



# The Green Gazette

Volume 3 Issue 3 June - July 2012

## Extension Gardens Bloom with Renewed Purpose

By FYN Coordinator Fred Johnson and Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

Since the mid-1990s dedication of the SWFL Horticultural Learning Center, also known as the Collier Extension Gardens, we have all endured many landscape challenges. Hurricanes and tropical storms, weeks of record cold, months of drought, and the arrival of new pests and diseases have brought garden changes. In addition, our needs as garden owners have also evolved. For all of these reasons, periodic garden renovations make such good sense.

Since a landscape renovation can be a huge undertaking, it's best to first decide if a complete redesign is needed, or if merely adding, moving or replacing plants is reasonable. Fixing site issues, such as poor drainage, and planning the new landscape design are key to successful renovations. Fortunately for the first two of our eight Extension Gardens, the results of our modest renovations are attracting visitors and their admiration.

Attendees at last fall's Yard and Garden Show were greeted by lush new plantings and a Succulent Living Wall in the Extension Entry Courtyard garden, thanks to re-design team co-chairs and Master Gardeners Mary Lynn Murphy and Faye Hunt. And last month, the Garden of the Senses became the second garden to undergo renovation.

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Lush understory plantings in Entry Courtyard Garden



White Bird of Paradise adds tropical flair to the Entry



A view of newly renovated Garden of the Senses

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Cover Design by  
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SW Florida News  
from the  
Master Gardeners



## Gulf Currents

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener and Green Gazette Editor

Growing season is here at the Extension! Join us on June 5th for the first class in the [Farming on ten acres or less Workshop Series](#), hosted by our now full-time Agriculture and Small Farms Agent Robert Halman. Meanwhile, new Extension Director Bryan Fluech will continue to host the latest [Seafood Sustainability Webinar](#) on June 13th as part of his continuing Sea Grant Agent duties.

Plan NOW for storm season by reviewing [UF's Disaster Preparedness Handbook](#), then see how to prepare your landscape in our July 18th Pruning Class. We'll answer your fruit-growing questions at the July 28th Tropical Fruits Class and Tree Sale. And in our next issue, we'll provide more details about our August 17th pond management workshop. Watch for breaking news at the [Collier Extension website](#), and friend us when you visit the [Collier Extension on Facebook](#).

## Extension Gardens Bloom with Renewed Purpose

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This garden, designed to be walker and wheelchair friendly, features paved walkways and raised planters enabling all of our visitors to delight in the sights, sounds, and fragrance of their surroundings.

During the renovation, under the guidance of FYN and Master Gardener Coordinator Fred Johnson, a number of shrubs that had outgrown their locations were removed, and flowering shrubs, vines and perennials were added. A Bay Rum tree, this issue's Top Zone10 Performer, and its better known fragrant relative, the Allspice *Pimenta dioica*, can still be found here, along with native Fiddlewoods, Coco plums, firebush, and several clumps of Sea Oats, an lovely yet endangered coastal species.



Bubbling water offers cool sights and sounds

Tropical Orange Bird of Paradise still surround a tall White Bird of Paradise, but the purple Bougainvillea now shares an arbor with new pink and white varieties. Native Beach Sunflower spills onto the sidewalk in spots, while Yuccas, Century plants and Pineapple Bromeliads stand watch nearby. Fragrant Rosemary, Lemon Grass, and several different Sages are fun to touch and smell. And the sight and sounds of gurgling water from the center fountain draw visiting butterflies towards various nectar-filled plants.



Purple Bougainvillea and Yucca glorioides surround arbor

Key to any successful renovation is a plan that outlines your site's existing features, and the changes you wish to make. If you're planning a renovation, listen to [UF's Gardening in a Minute Garden Renovation broadcast](#) as you browse additional [landscape design and garden layouts](#). Then try [UF's free interactive landscape design tool](#) to plan your next Florida-friendly renovation.

When you visit our SWFL Horticultural Learning Center, you'll find eight gardens with a variety of plants that perform well in our area. Pardon any dust, since the gardens remain open as we renovate. Garden tours are free, and open to the public Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm. Enjoy a self-guided tour, or if you would like to schedule a Master Gardener-guided tour, call the Extension at 239 353 4244.



Fragrant, flowering plants invite visitors to touch and smell

## Top Zone10 Performers

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

The next time you visit the Collier Extension's Garden of the Senses, be sure to pick a leaf from this tree. Crush it in your hands, and inhale the wonderful smell. This delightful tree is the Bay Rum *Pimenta racemosa*, named for the Oil of Bay that can be distilled from its twigs and leaves. Our Zone 10a climate appears to be just warm enough for this West Indies native, which enjoys part to full sun, well-drained locations.



Mature specimens reach heights and widths of 15-25 feet, with an open, somewhat oval canopy of dark, evergreen leaves. A little pruning to shape Bay Rums into single trunk or multi-trunk specimens will show off their attractive exfoliating bark.



Its wind, pest and disease resistance, along with high drought tolerance, makes the Bay Rum an easy care Florida-friendly shade tree choice. For further information, request [UF's Florida Tree Fact Sheet: Bay Rum](#).

## Create an “English Secret Garden” with Florida Friendly Style

By Barbara Gaffney and Virginia Williams, Master Gardeners and HfH Secret Gardens design Co-Chairs

If you've been dreaming of creating your own English-style secret garden since viewing the [Hope for Haiti 2012 Gala's Secret Garden](#) highlighted in our [April Green Gazette](#), you can roll up your sleeves now. And whether you wish to create a new garden area, or renovate an existing space, a successful garden benefits from considering the elements of landscape design AND by following the Florida-Friendly Landscape Principles, particularly [FFL Principle #1 "Right Plant, Right Place."](#)



*Asymmetrical groups of contrasting color and shape*

According to [UF article ENH1112 Landscape Design: Ten Things to Consider](#) and the [University of Vermont Extension's English garden design tips](#), English style gardens are considered less formal, with a natural feel as if there had been no specific design plan. But in reality, there are a number of key design elements responsible for generating the tranquility and charm so evident in these gardens. These elements include use of:

- Three to four colors for continuity;
- Opposing colors for contrast;
- Many shades (dark) and tints (lighter) of the dominant colors;
- Traditional and non-traditional plants within the color scheme;
- Asymmetrical plant groupings by width or height, considering bloom shape, leaf size and structure for balance and harmony;
- Curved borders that are wide in comparison to the space allotted;
- Subtle structure within free flowing beds of color;
- Entry with a vine-covered gate, arbor, or trellis;
- Water features, garden artifacts, and water features, and
- Different size and shape containers, within the color scheme.



*Wide, curvy borders of traditional and non-traditional plants*



*Many textures, shades and tints within chosen color scheme*

For further insight into these design elements, request [UF Article CIR536 Basic Principles of Landscape Design](#). And if you're beginning a new garden, or just looking for more inspiration, listen to [UF's Gardening in a Minute Broadcast Starting your Landscape Design](#) while you browse additional publications.

So what Florida-friendly plants can you consider? If you browse the Hope for Haiti's ["Passport to a Secret Garden" Gala Photo Album](#), you will find many Florida-friendly varieties, such as Alyssum, Bacopas, Bougainvilleas, Geraniums, Gerbera Daisies, Guaras, Kalanchoes, Nemesias, Pentas, Petunias, Salvias and Violas. Green "fillers" like Areca palms, Arbizolas, Ferns, Flax Lilies, Liriope, and Wax Myrtles add texture and interest. Add a vine-covered entry, a bubbling fountain, and your garden will not be a secret for long!

### Looking for more landscape design inspiration?

Attend these [Collier County Library Summer programs](#) featuring speakers from the [Naples Botanical Garden](#). See library program brochure for registration details.

**June 6 Littoral Plantings for South Florida**, by Chad Washburn, 2pm, Naples Regional library.

**June 19 Butterfly Gardening**, by Britt Patterson-Weber, 2pm, Headquarters library.

**July 12 Growing Plumeria for South Florida**, Hetty Ford, 2pm, South Regional library.

Visit [Palmetto Elementary School](#) at 3000 10th Avenue SE, Naples, to see the Butterfly House in their new 4-H Garden. You'll see plenty of butterflies and flowers along the student-designed stepping stone pathway.



## The Frugal Gardener

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

As Paul Simon sang, "Make a new plan, Stan." Think about your garden goals. Do you wish to improve the design, grow edibles, create more shade, display an interesting plant collection, incorporate a splash of color, or just enjoy an easy care area? Consider what you did last year, noting the thrill of your victories, and well, what didn't work out. Then apply a little creativity to grow your gardening success.

**Pass-along Plants** Why purchase expensive or hard-to-find plants when you can grow your own by sharing, trading, or asking neighbors for these free post-pruning leftovers? Some of my favorites are Brazilian Red Cloak *Megaskepasma erythrochlamys*, Angel's Trumpet *Brugmansia spp.*, and Mexican Sunflower *Tithonia diversifolia*. You can also propagate Frangipani *Plumeria spp.*, Gumbo Limbo *Bursera simaruba*, Confederate Rose *Hibiscus mutabilis* and Tapioca *Manihot esculenta*. Just follow the tips provided in [UF's Gardening in a Minute Broadcasts Success with Cuttings](#) and [Pass-along Plants](#). [Editor's Note: [Okeechobee County Extension Agent Dan Culbert's article on Mexican or Bolivian Sunflowers](#) cautions homeowners that this species can become invasive, crowding out native habitat in our frost-free climate].



Starts (left photo, left to right) produce plants (right photos, top to bottom): Brazilian Red Cloak, Angel's Trumpet, and Mexican Sunflower.

**Stepping Out** Re-purpose a broken china treasure, mirror fragments, or discontinued ceramic tiles into colorful stepping stones. Check out [UF's Gardening in a Minute Broadcast Stepping Stones](#), then [follow these instructions](#) to make your own work of art.



**Soil Filters** Line flowerpots and planters with coffee filters to stop soil from falling through the drainage hole.



**Compost** Instead of feeding your disposal or trash can those plant-based kitchen leftovers, recycle that refuse into food for your garden by composting. You'll need a steady supply of nitrogen-rich greens, like vegetable scraps and grass clippings, and carbon-rich browns, like fallen leaves and coffee grounds, along with air circulation, moisture, and warmth. A 4 foot diameter pile and our summer heat will kill the weeds, insects, diseases and nematodes that may be present.

[UF Article ENY1065 Compost Tips for the Home Gardener](#) highlights how to build, manage, and troubleshoot a compost pile, while [the Florida Composting Center describes bins](#) and their costs, from the store bought to the homemade. The photo at the far left is my latest compost bin, built from five *used* wood pallets, four *used* fence posts, a *spare* PVC pipe, and *leftover* paint! Now my neighbors and I can recycle our extra greens and browns, and provide a nutrient-filled organic feast for our planting beds and community gardens.



Email your nifty thrifty gardening photos to the Frugal Gardener at [CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu)

## Before “The Summer Wind Comes Blowing in...”

Courtesy of Florida Friendly Landscaping Principle # 7: Recycle

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

Southwest Florida summers bring the possibility of tropical winds, storms and hurricanes. And while there are no guarantees of a storm-proof landscape, you can take steps now to improve your landscape's beauty and survivability, and reduce potential property damage with proper pruning.

**Examine your Trees and Palms** Do your palms have brown fronds or coconuts? Are trees leaning towards power lines, light poles, your house or other valuable property? Do you see branches that are dying, broken, hanging, or rubbing other branches? Is the trunk or any major limb cracked, hollow, or decaying? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, now is a good time to remove these potential hazards.

**Prevent Harmful Pruning** It may be Hurricane Season, but that does not mean it is time to give your Palms a Mohawk or Hurricane Cut. [Avoid "hurricane-cutting" palms](#), where green and yellowing fronds are removed, and "topping" trees, where main branches are reduced to stubs. These extremely harmful practices reduce the tree or palm's ability to sustain growth or survive storm damage, as shown in this [video of poor palm pruning](#).



Avoid [palm hurricane cuts](#) and [green frond removals](#), since they increase storm damage risk. Dr Caldwell encourages us to [Just Say No to GTO \(Gutting, Topping and Over-Lifting\)](#) in another of his popular pruning videos. And if you should see inept contractors using these methods, call Collier County Code Enforcement at 239-252-2440 to report them.

**Prune Safely and Effectively** Foxtail and Royal palms are self-pruning, but [UF article ENH1182 Pruning Palms](#) recommends removing Queen Palm seed pods and Coconut Palm nuts. Since all palms store nutrients in the foliage, it's best to leave fronds in place until they are at least 80% brown AND below the 9:00 – 3:00 o'clock position.

Regular tree maintenance includes removing dead or diseased wood, malformed or crossed branches, and thinning tree canopies for greater air circulation and wind resistance. You'll have a resilient landscape if you follow the methods described at UF's [Pruning Shade Trees in Landscapes](#) website. And

should a summer storm do damage to your landscape, [UF article ENH1054 Restoring storm-damaged trees and palms](#) provides a step-by-step guide to renovating injured trees and palms.

Summer-flowering shrubs like hibiscus, oleander, and crepe myrtle also benefit from frequent light pruning during the warmer months. But instead of trimming hedges to the same height repeatedly, follow the healthy pruning methods outlined in [Dr. Caldwell's Shrubbery Pruning Do's and Don'ts](#). Plus, these small cuttings, including twigs and leaves make terrific "greens and browns" to recycle in your compost pile.

**Rely on Professionals** Instead of standing on that ladder with a chainsaw, consider hiring a certified arborist to shape your treasured trees and palms. You can [find a local licensed tree care service](#) at the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) website. These tree care professionals can assist you in lowering the risk of "losing your landscape to the summer wind."

### [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](#)

## Now Playing in SWFL Gardens

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener

"Plant This! Not That!" What is a gardener to do? Since 1513, when European colonists began introducing non-native plants to Florida, our plant choices have increased. But if we want to spend less money, time and effort on fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, water, and replacing plants, read on.....

**Party with the Natives** Local nurseries carry native beauties like Blanket Flower *Gaillardia pulchella*, Beach Sunflower *Helianthus debilis*, and Coral Honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*, plus many of the plants in the [FYN Plant Selection Guide](#). Offer these drought-tolerant plants some supplemental water during establishment and prolonged droughts, and they will reward you with easy care, and plenty of time to enjoy their cheerful, long lasting blooms.



Blanket Flower varieties

**Tomatoes** It's too hot now for tomato plants to set fruit, but if you like a challenge, try varieties like Tasty Lee, Sweet 100's, & Solar Set. Consider growing plants in containers to improve their performance.

**Soil Solarization** Harness that summer heat to prepare a new garden area or rejuvenate an existing planting bed. Follow the steps outlined in [UF Article ENY902 Solarization for Pest Management](#) to eradicate weeds, nematodes, diseases and/or insects. A little effort on your part will yield a fresh garden plot ready for fall planting.



Soil Solarization Plot

**Mowing** Sharpening your mower blade is one of the best things you can do for your lawn, according to [UF's Gardening in a minute Mower Blades](#). You can also improve your turf's health by [mowing St. Augustine and Bahia grass to a 4" height](#). Maintaining longer grass blades results in deeper turf roots, fewer weeds, and greater drought, pest and disease resistance.

**Dollarweed** This weed, also known as Pennywort, often grows in over-watered lawns. Reducing irrigation and improving drainage in the affected area will reduce its spread. Complete eradication of Dollarweed, or any weed, is not practical. And since it's too hot to apply broadcast weed controls now that daytime temperatures are consistently in the upper 80s, save your time, money, and effort for this fall. For more turf weed management tips, head to [UF's Gardening in a minute broadcast on Dollarweed](#).

**Pests and Diseases** If you'd like to learn about the new pests and diseases appearing in SW Florida, AND flare-ups of known pathogens, be sure to bookmark [Dr. Caldwell's Bugs & Shrubs Buzz newsletters](#).

**Fertilization** To reduce the risk of fertilizer runoff contributing to nutrient pollution in county waters, the [Collier County Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Ordinance](#) details several year-round restrictions, including a ban on applying fertilizers during identified Storm "Watch" or "Warning" periods, or when soils are saturated. The [Naples City Council Fertilizer Ordinance](#) details specific year-round management guidelines, including a ban on applying fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus from June 1 - September 30th.

**Irrigation** Keep an eye on the [South Florida Water Management District's Water Watch](#) for the latest water shortage news and county irrigation guidelines. And there's still time to make sure your rain sensor is ready for rainy season. [Request this Rain Sensor Factsheet](#) to learn more.

**Enjoy your garden** For fast-acting heat relief, pull that comfy chair into the shade and sit a spell!

### Rain Barrels: Water-Restriction-Free Irrigation from Basic to Beautiful

Collect and store rainwater for landscape and garden irrigation in these 55 gallon food grade plastic drums. Each barrel comes with spigot installed. For installation and use tips, plus optional painting instructions, see the [SWFLWMD Homeowners Rain Barrel Guide](#).



**Cost:** \$ 50 each, payable with cash or check.

**Where to Purchase:** Collier County Extension Office, 14700 Immokalee Rd. Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm. Call 239 353 4244 for more information.





## 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 the most recent requests.

Please register your interest, along with your latest volunteer and continuing education hours, in our [Master Gardener VMS](#). Thanks for all you do!

### **We Sow to Grow Collier**

- ✿ **2012 Master Gardener Class Teacher Assistants** Aid MG Coordinator with training classes for new Master Gardeners during July
- ✿ **FYN Yard Advisors** Help FYN Coordinator administer FYN classes, and advise homeowners, and condo/homeowner associations in Florida-Friendly landscape principles
- ✿ **Fun Time Academy advisor** Assist 4-H agents in providing staff with vegetable gardening tips
- ✿ **Yard and Garden Show Planners** Help with planning October 27-28 garden show and sale details

## Come Grow with Us

Want to expand your local gardening knowledge, and share what you learn with others? Then volunteer to **become a certified Florida Master Gardener!**

Master Gardeners share the latest University of Florida horticultural recommendations with county residents and organizations as they resolve landscape problems and create gardens, and provide homeowners and Condo/Homeowner Associations with Florida Friendly landscaping guidance.

Learn more about the [Master Gardener Program](#) and [Master Gardener roles](#) before requesting the [Collier County Master Gardener Program brochure](#). Then [contact Peggy](#) at the Collier County Extension Office at 239 353 4244 for an application and course details.



George Plourde with Master Gardeners and Extension staff dedicating the Linda Sue Plourde memorial bench in the HLC Garden of the Senses on May 9th.

## 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.

### June

- Jun 1** [June South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Jun 1** **Sea Turtle Nesting Season** continues through Oct 31. [Please take these steps](#) to share the beaches with our natural wildlife neighbors.
- Jun 5** [Farming on 10 Acres or Less Workshop Series](#) begins, with classes every Tuesday through June 26, 6 - 9 pm, Collier County Extension, 14700 Immokalee Rd. \$ 15 / class, or \$ 50 for all 4 sessions. [Click here to register](#), or [contact Robert Halman](#), Agriculture and Small Farms Agent.
- Jun 12** Farming on 10 Acres or Less Class 2 - **Small Ruminants and Pleasure Horses**. Details in June 5th entry.
- Jun 13** [Florida Seafood Sustainability and Safety Brown Bag Series Webinar "Scallops"](#) 12:15-12:45 pm. Free. [Click here to register](#), or [contact Bryan Fluech](#), Sea Grant Agent.
- Jun 19** Farming on 10 Acres or Less Class 3 - **Sustainable Vegetable / Fruit Production**. Details in June 5th entry.
- Jun 26** Farming on 10 Acres or Less Class 4 - **Estate Planning for small acreage farms**. Details in June 5th entry.

### July

- Jul 1** [July South FL Garden Calendar](#)
- Jul 18** **Pruning Class**, [Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center](#), 300 Tower Rd, 8 - 10:30 am. Free. CEUs pending.
- Jul 28** **Tropical Fruits Class and Tree Sale**, featuring [Miami Fruit & Spice Park](#) Director Chris Rollins, local fruit growers David and Jenny Burd, and Hopkins Nursery fruit trees for sale, Collier Extension, 9am— Noon. Class is free.

### August

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

**Save this Date!**

- Aug 17** **Retention Pond Management Workshop**

## Grumichamas - Delicate and Delicious

By Suzanne Fundingsland, Family Nutrition Program Agent

The Grumichama *Eugenia brasiliensis*, also known as the Brazilian Cherry or Spanish Cherry, creates a lovely tree, with dark green, evergreen leaves, and beautiful white flowers appearing in mid-March, which repeat several times annually. Patience is required though, since fruit production does not begin until the fourth year of growth, with the greatest yields in spring. The long-stemmed fruit is ½-1 inch diameter, turning from green to red, dark purple and black as it ripens. To learn more about this lovely, fruiting, medium sized tree, request the [Collier Extension Grumichama factsheet](#).



The thin-skinned grumichama fruit is delicate, so care must be taken when harvesting and packing. To prevent damage, place in a container in single or double layers only. If harvested, packaged and chilled within one hour, the fruits will maintain appearance and quality for twelve days.

Whole pitted fruit can be used in pies, cakes and fruit salads. Fruits can also be processed into puree, which freezes well for later use. Approximately six pounds of fruit yields eight cups of puree, which can be used for sauces, jelly or jam. And if these delicious fruits are not in season, you can substitute raspberries or cherries in this cool, delicious soup.

### Chilled Grumichama Citrus Soup

- 4 cups grumichamas, washed, seeded, sepals removed
- 1 ½ cups orange juice
- ¼ cup lime juice
- 1 Tbsp. Honey
- 1 ½ cups ginger ale

Combine 2 cups grumichamas, orange juice, lime juice and honey in a blender. Process until smooth. Stir in remaining grumichamas and ginger ale. Chill thoroughly before serving.



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<http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/HomeGarden/Newsletters.shtml>

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

Call us at [239 353 2872](tel:2393532872), email [CollierMG@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto: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.

### **Thursdays**

9 am — Noon and 1 — 4 pm  
Naples Botanical Garden 4820 Bayshore Dr.

### **Saturdays**

10 am — Noon  
Home Depot 1651 Airport-Pulling Rd S.