

# July Gardening Guide 2009

By: Patricia Porchey

Sarasota County Extension Service offers free classes year round to residents and visitors. They run the gamut of controlling pests in your yard to healthy eating. The majority of the classes are held at the Extension office while others are held at parks and libraries throughout the county. For a complete list of upcoming classes through September, visit our website <http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/>.

Of special interest to many of you are the classes presented by local entomologist, Dr. Fred Santana. This month he will be speaking on bed bugs, beneficial insects, spiders, rodents and moles.

Most people don't realize that less than 1% of insects are actually considered pests; whereas, the others have an important role in our environment as a pollinator or predator of other insects. Insects are necessary to the reproduction of flowers on ornamentals, but more importantly to insure pollination and fruit development for our food crops. One-third of our food crops depend on honeybees for pollination.

Knowing the nature of insects can lead to a better understanding of their management. This is an important part of Integrated Pest Management IPM, wherein Dr. Santana teaches us how to reduce pesticide use.

In the class on bed bugs, Dr. Santana explains why bed bugs have become an "equal opportunity pest." You will learn what to look for when you travel and stay in lodgings so you don't bring uninvited guests home with you.

Are spiders scary or can they also be beneficial? Oftentimes, what looks scary may be a larval form of a lady beetle or another beneficial insect. Recognizing these good bugs will allow them to work in your garden without using pesticides. Frivolous use of pesticides often kills these beneficial insects as well as the actual pests.

Dr. Santana also teaches many pesticide classes to green industry professionals. There is a complete list of upcoming classes on our website for those needing training for their CEUs.

## **Clarification re: water restrictions**

- Pest control applications can be watered in before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Fertilizer applications can be watered in before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. However, **it is illegal to apply Nitrogen and Phosphorus June 1 – September 30.** Potassium and micronutrients can be applied, as well as chelated iron to green up your turf.

## **Blooming and 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, 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, Loropetalum, Magnolia, Natal plum, rain lily, 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:**

Call 861-9900 to register for the following classes.

- Hurricanes vs. Trees, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. July 2
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Creating Your Florida Yard, North Port Library, 6:30 p.m. July 7
- The Bed Bug Menace, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. July 8
- Turf Alternatives: Small Plants for Small Places, Gulf Gate Library, 1:30 p.m. July 10
- Good Bugs in the Garden, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. July 15
- Rodent and Mole Management, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. July 16
- Plant Propagation, Laurel Community Garden, Laurel Park, 509 Collins Rd., 9:30 a.m. July 18
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Nine Landscape Principles, Fruitville Library, 2:00 p.m. July 20
- Is That a Dangerous Spider? Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. July 22
- Are You Fire Wise? Twin Lakes Park, 4:00 p.m. July 22
- Preparations for a Fall Garden, Orange Blossom Community Garden, Orange Avenue Park, 18th and Orange, 1:00 p.m. August 1
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Nine Landscape Principles, North Port Library, 6:30 p.m. August 4
- Household Pests, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. August 5
- What to do About Ants, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. August 6

### **For information**

The **Master Gardener Help Desk** now has an email address: [mghelpdesk@scgov.net](mailto:mghelpdesk@scgov.net) to answer questions. It is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. You can call (941-861-9807) or visit our office at Twin Lakes Park on Clark Road east of I-75 with landscape questions. We also have weekly satellite help desks at the four south

county libraries and every third Saturday of the month at the Downtown Farmer's Market.

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Submitted: June 30, 2009