

NOVEMBER PLANTING GUIDE

VEGETABLES –Concentrate on planting leaf and root crops like; turnip, mustard, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, beets, radish, carrots, onions, and kohlrabi, this month.

HERBS - Dill, cilantro, oregano, thyme, rosemary, fennel, bay, garlic, and lovage.

ANNUALS –Brighten up the fall garden by installing mums, petunias, snapdragons, dianthus, alyssum, calendula, pansy, nasturtium, and cleome.

Bulbs-Anemone, daffodil, iris, daylily, calla, crinum, and lily can be set this month.

CHORES

Holiday Plants

It's too late to prune poinsettias and not affect this winter's bloom but they can still benefit from fertilization. Poinsettias will take in fertilizer up to the time the bracts start showing color. Applying fertilizer after that is a waste, as far as flowering goes.

Holiday cactus should be placed where they receive no sources of artificial light once the sun goes down. They still need daytime lighting but long nights are what triggers bloom production. The same holds true for potted poinsettias.

Oil sprays

Many insects go dormant for winter. Some, like scale insects, will over winter on leaf backs. This is why we apply oil sprays to plants when they are dormant. Camellia, citrus, Burford holly and pittosporum commonly harbor dormant insects. You may want to inspect any of these plants closely to see if they warrant pest control. Often when scale feed on leaf backs you will notice a mottled affect on the leaf's upper surface.

Fire wood

Many enjoy watching a fire in the hearth on a cool night. When fire wood is brought into the home you should only bring in as much as you intend to use that night. Wood that has been stored outside can contain

insects such as roaches, ants, termites, spiders or earwigs, just to name a very few. Stacked wood for burning should not have contact with the ground when it is being stored. This will help to reduce contact with insect populations.

Rye Grass

For those desiring a green winter lawn you may wish to over seed with rye grass. Rye grass is a cool season grass that will thrive in winter here, and then die out once warm spring temperatures arrive. Rye grass does require watering, fertilizing and mowing just like the permanent lawn. These activities can prevent the permanent lawn from going dormant which can increase cold damage. Many winters we do not get cold enough until the end of winter to turn the lawn brown. In those years the use of rye grass needs to be questioned. If we only could use a crystal ball to determine landscape situations it would make management much easier.

Winter Color

During our cool season we have cloudy days and many plants in the landscape appear lifeless. You can introduce plants into your landscape that will provide you with winter color. Camellias are a classic for winter color. Most varieties have flowers in the red color range and this is considered a warming color. Plants with berries can provide color as well. Pyracantha, holly and Beauty berry are plants that can provide winter color, too. Nandina 'Firepower' will have red leaves during winter. Even fruiting citrus trees can provide color during dreary winter days.

Pine Cones

Pick up fallen pine cones from the yard so you do not run them over with the lawn mower. They can quickly cause mower blades to become dull. There are many uses for the cones. You can pile them up around the base of a potted plant to create decorative mulch. Use them around the base of a landscape specimen plant to create a special effect. When potting a plant into a large container you can fill the bottom of the pot with pine cones to make it less heavy once the soil is added. Pine cones are great for kid's crafts like bird feeding, Thanksgiving table decorations, wreaths and ornaments. Pine cones can also be used for kindling.

OPEN HORTICULTURE SHOW

It's that time of year again to show off your green thumb and pick up some prize money, too.

The St. Johns County Master Gardeners will be hosting the Open Horticulture Show at the St. Johns County Fair from October 19-25. Any youth or adult that resides or works in St. Johns County can enter plants in the competition. This year the fair is a month earlier than last, so milder weather should be in order.

There are nine different sections in which plants can be entered: blooming/fruited, bromeliads & orchids, cactus/succulents, African violets, foliage, special display, bonsai, hanging plants, patio plants. Each person can enter up to five different kinds of plants.

Plants to be entered will be received either at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds in Elkton from 10-7 or the St. Johns County Agriculture Center, 3125 Agriculture Center Drive from 9-5, on Monday, October 19. Each plant entered will receive a ribbon and monetary prize. Plants must be left in place during the fair, Oct. 20-25. Plants, ribbons and prize money can be picked up starting at 3 PM on Sunday, October 25 or on Monday from 9-noon at the fairgrounds. For complete contest rules, contact the **St. Johns County Extension Office at 209-0430**. If you or your child or grandchild has a green thumb, let everybody know. Hope to see you and your plants at the fair!

GARDEN FEST 2009 – 'Florida Friendly'

The District IV Garden Clubs will be conducting Garden Fest 2009 at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center on Saturday, October 24 from 9-3. The theme of the event is 'Florida Friendly'. The following topics and speakers will be presented;

Florida Friendly Landscaping- Keith Fuller, Extension Horticulturist

Gardening with Youth- Eileen Ziebroski, St. Johns County Master Gardener

Water Gardening- Anna Boone, Magic Fountain Gardens, Gainesville

Cooking with Herbs- Maggie Ouelette, former owner Maggie's Herb Farm

Floral Arrangements from the Backyard, Barbara Conrad, Floral Designers Guild

There will also be sales of garden related items, raffles and door prizes. The public is invited to attend and the registration fee is \$10.00 and if you would like a box lunch it will be \$15.00. To register call Rachel at 272-4252. I hope to see you there. I will be on hand to speak and the rest of the day I will be available to answer your gardening questions.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS END

On Sunday, November 1 Daylight Savings time ends. This means you need to adjust your landscape irrigation timers to come on only once per week per St. Johns River Water Management regulations. As the year progresses the days are shorter, less sunny and cooler. These are signs for plants to slow their growth so they just do not utilize as much water as during the growing season.

By watering too much during the cool season you encourage insect and disease activity and support cool season weed growth. Excess water can also cause delay of plant dormancy making them more prone to cold injury. Begin watering one day a week on Sunday, November 1.

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 Mondays in December: 7th, 14th & 21st. Times are 9:30-noon. The cost of the course is \$30.00 and class size is limited to 15 projects. This class will be held at the Wind Mitigation Building 3111 Agriculture Center Drive. To register for the class call 209-0430.

CENTERPIECE CLASS

Show your holiday expression by creating a festive centerpiece. A hands-on class will be held at the Agriculture Center on Thursday, December 10. Live imported greenery and flowers will be used. Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist those who need help in constructing their project.

The fee for the class is \$25.00 which needs to be paid in advance. Make checks out to – F.A.E.F. and send to: SJC Extension Office, 3125 Agriculture Center Dr., St. Aug., Fl. 32092. You can also call 209-0430 to make sure you get on the registration list.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) CLASS

This class is intended for people who commercially apply fertilizer in the state of Florida. By 2014 all commercial fertilizer applicators will have to be licensed. This class will prepare them for this requirement. Persons with pesticide licenses can also earn up to **4 CEU credits** by attending this class. The classes will be held on Thursday, October 29th, November 19th and December 17th 2009, from 8:30 am till 3:30 pm, at the St. Johns County Extension Wind Mitigation and Resource Conservation Building Agricultural Center Drive St. Augustine, Fl. 32092. The cost is \$25.00 which includes all materials and lunch. **Please call 904-209-0430 to register. (Must be pre-registered to attend.)**

Calendar of Events October & November 2009

October 2009

19thOpen Horticultural Show-St. Johns County Fairgrounds-10 AM - 7 PM

24thPlant Clinic (Saturday) - Farmers Market St. Augustine Amphitheatre
1340 A1A South St Augustine-9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

24thGardenfest (Saturday) - St. Johns County Agricultural Center
3125 Agriculture Center Drive

27th Plant Clinic (Tuesday) -Home Depot-1750 US 1 South St. Augustine
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

November 2009

7thPlant Clinic (Saturday) - Ace Hardware US 1 south - 9:00 AM - Noon
(No other plant clinics until March 2010)

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

