Fall is a great time to garden. The weather is cool, the bugs are few and the weeds don’t grow as fast. This is the best time to sow wildflowers seeds, plant a fruit tree or start your fall vegetable garden so you will have plenty of greens to go through the winter.

If this newsletter has helped you out this year please drop me an email and tell me, especially if it has helped in plant selection, fertilization, irrigation or pest management wilbewl@ufl.edu.

**Vegetables**

Plant hardy vegetables like beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, collards, carrots, kale, mustard, onions, kohlrabi, leeks, shallots, radishes, spinach and turnips before the end of November for harvest during the winter.

Gardens planted early this fall may already be producing. Yet, in spite of the cooler temperatures, many gardens are still experiencing pest problems.

Powdery mildew may be a problem on cucurbits, like cucumbers, squash and pumpkins. The fungus will appear as a white, powdery growth on the leaves. Severely affected leaves lose their normal green color and become pale yellow, then brown and shriveled. Fruit may sunscald as a result of loss of foliage. Use a fungicide like Bayleton or copper sulfate to control powdery mildew.

Vegetables in the cabbage family (crucifers), such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, kale, mustard, radish, rutabaga and turnips may have a problem with downy mildew. The fungus is evident as angular, yellow spots on the upper leaf surface. As the spots enlarge, a general leaf yellowing develops, followed by browning and death of leaf tissue.

The mildew spots on leaves of cabbage impair the appearance and may spread into the inner leaves. Basic copper sulfate sprays or maneb fungicides can be used...
to control downy mildew. For information, obtain the *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (SP 103)* from our office.

**Herbs**
Best bets for growing though the winter are coriander, (cilantro in other words) chervil, chives, dill, fennel, garlic, lovage, oregano, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme.

**Fruits and Nuts**
Harvest citrus as late as possible when sugars are at their peak but before any freeze below 28 degrees. To protect young citrus trees, bank the trunk with clean soil prior to onset of cold weather. Mound soil bands over the bud union and up into the scaffold limbs. Other options for cold protection include thermal trunk wraps, heating and covering.

Plant strawberries from October until early December. Buy certified disease-free plants and plant so the crown is even with the surrounding soil. Since strawberries are sensitive to environmental conditions like day length and temperature, it is important to select varieties adapted to our area. Suggested varieties are Sweet Charlie, Florida 90, Chandler and Osa Grande.

Pecans are maturing now. They can be knocked down with a pole or allowed to drop naturally. Harvest the nuts before the squirrels decide to collect them.

Watch for twigs that appear cut and have fallen from the trees. This may be the work of an insect called a twig girdler. Make sure you dispose of the twigs because the girdlers lay their eggs in them.

**Flowers**
There are still a few flowers that can be planted at this time. Candy tuft, China doll, carnation, dianthus, fox glove, ornamental cabbage/kale, nasturtium, pansies, petunia, snap dragon, Shasta daisies and sweet peas may be planted now.

**COMING EVENTS**

**Fruit & Vegetables for Your Backyard**
October 13, 2010, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Developing and maintaining a successful home orchard requires special horticultural skills. A well-designed and well-managed home orchard can furnish both fine fruit and pleasant hours of gardening. Successful vegetable gardening can be as rewarding as it is challenging. Challenges include insects, diseases, poor soil conditions and weather conditions. This class will help you plan your home garden and orchard and how to make corrections in your existing garden.

There is no cost to attend the class. Pre-register by calling 352-337-6209. For more information, contact Wendy Wilber, Environmental Horticulture Agent, at 352-955-2402 or wilbewl@ufl.edu.

**Plants for Your Florida Friendly Landscape**
October 20, 2010, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Some plants thrive and look great in the toughest locations. Learn how to incorporate these tough guys into your low maintenance landscape. Learn landscaping techniques to save water, and spend less on fertilizers and sprays. The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program is considered the “green building” landscaping program because it saves water, energy and protects natural resources.

There is no cost to attend the class. Pre-register by calling 352-337-6209. For more information, contact Wendy Wilber, Environmental Horticulture Agent, at 352-955-2402 or wilbewl@ufl.edu.

**Shiitake Mushrooms**
November 13, 11:00 am

Learn the basics of shiitake mushroom and oyster mushroom growing for your home garden. Shiitake mushrooms are grown on oak logs. You will learn how to prepare and inoculate the logs for shiitake mushroom production. Class will be presented by Wendy Wilber, Environmental Horticulture Agent, and Art Shriver of SEM nursery. Please pre-register by calling 352-337-6209. If you have any questions call the Extension Office at 352-955-2402.
For more information you can obtain Bedding Plants: Selection, Establishment and Maintenance (Cir 1134) from the Extension Office.

Bulbs that can be planted now include African lily, Aztec lily, calla, kaffir lily, marcia, morea, narcissus, snowflake, spider lily, watsonia, zephyr lily, anemone, grape hyacinth, leopard lily, pineapple lily and star of Bethlehem.

Tulips, most daffodils and hyacinths will flower here, but they must be pre-chilled at 40 degrees for 60 days before planting. Bulbs chilled in the refrigerator adjacent to ripening fruit may fail to bloom. Ripening fruits produce ethylene gas which can abort flower buds. Bulbs which require chilling should be planted immediately from cold storage. After blooming, discard plants as they rarely flower for more than one season.

Varieties of daffodils that will come back year after year with minimal chilling include; ‘Carlton’, ‘Erlicheer’, and ‘Ice follies’. Now is a good time to start forcing bulbs like amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus in containers for a beautiful indoor display for the holidays. Be sure to select a stable pot and healthy bulbs; remember, the bigger the bulb, the bigger the flower.

Caladiums, begonias, gladiolus and dahlias need to be dug up, stored in vermiculite or sawdust and kept in a dry place. Divide and reset amaryllis and day lilies if they are too crowded. You can obtain the publication, Bulbs for Florida (Cir 552), for more information.

Lawns

It is too late to fertilize lawn grass now. Wait until March to fertilize. With the cooler temperatures your turf grass will need less water. If you have a program clock controlling your irrigation, adjust to reduce the frequency of irrigation to once a week or once every 10 days. If you want a lush lawn all winter, you can overseed your yard with annual ryegrass. Use 5 to 15 pounds per 1,000 square feet depending on how thick you want the grass. However, this means you will have to keep up with the mowing.

If you have had winter weed problems, you can apply a pre-emergence herbicide now to prevent germination. However, do not use if you covered with ryegrass.

Trees and Shrubs

The leaves of the Red Maples, Soap berries, Oak leaf hydrangeas, winged sumacs and dogwoods will be starting to turn color as the days grow cooler. Planning for fall color can bring added interest to your landscape.

Containerized trees and shrubs can be planted now. Wait until leaves drop to transplant deciduous species. Remember, never plant deeper than the plant was growing in the container. In fact recent IFAS research shows the planting the root ball about 10% above grade helps the plant to become well established. Break up the root ball to encourage new growth for the winter. Their flocks can be seen on cedars, hollies, cherry laurels, privet, and other fruit plants.

• Cedar waxwings come south for the winter. Their flocks can be seen on cedars, hollies, cherry laurels, privet, and other fruit plants.

• Hunting seasons for deer, turkey, quail and gray squirrel are in full swing.

• Look for downy, hairy, red-bellied and red-headed woodpeckers on suet feeders.

• Bald eagles begin their nesting season. Look for spectacular aerial courtship displays.

• As water temperatures lower, manatees begin to move to relatively warm waters at springs. Boaters beware of idle speed zones.

• November typically is the driest month of the year in north central Florida.

• Sandhill cranes return from their breeding grounds up north (Only a small number live here all year round).
root growth into surrounding soil and water every 2-3 days.

If your camellias, magnolias, gardenias, loquats and coniferous evergreens have developed scale insect problems, apply an oil spray to control adults.

Leaf spotting diseases can be seen on some trees and shrubs. If the plant is deciduous, there is no need to spray. Just collect the fallen leaves and compost.

For great information from IFAS please check out the website www.solutionsforyourlife.com

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please e-mail Wendy at wilbewl@ufl.edu.

About This Newsletter

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