

July Gardening Guide

By: Patricia Porchey

Both plants and the people growing them experience stress at times due to environmental factors such as the extremely dry spring we've just experienced. The higher-than-normal temperatures have put additional stress on plants and have curtailed our outdoor gardening activity hours.

Concerns about water and fertilizer ordinances can provide additional stress to the homeowner. However, these concerns can be minimized if the principle of "right plant, right place" is observed. The right site can mean the difference between a plant growing to its potential and a plant struggling to survive. Those site conditions triggering a plant's success are soil pH, soil moisture and drainage, air circulation, and light conditions.

Before purchasing plants, first consider the water and fertilizer requirements for that plant. Most native plants and many non-native plants are drought tolerant once they are established and many plants, especially natives, have minimal fertilizer needs. It is possible to avoid these additional stresses.

Gardening activities:

- Monitor Bahiagrass lawns for mole crickets and St. Augustinegrass for chinch bugs and spot treat if necessary.
- To "green up" the lawn without promoting growth or contributing to polluted runoff, apply chelated iron or ferrous sulfate instead of lawn fertilizer.
- Consider replacing excess lawn areas with mulched beds to conserve water and fertilizer.
- Remember to use sunscreen and protective clothing and avoid gardening in the middle of the day.

Planting guide:

Vegetables & Herbs (plant herbs from transplants and vegetables from seeds or transplants): Basil, bay laurel, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, oregano, rosemary, thyme, okra, and southern peas.

Annuals: Begonia Celosia, Coleus, Cosmos, Crossandra, Dahlberg daisy, Gomphrena, marigold, Melampodium, Nicotiana, periwinkle, Portulaca, Salvia, Torenia, and Zinnia.

Perennials: Beach buttercup, beach sunflower, blue daze, Coreopsis, daylily, Gaillardia, Gaura, Mexican heather, Mexican petunia, Pentas, Rudbeckia, Salvia, shrimp plant, society garlic, and Verbena.

Blooming plants: Allamanda, beautyberry, bird of paradise, blackberry lily, Canna, crape myrtle, Crinum lily, crossvine, dwarf Poinciana, fiddlewood, firespike, frangipani, gloriosa lily, golden dewdrop, horsemint, Jacquemontia, lion's ear, Loropetalum, Magnolia, Mimosa, natal plum, rain lily, royal Poinciana, Vitex, and yellow Poinciana.

Fruits in season: Avocado, banana, citrus (calamondin, key lime, lemon and lime), fig, guava, kumquat, longan, lychee, macadamia, mango, papaya, passion vine, pineapple, pomegranate, sapodilla, and sea grape.

Upcoming educational classes:

You may now register for classes on-line at our website:

<http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/EdSched.htm> or call 861-5000.

- “Gardening for Your Health” at Twin Lakes Park, July 17, 2:00 p.m.
- “Africanized Honeybees: A Growing Menace” at Twin Lakes Park, July 18, 2:00 p.m.
- “Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Grant Workshop” at Twin Lakes Park, July 18, 4:00 p.m.
- “Africanized Honeybees” at Shamrock Park, July 19, 2:00 p.m.
- “Plant Propagation” at Twin Lakes Park, July 25, 10:00 a.m.
- “Living Green: Environmentally Sound Pest Management (IPM) Practices” at Twin Lakes Park, August 1, 2:00 p.m.

Florida House Plant Sale

In order to facilitate the moving of the Florida House, mature trees and plants will be available for the public to purchase on July 9-13, 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Call 316-1200 for details.

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