



The Green Gazette

Volume 3 Issue 1 February—March 2012

Garden Workshop Series Continues To Delight

By Kris Morton, Master Gardener and GWS Co-Chair

In our [previous Green Gazette issue](#), we described the first half of our 2012 Garden Workshop Series, including the **February 2nd Bamboo Propagation seminar by Dr. Jan Abernathie**, and the **February 9th Tropical Fruits discussion with David and Jenny Burd**. In the second half of our Series, we offer a variety of topics that will appeal to SW Florida gardening enthusiasts.

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On **Thursday, February 16**, we welcome native Floridian **Debbie Wyatt-Stotter** from Ft. Myers, who will discuss **"Growing Roses in SW Florida."** Debbie has been growing roses since 2001 and is a member of the Deep South District of the American Rose Society. She has received its highest award, "Queen of Show" for *Veterans Honor*, a Hybrid Tea, and the "Princess" award for *Black Magic*. She is a Horticulture and Arrangement Judge for ARS, and also a certified consulting Rosarian. Debbie will share information about rose culture, along with roses that grow for her.



"Water Gardens" are the topic on **Thursday, February 23**. **John Sprinkle**, former owner of "Twigs" in downtown Naples, and now a water gardens expert and International Koi Judge, will show us how to add beauty and serenity to our gardens. Learn about different types of water gardens, along with plants that may be used.

Continued on page 2

Gulf Currents

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener and Green Gazette Editor

Horticulture is hot in SW Florida in so many ways! Trend spotters have observed us mixing edibles and ornamentals in new spaces and combinations, blending bright tangerine colors with deep purples and soothing greens, and adopting the latest easy care and water wise landscape styles.

And through personal service and digital media, your Collier County Extension is delivering the latest recommendations for enjoying your SW Florida life style. Our newest staff member, Fred Johnson, will be expanding the [Florida Yards and Neighborhoods \(FYN\) program](#), and coordinating our Master Gardener program. Through classes, clinics, webinars, online videos, blogs and newsletters, we bring you the latest news and research-tested Florida-Friendly guidance.

So join us for the upcoming [FL Master Naturalist: Coastal Program](#) or [Ag Tour](#), and browse our [digital library](#). Discover **"Solutions for Your Life"** today!

SW Florida News from the Master Gardeners



Garden Workshop Series Continues To Delight

Continued from Page 1



Join **Rege Malone** on **Thursday, March 1**, for **"Tropical Gardening."** After Rege graduated from the inaugural two-year program of Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Development from Miami Dade College, he taught classes at Miami Museum of Science, Fairchild Tropical Garden, and Miami Dade College, and provided additional gardening programs in the area. After moving to Naples, he completed the Master Gardener program and opened a licensed nursery with his partner, Al, at their home. He now

gives presentations on Tropical Landscaping, and offers tours of their garden, nursery, and tropical paradise.



On **Thursday, March 8**, we welcome **Dennis Cathcart**, speaking on **"Beautiful Bromeliads."** Dennis is an internationally recognized bromeliad collector, grower and speaker, and he and his wife Linda own and operate Tropiflora. Established in 1976, it is one of the largest and most well known tropical plant nurseries in the United States. Dennis and Linda travel the world collecting, studying, photographing, writing and speaking about exotic plants. Dennis will introduce bromeliads to the novice and provide beneficial growing information to all bromeliad lovers.



Our **March 15th "Garden Tour"** is the last 2012 Series event, and is for Series Card Holders Only. We will tour one of

Naples' oldest exceptional and extensive private gardens.



Each session is held on Thursday, from 10:00—11:30 am at Unity of Naples, 2000 Unity Way, Naples, FL, off of Davis Blvd. Cost is \$7 per session, \$25 for the Series. No reservation is required. Visit the Collier County Extension Website at <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu> for more information.

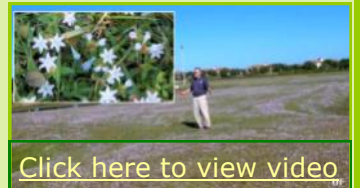
Top Zone10 Performers

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener



It's all a matter of perspective. But whether you call this plant a "weed" or a "welcome winter guest," there's no denying that **Largeflower Pusley** *Richardia grandiflora* is a top performer here. This low-growing perennial herb, also known as Florida Snow or Largeflower Mexican Clover, thrives in Zones 8—11, in partial to full sun, spreading quickly to form clumps in thinning turf and disturbed areas.

Mower blades miss this 1" tall carpet of medium green leaves and its flowers, which can vary from pale lavender in full sun to darker lilac in shady spots. This bee and butterfly-friendly plant is easy care, with no known pests or diseases. Two similar species create additional wintertime "interest" in our area: see [UF Article There's Snow in Florida](#) for more details about all three of these *Richardia* species.



[Click here to view video](#)

If you call this plant a weed, prevention is key, since neither pre nor post-emergent herbicides are very effective in controlling this top performer. But thick and healthy turfgrass is just one option for avoiding this winter snowfall. If you welcome this winter guest, or are looking for low maintenance turf alternatives, [UF Article Walk-able Groundcovers](#) recommends several Florida-Friendly easy care options.

Collier County Embraces Plant Zone Hardiness Diversity

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

Look closely at the [new USDA Plant Hardiness zone map](#), and you'll find that Collier County, Florida still spans the same three plant hardiness zones of 9b, 10a, and 10b as the prior USDA map, issued in 1990. But now for the first time, gardeners can "find your zone by ZIP code" using a new interactive map of the United States and Puerto Rico. Horticultural researchers, growers, and gardeners will all benefit from the resulting increase in accuracy.

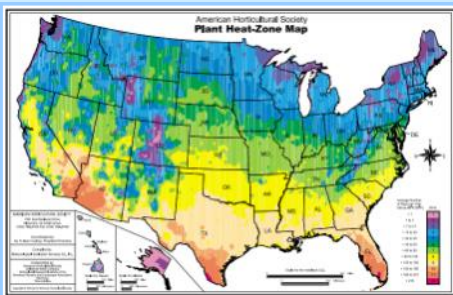
This new map, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, incorporates several significant changes from prior mapmaking.

Enhanced Technology Three significant technologies were used to create this latest edition map. First, Geographic Information System (GIS) technology was used to capture, store, and manage the geographically based data. Second, a more sophisticated method was developed to interpolate low-temperature values among actual weather-reporting stations. And third, the maps were designed specifically to be internet-friendly, thereby enabling users to view, print, download and use data.

Improved Data This map edition is based on 30 years of weather data, from 1976–2005, whereas the prior map version used 13 years of weather data from 1974–1986. This longer and more recent averaging period was reviewed and selected by botanical, horticultural and climatological experts seeking to balance the concepts of year-to-year weather variations with those of climate conditions. Each zone represents a 10° F band, further divided into 5° F half-zones designated "a" and "b." Each assigned zone value represents the *average annual extreme minimum* temperature, or average of the lowest recorded temperatures, for a given location during the time period.

Greater Detail The resulting map details smaller areas of geographic temperature variations, and enables higher resolution. For example, when one compares Collier County Plant Hardiness Zone values between the two map editions, the same three zone values are assigned: Zone 10a for the majority of the county, Zone 10b for a small segment of the Big Cypress Preserve in southeastern Collier, and Zone 9b for county lands north of Immokalee. But 2012 map users can now view Zones 9b and 10a lands detailed by GPS coordinates for northernmost Collier county.

Additional Maps
Another map of interest for SWFL gardeners is the [US Heat Zone Map](#), published by the [American Horticultural Society](#). This map divides the country into 12 zones, based on the number of "heat days," or days above 86° F, that are expected in a given location.



See [UF Article Gardening in the Zone](#) for additional plant maps and explanations.



Click on this map to go to US interactive map

New Zones Two new zones were added to this 2012 edition. Zones 12 and 13 designate regions with average annual low temperatures above 50° and 60° F, respectively, which appear only in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. These zones will also be used to describe cold sensitivity of tropical ornamentals, which may help gardeners decide whether to plant, and when to protect plants as temperatures cool.

Climate Change In many US areas, the new map shows 5° warmer half-zone boundary shifts, and some cooler shifts in mountainous regions. These shifts are attributed to several factors, including use of the more recent averaging period, increased number of station observations, and improved mapping methods. According to [USDA's Agricultural Research Service](#), climate changes are usually based on trends in *overall average temperatures* over a 50-100 year period. Since these data are 30-year averages of cold temperatures, changes in zones are not reliable evidence of global warming.

The Frugal Gardener

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

It seems like my frugal mind works best when it is not broiling in the hot Florida sun. Check out just a few of my latest creations.

Compost Bin and Orchid Shelter

I have had several different types of compost bin, and my #1 problem is they stay too moist. If the lid is on, it's too wet. I solved this problem by building a Compost Bin with 5 used pallets, 4 used fence posts, spare PVC pipe, and left over paint. Rodents are not a problem, since I need to turn in each addition. Now my orchids have a warm place to stay on cold nights.



Compost Bin with 5 used pallets, 4 used fence posts, spare PVC pipe, and left over paint. Rodents are not a problem, since I need to turn in each addition. Now my orchids have a warm place to stay on cold nights.



Free Compost or Mulch

Recycle your own Christmas tree as compost or mulch. Just clip the branches off the trunk. The Bonus? That delightful evergreen aroma will linger in your yard for many months.



More Free Compost

All it took was a call to the church to ask if I could have the hay leftover from their Pumpkin Patch. They were glad to have someone take it off their hands!



Vertical Gardening Pockets

No pots required! Cabbage Palm petioles, also known as "Boots," create natural pockets for vertical gardening. Looking for inspiration? There are a number of these palms in the Asian Garden at [Naples Botanical Gardens](http://www.naplesbotanical.com).

Customized Planters

Purchase jars of test paint for small jobs and experiment with color on pots. These plastic urns received several sponge paintings with diluted paint. Just imagine the textures and colors...



Email your favorite thrifty tips to the Frugal Gardener at CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu

Landscaping that Looks Good Enough to Eat

Courtesy of Florida Friendly Landscaping Principle # 1: Right Plant, Right Place

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

I had no idea that my neighbor was such a trend-setter. But as I was recently admiring the blooms of her orange Bird of Paradise, I noticed several adjacent plants with large, interesting blue-green leaves. Upon closer inspection, I discovered....broccoli!



My neighbor's unique expression of ornamentals and edibles is part of a growing trend frequently called sensory gardening or edible landscaping. And oh, let us count the ways we benefit:

1. We know where that food item is grown, and under what conditions;
2. We can pick and enjoy fruits, vegetables and herbs at their peak of freshness, savoring their full flavor and highest nutrient values;
3. Adjacent flowering plants draw pollinators like bees and butterflies, increasing our potential harvest;
4. Our landscaping pays us back with beauty AND food; and
5. We can enjoy some great outdoor activity with family and friends while saving money!



Virtually any landscape need, from trees to ground covers, can be met with a food-bearing plant. But whatever quantity and combination of edibles and ornamentals we desire, finding the **“right plant, right place” for edibles** among your ornamentals means offering a site with these four essentials:

- * **Sunlight** — Edibles need a sunny site, providing six hours of sunlight daily for best results.
- * **Water** — Monitor rainfall amounts, and supplement as needed to meet growing plant needs.
- * **Food** — Apply fertilizer when planting, and 2-3 more times during growing season.
- * **Care** — Monitor for pests periodically, using pesticide-free management methods as needed.

Wondering where to begin? Consult the [UF Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs site](#) for advice on everything from site preparation to planting times. UF articles [SP103 Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#) and [CIR570 Herbs in the Florida Garden](#) recommend specific varieties for our area, and outline their care.

If you're dreaming of fragrant, flowering shade trees that also provide fruit, join Dr. Mongi Zekri for his [Citrus Care Workshop](#) on **Saturday, February 18th, 10 am—Noon** at the Extension. In this free class, you can taste your way to your favorite citrus varieties, and learn about their care.

The Nine Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Principles

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 Storm Water Runoff](#)
9. [Protect the Waterfront](#)

See the new Articulate E-Learning
[Nine FFL Principles Presentation](#)

Another option is attending a Collier Fruit Growers Council meeting, where you can learn from local growers, taste ripe fruits in season, and share your experience with others. Visit the [Collier Fruit Grower's website](#) for more details about their next meeting on **Monday, February 20th at 7:00 pm**, and their annual [Fruit Tree Sale](#), to be held **Saturday, February 25th**, at Freedom Park in Naples.

Want to learn more about our local agriculture and horticulture? Join us on the **2012 Ag Tour on March 21st!** What kinds of places do we visit? Click on the picture at right to see highlights of the last year's tour.



Then take a [sneak peak at our 2012 Tour](#), and contact the Collier Extension at **239 353 4244** for tickets.

And in the meantime, perhaps I can swap some of those tomatoes from my butterfly garden for my neighbor's broccoli....

Now Playing in SWFL Gardens

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

Each year is certainly different. Yes, we've had plenty of warm weather, but we also had a few cold nights that caught us a little *un-acclimated*. We could still have some considerably cold weather but, keep in mind that Spring is just around the corner for us SW Floridians.



Pruning Delay pruning of cold sensitive plants like hibiscus, philodendron, croton, clerodendrum, allamanda, and tibouchina until **late** February. Citrus should be trimmed just as new growth begins.

Turf Weeds A very popular brand of systemic weed killer will do a great job on your lawn- *unless* you have one of the improved varieties of St. Augustine grass known as *Floratam*. This St. Augustine variety will not tolerate some of the southern weed killers. So read that label's fine print!

Turf Weed Prevention Apply a pre-emergent weed killer to lawns to prevent germination of warm season weed seeds. Timing is everything.

Turf Pests Insects are seldom a winter pest, so delay insecticide use until needed. You can reduce turf diseases with proper watering and by withholding fertilizer. Brown Patch disease is prevalent in over-watered lawns. [This video about Brown Patch disease](#) explains what to do.

Scale This is one of the most damaging pests that most gardeners miss until a plant is fully infested. Spot them now by looking for white to dark spots or bumps on leaves and stems. If the top of a leaf has a yellow spot, you may find an adult scale on the underside. Try most environmentally-friendly treatments first: wash scale off with water, dab insects with rubbing alcohol, apply insecticidal soap to crawlers, or use a horticultural oil spray.

Water-wise Wait until turfgrass and plants show signs of moisture stress to water. Watering a dormant plant is wasteful *and* can be harmful to plant health.

Citrus Fertilize citrus. Frequency and amount of fertilization can depend on the age of the tree. See [UF IFAS Article "Help Dooryard Citrus Recovery"](#) for more details.

Poinsettias To toss or to keep? SWFL folks can get another year or two out them- at least keep them going through Valentine's Day ♥. They require bright light, a slow release fertilizer, and moist soil. It is recommended they be kept in a container. Pot them up & prune back to a foot in March. See [UF Article ENH1083 Poinsettias at a Glance](#) for more care tips.

Purple Plants [In the last newsletter](#), I mentioned that purple foliage is an indicator of magnesium deficiency. It takes a while for this issue to develop. Treat this nutritional deficiency with Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) throughout the year.

Soil Collect samples throughout the yard or a specific area in the landscape every other year or so. Take samples from the surface down 4 to 6 inches deep in the ground. Bring samples in sealed bags to the Collier Extension for free pH testing. [UF Article SL135 Soil Testing Form and Instructions](#) describes additional testing performed for a nominal fee through UF Gainesville. Ask the Collier Extension for a soil testing kit package for sending your samples to Gainesville.

Herbs & Vegetables Plant herbs like basil, chives, rosemary, dill, fennel, ginger, Mexican tarragon, oregano, sage, and thyme. Vegetables that will do well are broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, pea, potato, radish, beans, cantaloupe, corn, cucumber, eggplant, luffa, pepper, pumpkin, squash, and watermelon. See [UF Article SP103 Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#) for further information.

Projects Tackle work you have been putting off. Inventory some of those garden chemicals, clean, sharpen, and oil your tools. Build an arbor, clear out a planting area, divide and replant perennials, or work on that irrigation system. Enjoy your gardens while it is cool. This won't last long!



[Click here to view video on FL Wax Scale](#)

Scale on underside of leaf



Are you a Condo or Homeowner Association member? Landscape Committee representative or Board Director? Property Manager? UF has a [Florida Friendly Landscaping resource center for you](#) with:

- List of BMP-certified landscape maintenance contractors
- Most current FFL Model Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions
- FFL guidelines for Architectural Review Boards



Budding Opportunities

Collier County communities and organizations recognize the value of our Master Gardeners' knowledge and experience by requesting their assistance with garden projects. Here are a few of their most recent requests. Please [contact Peggy](#) at the Collier Extension Office 239 353 4244 to volunteer.

Let's Grow Collier County Together!

- ✿ **School Salsa Garden** Advise [Golden Gate Elementary](#) class with their vegetable garden
- ✿ **Hope for Haiti "Secret Garden" Gala** Assist with garden design setup or post-gala garden removal.
- ✿ **Collier County Fair Exhibit Booth** Join [FL Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association \(FNGLA\)](#) members in greeting fairgoers and answering gardening questions.
- ✿ **2012 Ag Tour** Help Extension staff coordinate tour details.
- ✿ **3rd St South Farmers Market Booth** Greet market attendees and answer gardening questions.

Come Grow with Us!

Want to learn the latest tips for growing healthy edibles and vibrant landscapes? Willing to share your time and gardening knowledge with others in Collier County? Then become a Florida Master Gardener!

During 2011, the 64 current Collier County Master Gardeners provided over 4,200 hours of community service, assisting close to 2,000 residents with their landscaping questions. and received over 600 hours of additional horticulture education. You can learn more about the [Master Gardener Program](#) and the [roles of Master Gardeners](#) before requesting the [Collier County Master Gardener Program brochure](#).

Then call Peggy at the Collier County Extension Office at 239 353 4244 for an application and training course registration materials.



Master Gardener Leah Ray shows how to create stepping stones during Garden Workshop Series.

SW Gulf & Garden Calendar

See [Collier Extension Calendar](#) for more details.
All events held at Extension office unless noted. Call the Collier Extension at 239 353 4244 to register for all classes.

February

- Feb 1 [February South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Feb 2 **Garden Workshop Series Continues**, Unity of Naples, 2000 Unity Way, 10:00—11:30 am. **See page 3 for remaining schedule and details.**
- Feb 18 **Dooryard Citrus Care**, by [UF / IFAS Citrus Agents'](#) Dr. Mongi Zekri, Collier Extension, 14700 Immokalee Rd., 10:00 am—Noon. Free. Contact Peggy at **239 353 4244** to register.
- Feb 22 **Gulf Seafood Learn 'n Lunch**, North Collier Regional Park Exhibit Hall, 15000 Livingston Rd., 9:30 am—1 pm, followed by lunch at [Randy's Fish Market](#). \$20/person. [Register here.](#)
- Feb 22 **2012 Scientific Angler Series Increasing Survival Rates of Released Fish Caught in Deep Water**, by [FL Seagrass Program's](#) John Stevely, [Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center](#), 300 Tower Rd., Naples, 6:30—8:00 pm. Free. [Contact Collier Sea Grant Agent Bryan Fluech](#) to register.

March

- Mar 1 [March South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Mar 3 **The Secret Garden Hope for Haiti Gala**, Jubilee Center, Naples, 6 pm. [Contact Elizabeth Davison](#) at 239 434 7183 for more information.
- Mar 15-25 **Plant Clinic and Exhibit** during [Collier County Fair](#), by Collier Master Gardeners and [FL Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association \(FNGLA\)](#).
- Mar 21 **Collier County Ag Tours**, departing Collier Extension at 8am & 9am. Call Peggy at **239 353 4244** to register.
- Mar 21 **2012 Scientific Angler Series Tracking Mercury through the Food Web in SWFL Coastal Waters**, by [FGCU's](#) Dr. Darren Rumbold, [Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center](#), 6:30—8:00 pm. Free. [Contact Sea Grant Agent Bryan Fluech](#) to register.

April

- Apr 1 [April South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Apr 1 **Next Green Gazette newsletter**

Loquacious over Loquats

By Suzanne Fundingsland, Family Nutrition Program Agent

Loquats sound wonderful, from everything I have read. I admit, I've never eaten one, but that's about to change. I came across some recipes I can't wait to try: pork tenderloin with strawberry loquat sauce, loquat & lemon sorbet, salsa, chutney and plenty of delicious preserves and jellies.

Florida loquats usually ripen from February through April. The small delicious yellow-gold fruit is juicy and tangy, resembling the flavor of a sour cherry. Recommended varieties for high quality fruit are Advance Champagne, Gold Nugget, Oliver, Premier, Tanaka and Wolfe.



Loquats are low in calories, only about 70 calories in a cup of cubed loquats, omitting the seeds, which should not be eaten. They are a good source of potassium and vitamin A. They bruise easily and are not sold commercially, so create a space in your yard for this beautiful flowering tree to enjoy its fruit. See [UF article HS5 Loquat Growing in the Home Landscape](#) while you're listening to this [Loquat Gardening in a Minute Broadcast](#). Then you'll be ready to enjoy these delicious fruits in this wonderful side dish for any meal.

Roasted Plums and Loquats

Heat oven to 400° F

Wash, quarter and pit **4 plums** and **6 loquats**.

Wash and separate **12 garlic cloves**, but leave the peels intact

Peel and quarter **1 onion**.

Slice **2 carrots**.

Mix ingredients with a small amount of **olive oil**, then spread them in a baking pan in a single layer. Bake for about 30 minutes, stirring twice. Top with some **walnuts or pecans** the last few minutes, toasting the nuts without burning. When vegetables are browned and tender, remove from oven. The garlic will be soft and creamy inside the peels. Spread it on some hearty whole wheat bread or leave the peeled garlic cloves in the roasted fruit mixture. Season with a little **salt, cinnamon and nutmeg**.

*Forward this issue to your gardening friends, and
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<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/Newsletters.shtml>*

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

“Bring us your tired, your poor, your pest-infested plants, yearning to be healed...”

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.

Fridays

11 am — 2 pm

Collier County Govt. Campus Farmers Market

Saturdays—Two Locations

7 am — Noon

3rd St South Farmers Market

10 am — Noon

Home Depot 1651 Airport-Pulling Rd S.