & Pesticide Licensing

Short Courses

More online interactive training modules and videos are available (for free or for sale) through Extension Continuing Education Solutions.

- For information about training programs available for gardeners, naturalists, and beekeepers, see Nonprofessional Programs. <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/education/nonprofessional.shtml>
- For personal assistance or information about the Extension services and courses offered in your area, contact your county Extension office. 407-665-5560
- For information on college-credit courses, certificates and degrees at either the undergraduate or graduate level offered by University of Florida see Distance Learning: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/>

FARM TOUR RESULTS

Sold out!

A fine idea that linked the farms to the community: literally from table to farm. So popular that there had to be some parameters in order to "save the farm." Everyone benefitted from the opportunity and the restrictions. We just need more farms. If you know of any small farms who might be interested in discussion or participation in new ventures, contact Seminole County Extension Service: Hanna Wooten, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems 407-665-5554.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

EXPO - the exciting results



A huge THANK YOU to the staff, committees, Seminole County Services, Vendors, Speakers AND THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA for a very successful event.



[Return to Table of Contents](#)