

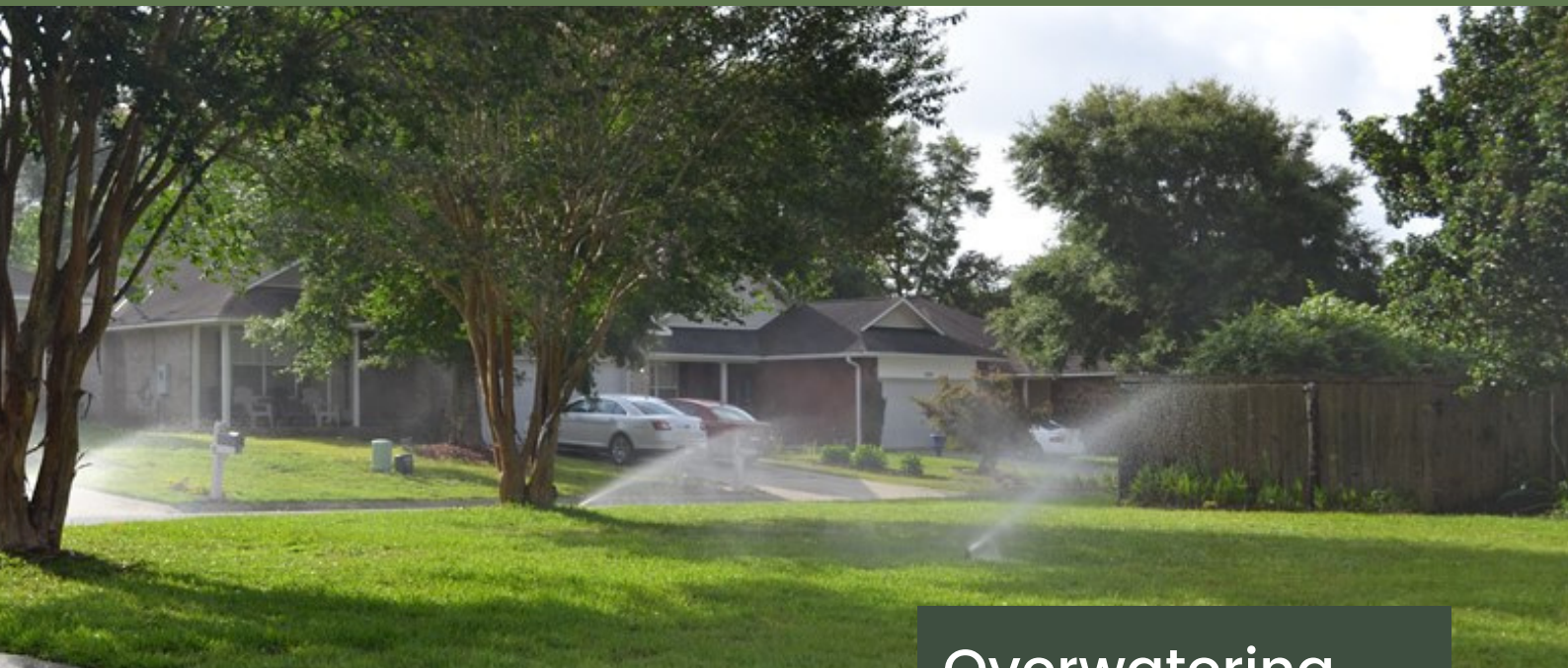
Garden Notes

April 2023

850-475-5230

Beth Bolles: bbolles@ufl.edu

Lydia Purvis: l.purvis@ufl.edu



Native phlox

Woodland phlox, *Phlox divaricata*, is a native to the US and offers a cheerful transition to spring each year. This spreading groundcover likes afternoon shade with some moisture. It will not take over the garden but return each year with delicate pink flower heads. There are cultivars that offers different shades of lavender, blue, and white flowers.



Scale

We don't always find the culprit of a plant problem before significant damage has occurred. Scale insects which suck sap from plants and greatly reduce plant health can get out of hand quickly. While enjoying your yard, turn over a few leaves and look on stems for scale if you see a plant struggling.

Overwatering

One convenience for many homeowners is the automated sprinkler system. How easy to just set the system and allow it to supply water every few days. Surely plants can use this water in our Florida environment. Overwatering is one of the major issues we see in landscapes. Turf will likely need some supplemental irrigation during the growing season but let the turf show you when it needs water. When turf wilts, apply 1/2 - 3/4 inch the next day. Established trees and shrubs will not often need extra irrigation unless rainfall is lacking for several weeks. Learn more at [Ask IFAS](#).