

# June Gardening Guide

## By: Patricia Porchey

The prolonged drought has prevented us from installing new plants this spring, but once the rains return we will have the moisture needed for their establishment. Even the most drought-tolerant plants such as the increasingly popular groundcover, perennial peanut, needs regular watering when it's initially planted. Gradually backing off the frequency and deep watering vs. shallow watering encourages roots to elongate. These longer roots will aid the plant to survive in subsequent drought periods.

Before going shopping, have a plan for your landscape. Know how much area is to be planted and the site conditions: soil pH, sun, shade, wet, dry, etc. Select healthy plants at the nursery - size is not as important as structure when selecting plants. Inspect the container of densely foliated plants to be sure there is only one plant, not two or three together, to make it especially full. Six months to a year later, their roots will be enveloping one another resulting in stress or death. Knowing the mature size space requirements of the plant will be accommodated, will prevent future pest and maintenance problems.

This hot weather increases the likelihood of chinch bug infestations in St. Augustine lawns. Monitor for chinch bugs before applying an insecticide. Some counties, including Sarasota, have a problem with chinch bugs now being resistant to the insecticide Bifenthrin. Overuse can cause this to happen. Always rotate chemicals and apply only when there is a problem. Also, only apply the insecticide to the infected area of the lawn plus five feet of the surrounding turf.

### **Gardening activities:**

- Thin dense trees, but do not top them.
- Plant trees far enough away from the home to prevent damage from strong winds. Allow 25 feet from the foundation for a large tree.
- Prune hedges and shrubs using the rule of thumb to remove no more than one third of the growth at one time.
- Monitor for sod webworms and treat with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) if present.
- If citrus rust mites were a problem on last season's fruit, spray your tree with horticultural oil.
- Plant larraflower seeds if mole crickets are a problem. Free seeds are available at our office or the Florida House.
- Start new plants with tip cuttings from your favorite plants.

### **Planting guide:**

**Vegetables & Herbs** (plant herbs from transplants and vegetables from seeds or transplants): Basil, borage, catnip, collard and mustard greens, eggplant, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, okra, oregano, rosemary, southern peas, summer savory, sweet potatoes, thyme and turnip.

**Annuals:** Begonia Celosia, Coleus, Crossandra, Gazania, Gerbera daisy, Gomphrena, marigold, Melampodium, Nicotiana, periwinkle, Portulaca, Salvia, Torenia, and Zinnia.

**Perennials:** Blue daze, Gaillardia, Coreopsis, daylily, Pentas, *Ruellia caroliniensis* (native), Salvia, Shasta daisy, society garlic, Stokes aster and Verbena.

**Fruits in season:** Banana, blueberry, Carambola, guava, citrus (calamondin, key lime, lemon and lime), Jackfruit, fig, kumquat, lychee, macadamia, mango, papaya and pineapple.

**Blooming plants:** African tulip tree, Allamanda, beautyberry, bird of paradise, Cannas, crape jasmine, crape myrtle, dwarf Poinciana, Gardenia, Jerusalem thorn, Magnolia, Mexican flame vine, ponytail palm, Plumbago, royal Poinciana, society garlic, thryallis, and Yucca.

### **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.

- “Chinch Bugs & White Grubs” at Twin Lakes Park, June 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- “Hurricanes and Trees” at Shamrock Park, June 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- “Container Gardening” at Florida House, June 12 at 2:00 p.m.
- “Florida Buggy Critters: Bad, Good & Harmless” at Twin Lakes Park, June 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- “Climate Change-Challenge & Solutions” at Florida House, June 26 at 2:00 p.m.
- “Gardening for Your Health” at Florida House, July 17 at 2:00 p.m.

### **Satellite Services**

In addition to our four south county library locations, we have two new locations at North Sarasota Library and the Farmers’ Market. Master Gardeners are at the North Sarasota Library, Monday, 10:00 a.m.-noon and the Farmers’ Market, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, 7:00 a.m.-noon.

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