



The Green Gazette

The Collier County Master Gardener Newsletter
Volume 1 Issue 3 October 2010

Coordinator's Corner

By Cathy Feser, Urban Horticulture

Welcome... 'Tis the 'season', and with its rapid approach, the Collier County Master Gardeners are gearing up to full throttle. We have the annual **Yard & Garden Show the last weekend in October**, and this year several new local vendors will be joining us. Be sure to see the article by Jo-Anne Lewis, this year's committee Chair, highlighting this event. The Educational Garden Workshop Series committee, led by Kris Morton, has also been busy preparing for the annual January event. Stay tuned for details in our December/January edition.

This edition of the Green Gazette contains a wide variety of information, not the least is the emphasis on edible plant materials for your garden. Betzy Hussmann has officially joined the Newsletter committee, and has taken on the task of translating articles into Spanish and German, particularly those relating to providing food for the table. Her efforts are applauded, as in these difficult economic times, it is important and pertinent information for all. And thanks to Leah Ray, we are proud to present a new feature, 'The Frugal Gardener', which focuses on new uses for old items, and timely tips for stretching that dollar. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Green Gazette, and kudos to all Master Gardeners who continue to contribute to the information and education we strive to provide. Keep those great ideas coming!

The Frugal Gardener

By Leah Ray

Frugal gardening sounds redundant. Gardening is cheap by nature, right? You put things in the ground, and they grow! But it can get expensive if you're not careful. Gardening is increasingly becoming something you *buy*, rather than something you *do*. But there is nothing more satisfying than being able to say, "I grew that, or I made that." The bonus is that instead of that impersonal, straight-down-the-middle, vanilla box store item, you end up with something unique that shows your creativity. So here are a few ways that I conserve my garden time, effort, and money.

Gardener's Tool Belt Some people like to purchase or make fancy carriers for their tools. I prefer to spend a mere 77¢ on a canvas apron from Home Depot to carry all my pruners, twine, seeds, etc.

Creative Containers If it holds soil and has drainage, which sometimes means drilling holes in the bottom, it's a container. Decorate large one gallon cans from school cafeterias. And those plastic coffee cans are great too.

More tips on page 2

Visit the Yard & Garden Show October 30-31

By Jo-Anne Lewis

Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday, October 30 and 31, 2010 when the Master Gardeners of Collier County host the annual Yard & Garden Show. There will be a fine array of vendors offering a variety of plants, garden items and gardening advice. Bring



your questions to the Master Gardeners' Ask Me booth and take advantage of our demos on orchid repotting and butterfly plants. As in the past, educational speakers will make presentations on Right Plant, Right

Place, Coastal Ecology, Bromeliads, and Living Walls to name just a few, and all for a \$3.00 admission charge. Your ticket for admission will be entered in our drawings for donated plants throughout Saturday and Sunday. You could walk away with a free plant just for attending the show!

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Yard & Garden Show October 30-31

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On Saturday 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM, and Sunday 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM, you can enjoy a day outside with nature abounding. Our vendors come from all over the state of Florida with a large selection of standby favorites and new plantings for your yards and gardens. We will have orchids, bromeliads, palms, butterfly plants, garden novelties and other assorted plants. You will find something old, something new and something in every rainbow color for your yard and garden. When you're hungry, you can count on refreshments from our food vendors. Lunch selections are plentiful, so bring your family, and enjoy the day with us at the Collier County Extension, 14700 Immokalee Rd.



The Frugal Gardener

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Bouquets vs. Orchids Grocery or florist bouquets are \$ 10-15 and last a week. An orchid in your house can bloom for months. It's the bargain.

Pretty Pineapples I call ahead, and Whole Foods will save pineapple tops for me. With an 80% survival rate, you'll soon have ornamental foliage, delicious pineapples, and new plants to share.

Sod Squares Instead of plugs, buy sod squares and cut your own plugs with a sharp shovel or a machete.

Free Vegetable Seeds My mom used to order extra tomatoes in her salad in restaurants if they were especially tasty, just to save the seeds. She did this with everything from cucumbers to watermelon.

Kitchen Scraps Don't give your good compost material to the garbage truck. Get, or better yet, make a compost bin. **See the page 4 article for composting tips.** Set it up in a sunny spot, never add meat or dairy items, and 'turn it' into a rich soil enhancer.

Home Yard Waste Add your cut yard waste to that compost pile. It breaks down quickly in this hot humid climate.

Trash into treasure Discarded items can be recycled. From a few box store 'unsuitable & reduced priced' pressure-treated 4x4 posts and my neighbor's old, discarded bread rack shelf, I have high hopes for my new vine covered arbor.



Top Zone10 Performer

By Faye Hunt

Depending on soil, light levels and variety, the Copperleaf Plant *Acalypha wilkesiana* displays



colors from copper and crimson to sunset pinks, chocolates, and the coral tones of tropical reefs.

In strong sun and average-to-rich soil, the 'Macafeeana' variety produces hot, saturated colors, but pales to soft, simmering pastels in shady spots. The 'Cypress' variety looks like it stuck its fork in an electric socket and exploded. Ruddy chocolate leaves edged in coral pink are five inches long and only a half-inch wide. And a third variety 'Oobovata' sports milk chocolate leaves trimmed in coral tones on its downward-dangling leaves.

All Copperleaf varieties are hardy to zone 11, and need strong sunlight and ample water to look their best, but when planted in mass, this shrub is a real head turner. For more information, see UF articles [FPS6 Acalypha wilkesiana](#) or [Dr. Doug Caldwell's Copperleaf article](#), or view several Copperleaf varieties in the Collier County Extension Office horticultural gardens.



We'd love to hear (and publish) YOUR nifty, thrifty tips! Email them to the Frugal Gardener at CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu



SW Florida Yard and Garden Show

WHEN: Saturday, October 30 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, October 31 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: Collier County University Extension Office
14700 Immokalee Road Naples, FL
(10 miles East of I-75)

ADULTS: \$3.00 **CHILDREN under 12:** FREE

Vendors from around the state offering

**ORCHIDS! TROPICALS! HERBS! PALMS!
NATIVE PLANTS! BROMELIADS! POTTERY!
And much more...**

Educational Programs and Demonstrations both days!

Presented by: Collier County University Extension

**Call 239-353-4244
For more information.**

The Green Gazette

Vegetable Planting Season is Open!

By Mary Jane Cary, with *Spanish Edition* by Betzy Hussmann

One of the delightful surprises of living in South Florida is our ability to grow our own fresh produce almost year round. Abundant sunshine and pleasantly warm temperatures from fall through spring call us outdoors to plant, harvest and enjoy months of fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs. But gardening, like many endeavors, requires some effort in the beginning before we can reap the rewards. Fortunately, by adopting a few time-tested methods recommended by the University of Florida Extension Service, we can be virtually assured of bountiful harvests for family and friends while minimizing our time, effort and expense.



For example, whether you are just now beginning a new garden, or replanting an existing site, add organic matter as you work the soil into a smooth, firm planting surface. Organic materials such as animal manures, cover crops, rotted leaves, or compost improve the soil's ability to hold nutrients and water, two key ingredients for healthy plants. The [UF article CIR375 Organic Vegetable Gardening](#) explains each of these organic materials and how much and when to apply.



Compost bears further mention as a very inexpensive and environmentally friendly product you can create using leaves, grass clippings, shredded newspapers, kitchen scraps and other materials. Plus compost can be used in several ways; as a soil amendment, mulch, mixed with coarse sand or other materials to create potting soil, or brewed with water to create a weak, liquid fertilizer for plants. For more information about creating and using compost, see [UF article ENH1065 Compost Tips for the Home Gardener](#) and visit [Florida's Online Composting Center](#).

But once the soil preparation is complete, we can expect greater harvests for far less effort by following the recommendations provided in [UF article SP103 Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#). Why? UF researchers have discovered that vegetables planted "out of season" here are susceptible to many more pests. So this guide identifies for us the optimum planting dates for most vegetables, AND suggests specific varieties that perform best here! For example, the optimum planting dates for tomatoes began in August and continues through March, with suggested varieties for seven large fruit, 6 small fruit, and 6 heirloom fruit varieties. October signals the beginning of planting season for beets, carrots, radishes, spinach, and strawberries, while planting seasons for other vegetables are already open.

And whether you choose to plant seeds or transplants, in the ground, raised beds, or in containers, this guide provides the recommended planting depths and spacing, the average number of days until harvest, and many simple yet effective tips for minimizing pest damage and maximizing yield. So even though daylight hours are growing shorter now, there are plenty of hours ahead for the fresh air, exercise and enjoyment of growing our own fruits and vegetables!



Can you Identify this Plant?

You can see this species in the horticultural gardens at the Collier County Extension.

E-mail your reply to cffeser@ufl.edu



What do all these bugs have in common?

These are just a few of the 98 species of Ladybird Beetles *Coccinella septempunctata*, reported to live in Florida! Both larvae and adults dine on aphids, scale, mites, mealybugs and more, so they are among our most beneficial insects. Learn more about these "Good Bugs" from UF article [EENY170 Ladybugs of Florida](#).

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Now Playing In SW FL Gardens...

By Leah Ray

It's October. We can finally *begin* to enjoy a little relief from the heat. We have lived through the 90's all summer and now we can just sit back and enjoy the 80's for the next six months. It's payback time. I like to tackle those really hard projects when things start cooling off. This is the most stress free time of the year for planting- that goes for you and your plants.

Till new garden sites and enrich sandy soils with organic matter and manure. Replant those beds with some cool season flowers and vegetables. But remember, the temperatures are still up in the air as we can never be quite be sure when that last hot day will be. Funny, our neighbors to the north work the opposite with their frost dates.

Turf: This is a good time to replace damaged turf with sod or plugs. The temperatures should be cool enough to use weed control products but use only as needed to control established weeds or seeds. The weather will be getting drier but continue to water only when it shows drought. A lawn that is a 'water junkie' will always have more problems. Let your plants tell you when to water- not the other way around. The lawn will be healthier.

Fungus: Watch for brown patch that causes areas of grass to turn brown, then yellow. Brown Patch shuts down when the temperatures rise above 90 degrees but thrives when the temps range around 73 degrees and humid. So avoid overwatering, using too much nitrogen, and apply fungicides during the early stages. Treatment is difficult, but prevention is key.

Irrigation: Turn off irrigation timers. Trim limbs and weeds away from spray heads.

Fertilization: Fall feeding time has finally arrived. Slow or timed-release fertilizers are good for planting beds. Read the label and follow the directions.

Pruning: Now is **NOT** the time to prune gardenias, fruit bearing trees, and poinsettias. Just make sure they have adequate water and a light feeding.

Citrus: Help prevent citrus fruit drop and splitting by watering once or twice a week during dry weather. An 8-8-8 analysis with other macro and micronutrients is a good general fertilizer.

Herbs: Plant them now. There is a wide variety of herbs that do well in the cooler, drier weather. Here are just a few; basil, dill, fennel, parsley, cilantro, sage, and thyme.

Holiday Plants: Blooms for Christmas? Poinsettias and holiday cacti should be receiving zero *nighttime* light - not even a flicker.

Calendar

See [Collier Extension Calendar](#) for more details.

All events held at Extension office unless noted.

Call 239 353 4244 to register for all classes.

OCTOBER

Oct 1 [October South Florida Garden Calendar](#)

Oct 1 **Turfgrass Care and New Cultivars for South Florida class, 2—4 pm**, with **Dr. Lee Berndt**, Naples Botanical Gardens, 4820 Bayshore Dr. Free.

Oct 5 Landscape 101 Part 4, 6—8 p.m.

Oct 12 Landscape 101 Part 5, 6—8 p.m.

Oct 16 FYN Class 1 — 3 p.m. Free.

Oct 19 Landscape 101 Part 6, 6—8 p.m.

Oct 22 **Shrub Fertilizing, Irrigation and Selection class, 2—4 pm**, with **Dr. Doug Caldwell and Dr. Amy Shober**, Naples Botanical Gardens, 4820 Bayshore Dr. Free.

Oct 30 Dr. Dougbug Walk-in Clinic at **Home Depot**, Davis & Airport-Pulling. 10 a.m. – Noon.

Oct 30 **Yard & Garden Show, 9am—4pm.**

Oct 31 **Yard & Garden Show, 9am—3pm.**

November

Nov 1 [November South FL Garden Calendar](#)

Nov 6 FYN Class 10:00 a.m.— Noon

Nov 12 **Protect Your Hedges and Trees from Ficus Whitefly class, 2—4 pm**, with **Dr. Doug Caldwell**, Naples Botanical Gardens, 4820 Bayshore Dr. Free.

Nov 16 FYN Class 1:00 — 3:00 p.m.

Nov 20 Dr. Dougbug Walk-in Clinic at **Home Depot**, Davis & Airport-Pulling. 10 am—Noon.

December

Dec 1 **Next Newsletter**

Dec 1 [December South FL Garden Calendar](#)

Save these Dates!

Jan 13, 2011

Garden Workshop 10-week Series begins
Every Thursday through Mar 17, 10-11:30 am.
See December 1st newsletter for details.

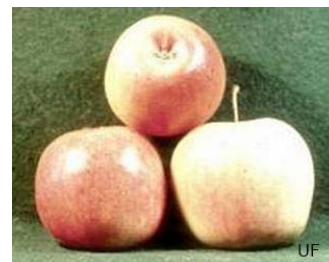
Enjoy a South Florida “Apple a Day”

By Mary Jane Cary, with [Spanish Edition](#) by Betzy Hussmann



Who can resist a beautiful fragrant, flowering tree that produces crispy sweet tasty treats? Three varieties of apples are pleasing South Floridians now with their showy pink and white blooms in February, followed by a harvest of healthy eating in early summer.

For a late June to early July harvest within three years after planting, choose the variety 'Anna.' The most widely planted cultivar in Florida, 'Anna' apples are medium to large in size, with a red color blush over half of its green skin, and a crisp, sweet yet tart flavor. Trees of this variety are generally medium in height, with an upright to semi-spreading canopy. The variety 'Dorsett Golden' has a similar tree size and canopy shape to 'Anna,' producing fruits from mid-June to early July that are slightly smaller, with a light red blush over a golden skin, a firmer texture and sweet yet tart flavor. But for the sweetest flavor, try 'TropicSweet,' the new variety developed by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. This variety has a similar canopy and blooming season to 'Anna," but ripens earlier in June, with fruits that are the same size, but less red in color, although firmer and sweeter than 'Annas.' All three varieties are excellent for eating as well as cooking. For more information about these specific varieties, see the UF article [HS764 Low Chill Apple Cultivars for Northern and Central Florida](#).



Since apple trees are not self-pollinating, we recommend that you plant two different cultivars together to enable good cross-pollination. Since the bloom seasons of all three varieties overlap, planting any two varieties together will improve the quality, quantity and length of your apple harvest season. When selecting a site, be sure to choose a location in full sun with good air circulation to reduce the risk of frost damage. And while apple trees can be planted in a variety of soil types, they grow best in well-drained fertile sandy loam soils. For more information about site preparation and overall care, see UF article [H14 The Apple](#), or the Spanish edition UF article [HS1042 La Manzana en Florida](#).

Apple trees purchased in containers can be planted year-round if adequate irrigation is applied, and one to two year old healthy bare root trees may be planted anytime during dormant season. But late December to February is best for planting because it enables roots to establish themselves before the spring growing season begins. We'll bring you more information about planting and caring for apple and other fruit trees in our December issue. In the meantime, see our article about [Growing your own South Florida Peaches](#) [Spanish Edition](#) and new [German Edition](#) from the [August Green Gazette Newsletter](#).

Contact a [Master Gardener Plant Clinic](#) Near YOU!

Call us at (239) 353 2872, email CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu, or Walk In

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

9 am— Noon and 1 — 4 pm

Collier Co Extension 14700 Immokalee Rd.

Tuesdays

9 am — Noon

Naples Regional Library 650 Central Ave.

Thursdays

9 am — Noon and 1 — 4 pm

Naples Botanical Garden 4820 Bayshore Dr.

Saturdays

10:00 a.m.— Noon

Home Depot at Davis & Airport-Pulling Rd.

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