

# June Gardening Guide 2009

By: Patricia Porchey

The recent rains were enthusiastically greeted by gardeners after a drought-stricken winter and spring. Now the much anticipated afternoon summer rains can make us forget about droughts, but we need to remember that the three prior years left us with a 30-inch deficit.

Water conservation is extremely important and more and more people are embracing conservation measures - it's becoming "fashionable." The acronym LID (Low Impact Development) is now being used in conjunction with water conservation. Reducing stormwater runoff and keeping rain water on site is the crux of LID.

There are measures that any homeowner can employ to increase water conservation to reduce the use of potable water. Reroute gutters away from driveways to planting beds or rain barrels. Use micro-irrigation in beds and properly operating irrigation systems on turf areas. Rain or soil sensors will run your irrigation system only when it is needed. Unnecessarily watering plants will waste water, but can also lead to disease and pest problems.

Imposed water restrictions remind us that water conservation is a year-round problem. Following are some of the current water restrictions for Sarasota County including the cities of Sarasota, Venice, North Port and Englewood. (Reclaimed water is exempt)

- Irrigation system watering is permitted once per week before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Even numbered addresses on Tuesdays and odd numbered addresses on Thursdays.
- Hand water is permitted any day, but is prohibited between 8 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Car washing is permitted once per week and is recommended to be done on turf areas.
- New installations are limited to 15-days daily watering for turf and 30 days daily watering for ornamentals (before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.)
- Fertilizer/pest control applications before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Fountains/waterfalls are permitted to operate only 4 hours per day.

Violators will be fined \$100 up to \$500 per violation. No warnings will be given. Call 861-5000 to report violations. For more information on water conservation and water restrictions, go to <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/> or visit our office.

## **Timely reminders:**

- The new fertilizer ordinance makes it illegal to apply Nitrogen and Phosphorus June 1 – September 30. If your turf needs greening up this summer, you can apply chelated iron.
- Every time a palm is "hurricane cut," it is stressed. When pruning palms, only remove the brown fronds

### **Blooming and 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, Jacaranda, Jerusalem thorn, Ligustrum, Magnolia, Mexican flame vine, ponytail palm, Plumbago, Plumeria, royal Poinciana, thryallis, and Yucca.

### **Upcoming educational classes:**

Call 861-9900 to register for the following classes.

- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Creating Your Florida Yard, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. June 10
- Hurricanes vs. Trees, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. June 17
- Termites, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. June 18
- Organic Vegetable Gardening, Laurel Park, 10:30 a.m. June 20
- Let It Rot (Composting), Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. July 1
- Partnering with Pollinators, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. July 1
- 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

### **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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