

# The Green Gazette

Volume 3 Issue 5 October - November 2012

## You'll Find Treats Galore at the Yard & Garden Show

By Ginger Peeler, Master Gardener and Show Publicity Team Leader

If you're looking for that something special to add fall color to your landscape or to greet those Halloween trick-or-treaters, you'll find plenty of treats at the SW Florida Yard and Garden Show!

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Cover Design by  
Ginger Peeler,  
Master Gardener

This annual garden show and sale, hosted by UF IFAS Collier Extension and the Master Gardeners, will be held **Saturday, October 27th** from 9 am - 4 pm, and **Sunday, October 28th** from 9 am - 3 pm on the Collier Extension Office grounds at **14700 Immokalee Road**, ten miles west of I-75, and adjacent to the Collier County Fairgrounds.



Vendor booths have many colorful plants for sale

bromeliads, and organic herbs, flowering trees, orchids and fragrant tropicals, native plants, palms, and ground covers, succulents, vegetables and tropical fruit trees. For **garden accessories**, browse the garden art, indoor and outdoor wall décor, plus select your favorite organic seeds and fertilizers. **Extension 4-H youth will assist** you with your purchases, and **Master Gardeners Plant Clinics** will be open throughout the show to provide plant care tips for your new purchases and your existing landscape.



This year's show features a **select group of vendors**, both local and from around the state, offering an **exciting selection of plants** that attract birds, butterflies and hummingbirds. You'll find bamboos,



4-H youth will deliver your purchases to your vehicle

Local organizations [Collier County Sheriff's Office](#), [Naples Botanical Gardens](#), [Naples Native Plant Society](#), [Rookery Bay](#), and [UF's Citrus Research & Education Center](#) will have displays and materials for the public. *Continued on Page 2*

## Gulf Currents

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener and Green Gazette Editor

Fall may signal a slow-down in northern gardens, but here in SW Florida, our fall season is blooming with local gulf and garden events for you. The Collier Extension and Master Gardeners invite you to stroll the recently **renovated butterfly, native plant and sensory demonstration gardens** during our annual **Yard and Garden Show** October 27-28. Then celebrate the start of stone crab season by joining Sea Grant agent Bryan Fluech on his October 30th **Are you Smarter than a Stone Crab tour**. Learn healthy landscape tips in one of our **Florida Friendly Landscaping for Homeowners workshops**. Attendees may then request Master Gardener Yard Advisors teams to conduct a site evaluation, and recommend improvements. Then join several UF IFAS experts as they share the latest in **Storm Safe Pruning, Whitefly and Insect Management**, and **SFL Flowering Trees**. Let's grow Collier together!



SW Florida News  
from the  
Master Gardeners



## You'll Find Treats Galore at the Yard & Garden Show

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The Master Gardeners will offer hands-on demonstrations from their booth and in the adjacent Horticultural Learning Center HLC gardens. This year, Master Gardeners Diane Breithaupt will demonstrate **Small Space Container Gardening**, Mary Jane Cary and Tony Donzello will "dish the dirt" on **Florida Friendly Mulching and Composting**, and Kris Morton will demonstrate **Orchid Re-potting**.

Be sure to **visit the Horticultural Learning Center HLC gardens**, where you'll find eight different gardens and a fruit orchard with a variety of plants that perform well in SWFL sun and shade. Pardon our dust, since the gardens remain open as we continue the renovations. But the **Garden of the Senses** is now full of fragrant blooms for butterflies, and new native plantings and a revived water feature are the stars in **Naida's native garden**. Enjoy a self-guided stroll, or stop by the Master Gardener Plant Clinic to request a guided tour.



Aquatic plants in Native garden pond

In our cool comfortable conference hall, horticulture professionals will entertain and inform you on such topics as **Fire Ant Control in the Garden**, by UF IFAS Lee County Extension Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent Fitzroy Beckford, and **Bugs and Shrubs**, by Collier County Extension Commercial Horticulture Agent Dr. "DougBug" Doug Caldwell. Rege Malone will treat us with **Tropical Ornamentals**, and Master Gardener Linda Sheridan will showcase **Native Iris**. Local horticulturalist and gardening expert Bob Cook returns with his very popular topic of **Vegetable Gardening**. And as an added treat, Dee

Vance will discuss the **History, Benefit and Uses of Old Growth Cypress** in her vendor booth. Each speaker will provide information that you can take home and use in your gardens. See the adjacent show event schedule to plan your visit.

Plenty of food and beverages will be available, including breakfast items, hamburgers, salads and more. In addition, the Collier County Extension 4-H Club will be selling lemonade, pumpkins and assorted homemade items.

Entrance admission, payable in cash as you park, is \$3.00 / adult; children under 12 are free. And as you park, keep that door prize ticket you receive. You just may win one of our hourly drawings for door prizes, compliments of our vendors. So treat your family and friends to gifts galore at the [Yard and Garden Show!](#)



Tranquility reigns in the Garden of the Senses



Click the red flag for directions

## Top Zone10 Performers

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

When you visit the Extension Horticultural Learning Center gardens, watch for hummingbirds visiting this shrub. The Bahama Firebush *Hamela cuphea* is a relative of the native Firebush *Hamela patens*, which also attracts birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



This easy care introduced species can grow into a very attractive and dense 10' high and wide mound. But its glossy green foliage takes well to pruning, although flowering will be reduced. The 1" long bell-shaped blooms are borne in clusters throughout the year, first appearing in yellow, and deepening into orange as they mature. A terrific choice for full or part sun locations, this plant is salt-tolerant, deer-resistant, and requires virtually no supplemental irrigation or fertilizer once established.



For further information on Bahama Firebush, see the Miami-Dade Extension [Bahama Firebush factsheet](#). And for more flowering shrub recommendations, request UF publication [Flowering Shrubs for Landscape Color](#).





# Schedule of Events

## Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 AM Garden Show and Sale Opens  
All vendors, Master Gardeners and 4-H youth ready to serve you  
Extension Horticultural Learning Center HLC Gardens open for visitors
- Demonstration ***Small Space Container Gardening*** with Master Gardener Diane Breithaupt  
Outdoor Master Gardener Booth
- 10:00 AM Presentation ***Vegetable Gardening*** with Horticulturalist Bob Cook  
Indoor Extension Conference Hall
- 1:00 PM Presentation ***Fire Ant Control in the Garden*** with Lee County Agent Fitzroy Beckford  
Indoor Extension Conference Hall
- 2:00 PM Demonstration ***Florida Friendly Mulching*** with Master Gardener Mary Jane Cary  
Outdoor adjacent HLC Gardens Tropical Shade Garden Shelter
- 3:00 PM Demonstration ***Florida Friendly Composting*** with Master Gardener Tony Donzello  
Outdoor adjacent HLC Gardens Tropical Shade Garden Shelter
- 4:00 PM Garden Show and Sale Closes

## Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 AM Garden Show and Sale Opens  
All vendors, Master Gardeners and 4-H youth ready to serve you  
Extension Horticultural Learning Center HLC Gardens open for visitors
- 10:00 AM Demonstration ***Orchid Re-potting*** with Master Gardener Kris Morton  
Outdoor Master Gardener Booth
- 11:00 AM Demonstration ***Old Growth Cypress Wood Uses*** with Garden artist Dee Vance  
Outdoor Garden Art Vendor Booth
- 12:00 PM Presentation ***Native Iris*** with Master Gardener Linda Sheridan  
Indoor Extension Conference Hall
- 1:00 PM Presentation ***Tropical Ornamentals*** with Nursery owner Rege Malone  
Indoor Extension Conference Hall
- 2:00 PM Demonstration ***Bugs and Shrubs*** with Collier Extension Agent Doug Caldwell  
Indoor Extension Conference Hall and adjacent fruit orchard
- 3:00 PM Garden Show and Sale Ends

Admission \$ 3 / adult Children under 12 Free Payable in Cash as you park  
Admission includes ticket for Door Prizes to be given away every hour  
For more information Call Extension Office at 239 353 4244



## The Frugal Gardener

By Leah Ray, Master Gardener



### Automatic Hose Reels

They may be expensive but they save backs. They wind up with water pressure. Here I am watching as my hose magically disappears!

### Free Entertainment!

Plant native Pawpaws *Asimina* species as discussed in this [Gardening in a minute audio](#), and you'll soon see chrysalis like this issue's cover design. Then watch as lovely Zebra Swallowtail butterfly emerge!

Request UF article [EENY058 Zebra Swallowtail](#) to learn more about this lovely native butterfly.



### Plant Labels for your garden

Use mini-blinds for plant labels. Blinds can be acquired at yard sales, thrift stores, or even discontinued sets at the big box stores. Cut them into 6 inch pieces. Label with a heavy pencil, since Sharpie ink fades.

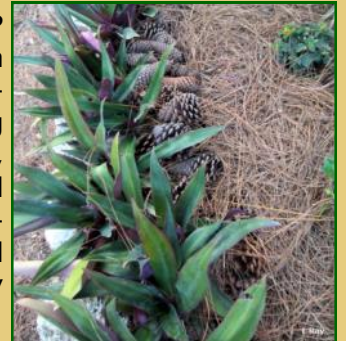
### From Trash to Treasure

Three years ago, I spray painted an old white fan cover black, and secured a few tiny staghorn ferns in the top. They grew through the bottom. And now? It's time to beef up the hanging chain. Learn more about these ferns at UF's [Staghorn fern Gardening in a Minute audio](#).



### Unwanted traffic?

Use pinecones as a deterrent to animals trampling plants. Dogs, cats, raccoons, and opossums will always go around those prickly things.



### Mount Orchids

Use cheap burlap and a staple gun to attach orchids to trees. The jute breaks down as the roots attach. The burlap also blends in better with the wood.

### Lower your water bill!

When you visit our [Yard and Garden Show](#), you can pick up a rain barrel kit for \$ 50, payable with cash or check, to start collecting free rain water to use in your landscape. Match the barrel to your house with leftover paint.



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



## Beneficial Cover-ups

### Courtesy of Florida Friendly Landscaping Principle # 4: Mulch

By Mary Jane Cary, Master Gardener

On any given day at the beach, I see people donning cover-ups or long sleeve shirts when the sunshine becomes intense or the Gulf breeze turns cool. Cover-ups serve a dual purpose, protecting their wearers from intense sunlight and heat *AND* from cooler weather. We can provide this same dual protection for our landscape, by using cover-ups...of organic mulch.



Find out more about [Melaleuca trees](#) and [Melaleuca mulch](#).



Organic mulches are relatively easy on our wallets, and provide many benefits to our landscape. But since they are wood products, are they attractive to termites? UF IFAS scientists decided to find out, by turning termites loose in six different landscape mulches, including

- Cypress (bark and wood)
- Eucalyptus bark and wood
- Melaleuca (bark and wood)
- Pine Bark
- Pine straw (needles) and
- Utility mulch (mixed hardwood leaves, bark and wood).

All mulches were purchased from local garden centers, except for the utility mulch, which was purchased from the Gainesville Regional Utility.

The result? Although termites consumed all of the mulch types in this study, the Melaleuca mulch was their least favorite. This mulch is a byproduct of the Melaleuca eradication program, whose objective is to eliminate this highly invasive exotic tree from South Florida. The mulch is produced from the heart-wood of the tree, which is also resistant to nematodes. The resulting product is composted for several months to kill all Melaleuca seeds, and is certified by the [Mulch and Soil Council](#). Sold under the names Flori-Mulch and GreenSmart™, Melaleuca

mulch can be found in local garden centers, and is available in several colors.

But if mulches, even this "termite-resistant" Melaleuca mulch can support termites, how concerned should we be with using mulch in our landscapes? Warnings to remove pieces of wood or stakes after

home construction are common, since wood in close proximity to the soil surface is a prerequisite for subterranean termites and wood-decaying fungi. So perhaps mulch is a potential food source along with the trees and woody landscape plants that are growing in our South Florida yards.

But until further research on mulches like Melaleuca is conducted, UF recommends following the guidance provided in the publications at their [Subterranean Termites Gardening in a Minute broadcast site](#). Maintaining a 1 foot mulch-free or lightly mulched zone around foundations enables soil to remain naturally dry, a condition that discourages termites. And the ability of mulches to conserve water, reduce need for herbicides, prevent soil erosion, and moderate soil temperature and moisture makes for beneficial cover-ups.



Listen to UF's [Gardening in a Minute broadcast about mulch](#) as you browse related articles.



Establish a 1 foot mulch-free zone around foundation

### 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](#)

## We Can Help You Create your own Florida Friendly Landscape

Is your turf tired? Plants looking poorly? Are you in need of an easy-on-the-eyes-and-wallet landscape do-over? The Collier Extension's [Florida Friendly Landscaping Program](#) can help you re-create a vibrant landscape that you will have time to enjoy.

Attend a free **Florida Yards & Neighborhoods for Homeowners workshop** to learn UF's powerful principles for healthy landscapes. Then schedule a site evaluation visit with a Master Gardener FYN Advisor team. You'll receive tips for transforming your yard into a healthy, [award-winning Florida Friendly landscape](#). [Register Today!](#)



## Now Playing in SWFL Gardens

*By Leah Ray, Master Gardener*

Remember the old commercial "How do YOU spell relief?" Well I spell it 'O-c-t-o-b-e-r.' We still have plenty of hot muggy weather and maybe even a hurricane or two, but change is in the air. It is palpable.

**Vegetables:** Plant cool season crops, like tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, beets, Brussels' sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, onion, pea, radicchio, radish, spinach, Swiss chard.

**Herbs:** Plant arugula, basil, chive, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic, ginger, lemon balm, Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme and watercress.

**Turf:** Time for a fall feeding. If you only fertilize once a year, this is it. Broad leaf weeds and sedges will respond well to weed controls. Have your lawn lean and mean. Water only when it needs it. November is the time St. Augustine can handle Atrazine for weed control. Repeat application 3 - 4 weeks later. See [UF article ENY325 to Manage Chinch Bugs](#), and [UF article 352 to Manage armyworms and sod webworms](#). Brown Patch, a fungal disease described in [UF article SS-PLP-5](#), is

most likely observed from November - May when temperatures are below 80°F. It is normally triggered by rainfall and excessive irrigation. Apply a fungicide as needed.

**Fertilize:** Follow [UF article ENH858 Fertilizing Landscape Plants](#) when feeding palms, shrubs, vines and ground covers. Tropical fruits such as bananas, pineapples, and carambola need a final fall feeding.

**Ixoras:** If soil pH is too alkaline, it will not absorb nutrients. Use pelletized sulfur to lower the pH, and then apply fertilizer. This lessens the purple splotches that appear on the foliage in winter.

**Plumeria:** Rust, described in [UF article PD-61](#), will be prevalent. Spray with a fungicide or consider using a systemic fungicide. The longer the leaves remain the better the blooming prospects. Discard all dropped leaves in the trash, not the compost.

**Holiday Plants:** [Reduce watering of Christmas Cactus](#) to a minimum. Discontinue feeding and make sure poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and kalanchoe receive no night time light for best blooming. It is too late to prune poinsettias. Begin forcing amaryllis and narcissus, and try some of the many bulbs described in [UF article CIR552 Bulbs for Florida](#).



*Sanders Pines Community Garden in Immokalee*

## Collier Extension Welcomes New Master Gardeners!



Nineteen new Collier County Master Gardeners are ready to assist you with your landscaping questions. Congratulations to (photo, left to right):

Anne Kinsley, Ann Marie Rellias, Alice Thorne, John Thorne, Jim Buch, Elaine Buch, Santiago Roman, Nan Fiala, Brooke Hollander, Leslie Strauss, John Ballard, Tammye Burnett, Donald Hendrickson, Katie Vance, Tony Donzello, Donna Glembin, Deb Ellison, Jim Dorsey, and Master Gardener Coordinator Fred Johnson.

*Not shown: Mary Ann Simms.*



## 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**

- ✿ **Community Garden Leaders** Assist Naples Estates community with planning their community garden
- ✿ **HLC Gardens Counsel** Assist with projects in Extension Horticultural Learning Center gardens
- ✿ **FYN Yard Advisors** Advise homeowners, and condo/homeowner associations with incorporating Florida-Friendly landscape principles
- ✿ **Plant Clinic Team mates** Identify plants, diagnose pests and diseases and provide gardening solutions to residents. Multiple sites, days and hours available



## 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.



Master Gardener Tony Donzello (photo center) with [Rotaract volunteers](#) relining the Extension Horticultural Learning Center Gardens water feature.

## SWFL 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.

### October

- Oct 1** [October South FL Garden Calendar](#)  
**Oct 1** [Sea Turtle Nesting Season](#) continues through Oct 31. [Please take these steps](#) to share our beaches.  
**Oct 10** [Florida Seafood Sustainability and Safety Brown Bag Series Webinar "Hard Clams"](#) 12:15-12:45 pm. Free. [Click here to register](#), or [contact Bryan Fluech](#), UF Sea Grant Collier agent.  
**Oct 27-28** Extension [Yard and Garden Show](#)  
**Oct 30** [Are You Smarter Than A Stone Crab Tour](#), by UF Sea Grant Collier agent Bryan Fluech, 2:30 — 6:30 pm. Tour starts at [Rookery Bay Reserve](#), 300 Tower Road, Naples. Cost \$17/person. Space limited - registration required. Questions? [Contact Bryan](#).

### November

- Nov 1** [November SFL Garden Calendar](#)  
**Nov 8** [Florida Yards & Neighborhoods for Homeowners Workshop](#), 1 - 3 pm, Collier Extension, 14700 Immokalee Rd. Free. Register today, or [contact Fred Johnson](#), FYN Coordinator.  
**Nov 13** [Storm Safe Pruning](#), by UF IFAS Dr. Ed Gilman, [Naples Botanical Garden](#), 4820 Bayshore Dr. 2:00 — 5:00 pm. [Contact Doug Caldwell](#) for details.  
**Nov 20** [How to Manage New Whitefly Pests and other Insects](#), by UF IFAS Collier Extension Dr. Doug Caldwell, [Naples Botanical Garden](#), 2:00 — 4:00 pm. [Contact Doug Caldwell](#) for details.  
**Nov 27** [Flowering Trees for South Florida](#), by UF IFAS Lee Extension Stephen Brown, [Naples Botanical Garden](#), 2:00 — 4:00 pm. [Contact Doug Caldwell](#) for details.

### December

- Dec 1** [December SFL Garden Calendar](#)  
**Dec 1** Next Green Gazette issue

**Jan 10, 2013 Garden Workshop Series begins!**

Details in December Green Gazette

**Save this Date!**

## Enjoy Florida's Fall Colors...on your Plate!

By Suzanne Fundingsland, Family Nutrition Program Agent



Fall is in the air, and [Florida's Fresh2U local produce in season](#) provides ingredients for the colorful [AVOCADO, CUCUMBER and Tomato salad served atop GREENS and steamed SNAP BEANS](#) recipes. Colorful meals tend to be healthy meals!

Meanwhile, the [OrganWise Guys \(OWG\)](#) bring us **APPLES, WINTER SQUASH, SWEET POTATOES and LEAN MEATS** for October and November. Although heating up the oven doesn't seem practical, I can't help it this time of year. Since I'm originally from north-central North Dakota, I'm hard-wired to bake and roast and heat up the kitchen! Uffda!

I found a recipe that I can taste just looking at it. So fill your plate with Avocado salad and steamed snap beans, then add this veggie-packed cornbread stuffing and a small portion of lean pork loin. Yum!

### **Cornbread Stuffing with Sweet Potato and Squash**

1 cup diced onion  
*optional* 2 cloves garlic, pressed  
2 ½ cups butternut squash, peeled, seeded, 1/2 inch cubes  
3 Tbsp melted butter  
½ tsp dried sage  
2- 14 oz. cans low sodium fat-free chicken broth, divided  
1 large egg, beaten

10 servings (great for a holiday meal)  
1 Tbsp canola oil  
1 apple, peeled, cut in ½ inch cubes  
2 medium sweet potato, ½ inch cubes  
2 Tbsp brown sugar  
*optional* 2 tsp Creole seasoning, divided  
8 oz package cornbread stuffing mix  
*optional* 1/3 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Sauté onion in hot oil in a large deep skillet; add garlic, sauté briefly over medium-high heat. Stir in squash, sweet potatoes, apple, butter, brown sugar, sage, 1 tsp. Creole seasoning and ¼ cup water. Cover and reduce heat to medium, and cook, stirring occasionally, 15 minutes or until the squash is tender. Stir in 1 can chicken broth. Remove from heat; cool 15 minutes. Stir together stuffing mix, egg, remaining can chicken broth and 1 tsp. Creole seasoning in a medium bowl. Fold stuffing into the cooled squash mixture. Spoon this mixture into a lightly oiled 13" X 9" baking dish. Bake covered with aluminum foil at 375 for 25 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle with pecans. Bake 20 more minutes or until pecans are toasted. Let stand 10 minutes 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 Extension 14700 Immokalee Rd.

#### ***Tuesdays October 2nd - December 18th***

9 am — Noon  
Naples Regional Library 650 Central Ave.

#### ***Thursdays***

9 am — 5 pm  
Naples Botanical Garden 4820 Bayshore Dr.

#### ***Saturdays - Two Locations***

10 am — Noon  
Home Depot 1651 Airport-Pulling Rd S.  
8 am - 11:30 am *starting November 3rd*  
3rd Street South Farmers Market