

## JUNE PLANTING GUIDE

**VEGETABLES** – Pull declining plants from the garden to prevent pest infestations. Plant only heat tolerant items like peppers, okra, eggplants, Southern peas, lima beans and sweet potatoes.

**HERBS**- Enjoy basil, parsley, cilantro, oregano, rosemary, sage and chives.

**ANNUALS** -Salvia, portulaca, periwinkle, marigold, zinnia, mallow, impatiens and balsam.

**Bulbs**-Tropical bulbs like ginger, gladiolus, cannas, spider lily, rain lily, crinum and agapanthus can be installed this month.

## Chores

### Weeds

With the seasonal rains comes excessive weed growth. Scout and hoe beds weekly, for weed seedlings are easier to control than mature ones. The same holds true if you are using herbicides. Heavy rains can cause mulch to float and expose bare earth where weeds can take hold. Make sure mulch is in place. Pine straw will not float badly as wood mulches so consider using it in areas that flood.

### Crape Myrtles

If you have an early blooming variety of crape myrtle, cut off its flowers as they fade. By doing this you force the plant into flower production again and you will get a second flowering in late summer. By leaving the flowers on, the plant will make seeds and will not flower again until next summer. Excess pruning is not required, simply cut just below the flower cluster.

### Respect the Heat

Learn to chase the shade when doing summer landscape chores. Plan to work in the yard early in the morning or late evening to avoid high temperatures. The hottest time of day is around 4PM so relax when you first get home from work and mow the grass after dinner.

In the morning, work on the west or south side of the home where the shade will be and late in the day work on the east and north side of the home. Drink

plenty of non-alcoholic fluids when working in the heat. Wear a wide brimmed hat and place a bandana, which has been soaked in water, around the neck or on your head to keep you cool. For safety, wear only close-toed footwear when working in the yard. When digging, wear a hard-soled shoe.

## Pruning Tropicals

Many people like to add ever blooming tropical plants like plumbago, shrub allamanda, hibiscus, bottle brush, fire bush and shrimp plant to the landscape for summer color. One thing to realize is these plants produce flowers on new growth. To encourage more new growth remove spent blooms. This pruning will force the plant to send out new shoots on which the next round of flowers will be born.

When spent blooms are allowed to remain on the plant they will produce seeds and the plant will put little effort into producing more flowers.

## Make the Plan

Next time you are in the garden observe the plant containers, ornaments and lawn furniture you have. Make a mental plan of how you can secure these items should a hurricane threaten. Flying projectiles cause major damage during a high wind event and when they break a window it allows high winds to compromise a building.

Also, if you have pets, figure out what to do with them should you need to evacuate. Locate a pet friendly shelter or determine how much space in the car a pet carrier will require. Then you know how much space you have to take supplies and personal treasures.

## Pest Control

Most commercial pesticides have temperature ranges in which they can be applied. Once we get into the 90s many commercial pesticides cannot be applied to the landscape. Consider environmentally friendly alternatives like soap sprays, diatomaceous earth and other organic products that aren't as temperature sensitive.

Here is a recipe for an old time insecticidal soap spray: Place 1-3 TBS of grated Kirk's Castile Soap to a gallon of hot tap water. Let the mixture sit for 2-3 days. Once the soap is completely dissolved the spray is ready to use. Castile soap is vegetable oil based unlike most popular soaps which use animal fats.

# VEGETABLE GARDEN CONTEST AWARDS

Want to learn how to grow a prize winning vegetable garden? Plan on attending the St. Johns County Vegetable Gardening Contest Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 10. It's free and the meal is on us. A power point presentation of all the gardens which participated in this year's contest will be shown and awards will be handed out. Learn how others are creating successful gardens.

The event will start at 6PM at the St Johns County Agriculture Center and a buffet dinner will be served. Please call 209-0430 if you plan to attend so we can prepare enough food.

## PLANT PROPAGATION CLASS

Landscape plant purchases can be reduced if you know how to propagate plants. A class on this topic will be held on Friday, June 5, at the St. Johns County Extension Office from 10:00 AM until noon. In the class you will learn how to make semi-hard wood cuttings and stick a container full of them, which you will keep. Setting up a propagation unit will also be featured in the class.

There is a \$5.00 fee for the class to cover materials. If you attend the class you are asked to bring a pair of pruning shears. To sign up or for additional information call 209-0430.

## YOU'RE INVITED TO A 'HURRICANE PARTY'

Get prepared for the 2009 Hurricane Season by attending a 'Hurricane Party' sponsored by the St. Johns County Extension Office. Learn ways to protect your property and how to respond to storm damage. The event will be on Wednesday, June 3 at the Wind Mitigation Building, 3111 Agriculture Center Drive from 10AM until 2:30PM. The day will consist of educational seminars, a free lunch and a tour of the newly opened St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center.

### AGENDA

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| 10 AM | Your Landscape Before, During and After the Storm<br>Keith Fuller, St. Johns County Horticulture Agent |
| 11AM  | Home Modifications for High Wind Abatement<br>Joanne Cooper, St. Johns County FCS Agent                |
| NOON  | Hurricane Party Picnic: Free hot dogs, burgers,<br>Salad, chips and tropical drinks.                   |
| 12:45 | Storm Water Management<br>Joe Sowards, FYN Builder-Developer Agent                                     |
| 1:30  | Tour of the St. Johns County EOC Facility  |

The program is free to all who attend, but we need still need a head count for lunch so please call (209-0430) to register.

## BECOME A MASTER GARDENER

Applications are being accepted for the 2009 St. Johns County Master Gardener class. The Master Gardener program recruits volunteers for horticultural activities of the Extension Service. In exchange for 50 hours of intensive horticultural education the volunteer commits to donating 75 hours of volunteer time to Extension Service projects.

Examples of volunteer projects are arboretum care, demonstration vegetable garden, phone desk, plant clinics and educational outreach, to name a few. If you are interested in the program call, 209-0430 for an application form.

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# *Calendar of Events for June 2009*

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## May 2009

- 23<sup>rd</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Bartram Trail Library - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
23<sup>rd</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Farmers Market St. Augustine Amphitheatre  
1340 A1A South St Augustine-9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
26<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Tuesday) -Home Depot-1750 US 1 South, St. Augustine  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## June 2009

- 3<sup>rd</sup> .....Hurricane Party (Wednesday)- Wind Mitigation Building,  
3111 Agriculture Center Drive 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
5<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Propagation Class (Friday) Agricultural Center -  
3125 Agricultural Center Drive 10:00 AM - Noon  
6<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Ace Hardware US 1 - 9:00 AM - Noon  
9<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Tuesday) -Home Depot-1750 US 1 South St. Augustine  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
10<sup>th</sup> ..... St. Johns County Vegetable Gardening Contest Awards Dinner-(Wednesday)  
Agricultural Center -3125 Agricultural Center Drive 6:00 PM  
13<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - Farmers Market St. Augustine Amphitheatre  
1340 A1A South St Augustine-9:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
13<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Saturday) - St. Johns Creek Shopping Center, County Rd 210 West  
2 1/2 miles west of I-95 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
18<sup>th</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Thursday) - Bartram Trail Library - 10:00 AM - Noon  
23<sup>rd</sup> .....Plant Clinic (Tuesday) -Home Depot-1750 US 1 South St. Augustine  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
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

**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**

