

## JULY PLANTING GUIDE

**VEGETABLES** – Only heat tolerant items like eggplant, pepper, okra, sweet potatoes, field peas, should be considered now.

**HERBS**- Chives, basil, rosemary, stevia, lemon balm, sage, mint and cilantro can be started now.

**ANNUALS** -Tropical annuals like portulaca, periwinkle, salvia, impatiens, balsam and celosia.

**Bulbs**- Ginger, gladiolus, caladium, cannas, crinum, rain lily and colocasia can be installed this month.

## Chores

### Hurricane Prep

If not on paper, have a plan in the back of your mind how to secure the yard should a major storm threaten. Items that will need to be secured include: lawn furniture, grills, flower pots, hanging baskets, trash cans, wind chimes, yard flags and canopy tents. Sheds should be locked with windows secured. If loose items cannot be placed indoors, group them along the house foundation. For homes that are built close to one another, the side yards usually form wind tunnels so place items along the back of the house. Flying projectiles are one of the major causes of damage to homes during a high wind event. Secure loose objects if a hurricane is predicted.

### Garden Planning

When planning a garden, you work backwards. As an example we can plant most annuals and vegetables as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. That is about sixty days away. If you are turning over a new area of the yard to make a garden a soil test should be done and soil amendments should be incorporated six weeks (42) days before planting. Depending on the type of soil test, it may take you up to three weeks to get the results. If you like to grow your own transplant starts from seed, they take 4-6 weeks (28-42 days) before they are ready to set out. If you mail order the seeds they take about two weeks (14 days) to get here.

The bottom line is if you plan to start a new garden area this fall, you should plan it out and get started on it in the next two weeks if you actually expect it to be successful.

## Preserve your helpers

This is the time when chinch bug damage can appear quickly in a lawn. There are many insects that eat chinch bugs. Common predators of southern chinch bugs are big-eyed bugs, earwigs, spiders, pirate bugs and a small wasp. When you allow your entire lawn to be treated for chinch bugs you are killing predatory insects as well. If chinch bug damage appears in your lawn treat the spot and five feet beyond. This way you preserve your natural controllers. Chinch bugs reproduce faster than their predators and this is why occasionally damage occurs but in time the predators will catch up since there is prey for them to thrive on. If you need to learn which bugs in the landscape are good, you can order “Good Lawn Bugs” from the IFAS bookstore at [ifasbooks.ufl.com](http://ifasbooks.ufl.com) or by calling 1-800-226-1764.

## Planting time

You may think it's too hot to plant but most tropical plants need to be well established before winter. It takes six months to a year to establish most trees and shrubs. Summer is the time to plant tropical shrubs, palm trees and sod. The problem with planting now is that it can be hard to keep things watered because the strong summer sun can dry plants out quickly. Summer planted items should be watered everyday for the first two weeks from planting. After that they should start putting on new roots and they are better equipped to forage for water so less applied water should be needed.

## Stay Sharp

Summer started last week and that means the lawn will most likely be mowed weekly from now until the end of October. In the fall we see disease activity flare up in the yard. There seems to be a correlation between disease and lawns that have been mowed with a dull blade. A sharp mower blade cuts the grass while a dull one rips the blade leaving a tattered end. A smooth cut on a grass blade will seal while the wound on a tattered blade stays open longer. This seems to be the opportunity that disease takes advantage of.

Make sure you sharpen your mower blade during the mowing season. After mowing, inspect grass leaf blades to make sure you are leaving a smooth cut at the blade ends and not a tattered one. If they are tattered a blade sharpening or new set of blades is past due.

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN CLASS

One of the best investments you can make in your home is landscaping. Unlike other home improvement projects a landscape tends to appreciate with time as opposed to depreciating like a new appliance. Learn to create a landscape design for your home by attending our three session class. You must attend all three sessions for this class to benefit you. For each week we build on the previous information and by the end of the third session you can have a completed design. By attending the three classes it also entitles you to a site visit for an evaluation of your plan.

The class will be three consecutive Wednesdays in July: 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the course is \$30.00 and class size is limited to 15 projects. To register for the class call 209-0430.

## RAIN BARREL CLASS

We will be offering another make-and-take rain barrel class on Friday, August 7. In the class you convert a 55 gallon food grade plastic drum into a rain barrel. The cost of the class is \$40.00. The class will be at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center and will run from 10 until noon. You must register to attend and typically we have a waiting list for this class. Call 209-0430 to register. **Class limited to first 30 people who sign up.**

## STAGHORN FERN CLASS

Many people like to grow staghorn ferns but once the clump gets too large they don't know what to do with it or it gets heavy for them to move. On Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup> will be offering a Staghorn Fern Class.

In this class you will learn how to reduce a staghorn fern clump and use the plants to start new colonies. Each participant will mount a staghorn and take home a newly set plant. The cost of this class is \$15.00.

Call 209-0430 to register. **Class limited to first 20 people who sign up.**

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### St. Johns County 4-H Dinner Auction

Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2009

*100 Years and Counting!*

**5:30pm Auction Preview    6:00pm Dinner and Entertainment**  
**Silent and Live Auction throughout the evening**

Support the St. Johns County 4-H Program while enjoying an entertaining evening with family & friends.

*Individual tickets may be purchased or a table can be reserved for a party of 10.*

*Tickets are \$25 per person. Reserve your seat by contacting the 4-H Office at (904) 209-0430.*

**The 4-H Dinner Auction is the primary fundraising event held to support the St. Johns County 4-H Youth Development Program.** Proceeds from the Dinner Auction are used to fund 4-H youth activities that included residential camps, day camps and youth attendance to state and national 4-H events and competitions. Funds are also used to purchase educational resources and to fund programming needs for youth and volunteer development.

**Auction items will include but are not limited to:** gift certificates for local restaurants, services, and attractions; themed gift baskets; items hand-made by 4-H Alumni; artwork; live plants; local attractions; and much, much more!!!!!! There is sure to be something for everyone!

**A successful 4-H Dinner Auction requires the support of the entire community. If you are interested in providing an item to be auctioned at the 4-H Dinner Auction, please contact Kathy at the 4-H Office (904) 209-0430 or e-mail [kponce@sjcfl.us](mailto:kponce@sjcfl.us).**

# *Calendar of Events for July 2009*

## June 2009

- 27<sup>th</sup> ..... Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Farmers Market St. Augustine Amphitheatre  
1340 A1A South St Augustine-9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
27<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Bartram Trail Library - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## July 2009

- 4<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Ace Hardware US 1 - 9:00 AM - **Noon**  
11<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Farmers Market St. Augustine Amphitheatre  
1340 A1A South St Augustine-9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
14<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Tuesday) -Home Depot-1750 US 1 South St. Augustine  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
16<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Thursday) - Bartram Trail Library - 10:00 AM - **Noon**  
25<sup>th</sup> ..... Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Farmers Market St. Augustine Amphitheatre  
25<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Bartram Trail Library - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
1340 A1A South St Augustine-9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
28<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Tuesday) -Home Depot-1750 US 1 South St. Augustine  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
28<sup>th</sup> ..... **Staghorn Fern Class (Tuesday) - Agricultural Center -**  
**3125 Agricultural Center Drive 10:00 AM - Noon**

Master Gardeners are available at the Agricultural Center

*Monday - Friday - 9:00 AM - Noon*

Call with horticulturally related questions

*Call 209-0430 or TDD service at 1-800-955-8771*

Sincerely,

Keith Fuller,  
Horticulture Agent St. Johns County



Madeline Samec, Contributing Editor

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

**3125 AGRICULTURAL CENTER DRIVE**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32092**

