



Know, Sow, Grow Flagler County

UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County

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A VICTORY GARDEN REVIVAL: Sowing the Seeds of a Strong Community

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The concept of a “Victory Garden” began in 1917 during World War I. This was a time when European farm workers were called into war while their own farmlands were turning into battlegrounds. As a result, millions of Europeans were left unfed and began to rely heavily on their allies for help. The United States took on much of the burden to provide aid to these underfed European populations.

Just prior to the US entering World War I, a wealthy businessman and forestry expert by the name of Charles Lathrop Pack organized

the US National War Garden Commission for the purpose of encouraging American civilians to grow, cultivate and store a surplus of vegetables and fruit so that additional food could be exported to the European allies in need.

With a sincere interest in agriculture and education, Charles Lathrop Pack had already written several instructional manuals on the self-sustainability of food production and storage practices in the US.

Pack’s commission helped to increase awareness that a crucial component of the war effort was not just to provide support on the battlefield, but also to strengthen the home front through

growing a variety of food crops at a time of severe shortages. Charles Lathrop Pack also encouraged the US to deliver seed supplies to Europe to help boost their own food and timber production.

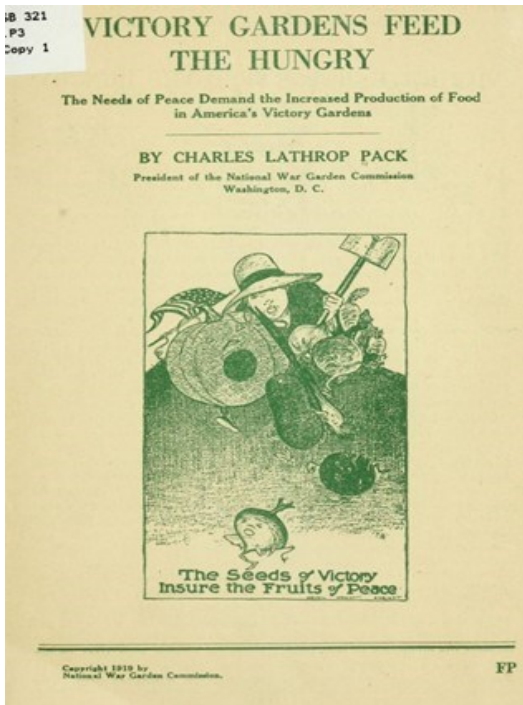
The War Garden was later coined the more popular term “Victory Garden” with the suggestion that, regardless of the war’s outcome, feeding the hungry would still be considered an act of victory. This concept endured through the Great Depression in home and public food gardens, and revived during World War II.

In the spring of 1942, as American crops were once again being redirected overseas to provide aid to European military and civilians, the US government introduced food rationing to Americans. As a result, Victory Gardens flourished more than ever before.



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Original Monograph, c 1919, at the Library of Congress.



(Victory Gardens, continued from page 1)

Gardens sprouted up at home, school, public properties, vacant lots, and workplaces as an effort to provide enough food for the local community.

Today's Victory Garden: New and Improved

Since the spread of the Coronavirus earlier this year, many suburban homeowners have been forced to spend more time at home and look at their gardens from a new perspective.

This was evidenced by a nationwide spike in sales of seeds, starters, and food-growing supplies this past spring and summer. In addition, homeowners who are novices at growing food are beginning to see value in starting up community gardens where there is an opportunity for connectivity and sharing of knowledge. Citizens who may be faced with the reality of economic hardship are beginning to understand how home and community gardens save on food and fuel costs. They also provide the opportunity for individuals and families to learn more about healthy dietary practices and improved nutrition.

A new type of Victory Garden is underway. New agricultural technology and food varieties are continually being developed at UF/IFAS Extension, making it even easier for homeowners to grow food in smaller spaces. Vertical growing systems, hydroponics, onsite composting, and use of more compact "dooryard" fruits are ways that homeowners can grow more food within their existing landscape.



Photo Courtesy of sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu

The Victory Garden of today still echoes its original purpose. It echoes our intent as a Nation, whether at war or in peace, to be of strength, liberty, and unity. The Victory Garden will always be a place where we rediscover our purpose and the most basic means of sustaining life.

For further information about starting a home or community garden, visit: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening, <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg248>, and <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep124>.

Oleander Caterpillar, *Syntomeida epilais* Walker

Mary Ellen Setting, Master Gardener Volunteer

Sometimes nature surprises you. A good example is when you see different life stages of insects in your garden and come to find out they are one and the same species. The Oleander Caterpillar, *Syntomeida epilais* Walker,



Photo credit: M. E. Setting

is a bright orange caterpillar with tufts of black brush-like hairs. (It can be confused with the Gulf Fritillary caterpillar which also has an orange body but with black spikes.) The adult, known as Uncle Sam Moth or Polka-Dot Wasp Moth, is a colorful creature with a bright iridescent blue/green body and wings, red/orange tipped abdomen, and has small white dots on its body, wings, legs, and antennae. This insect often causes conflicting reactions when it is encountered. On the

one hand it is a gorgeous pollinator moth. On the other, voracious larvae can defoliate a favorite oleander, desert rose or mandevilla seemingly overnight.

Unlike most moth species, these moths can be seen flying around during the day. Another odd characteristic is that female moths use an ultrasonic acoustic signal to attract males while most moths use a volatile sex pheromone to find each other. Small spherical eggs are laid in clusters on the underside of leaves. Newly hatched caterpillars start out eating only the underside of the new leaves and, as the leaves are skeletonized, they turn a light brown. Larger caterpillars eat the entire leaf and can totally defoliate a plant. Pupae are brown and smooth, covered in a cobweb-like thin silk cocoon and can be found on tree trunks or grouped together under eaves or porch ceilings.

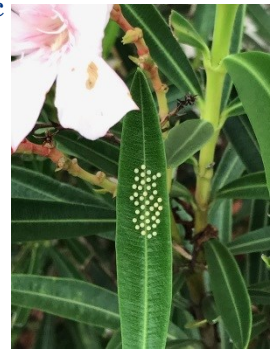


Photo credit: M. E. Setting

While damage from the oleander caterpillar is unsightly, total defoliation does not kill the plant. However, repeated years of damage will weaken the plant and make it susceptible to



Photo credit: M. E. Setting

scale or disease. Natural control by stink bugs, tachinid flies, wasps and the red imported fire ant occurs. Cultural control by pruning out infested leaves or branches and discarding them is an effective environmentally friendly method. Larger caterpillars can be hand picked and frozen or put in a soapy water solution. The black hairs on the caterpillar are not irritating to the skin but the sap of the oleander is poisonous so gloves should be worn.



As a last resort, a microbial insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), can be used. Bt has no toxicity towards beneficial insects and only kills butterfly and moth caterpillars that ingest treated leaves. In northern and north-central Florida, the oleander caterpillar is usually killed off by cold winter temperatures but will recolonize these areas the following spring.

For more information, visit <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in135>; and <https://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/mannion/pdfs/OleanderCaterpillar.pdf>

The Almost Perfectly Named “Beautyberry”

Kathi Wright, Master Gardener Volunteer

“What is that!?” I exclaimed when I first spied the gorgeous purple fruits of the beautyberry shrub. The scientific name is *Callicarpa americana*, and it’s a Florida native. You can find them in their natural flatwood or hammock habitat if you take a stroll around places like Graham Swamp Preserve or Waterfront Park in Palm Coast.

Not only is it a beautiful shrub, but it has a range of uses. One scientific study has shown that you can break up the leaves



Photo Credit: K. Wright

and rub them on your skin for a mosquito repellent. In the wild, the berries are an important food source for animals. Birds love them. The berries are edible for humans too, but the raw berries aren’t very tasty. They do make a delicious jelly and wine though.

The beautyberry shrub is fast growing and forms a loose, rounded shrub that is five to eight feet tall and wide. It can be pruned before flowering if you want to keep it more dense and smaller. It is deciduous with no winter interest, but spring brings lavender-pink flowers June through August followed by densely packed striking purple fruits. You can plant them any time of year in part shade/part sun. They’re drought-tolerant once established and tolerate a wide range of soils. Plant them in a mass along a tree line for show-stopping fall color.



Photo Credit: K. Wright

So why is the name *almost* perfect? The fruit is not ac-

tually a berry. It’s a drupe. Drupes have an outer skin, flesh, and a hard seed in the middle. Mangos, olives, cherries, and peaches are drupes. Berries don’t have a hard stone or pit but instead have numerous seeds.

It looks like the common name of beautyberry will stick though since beauty-drupe does not have quite the impact. For additional information visit:



Photo Credit: K. Wright

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/bakerco/2019/02/15/wild-weeds-american-beautyberry/#:~:text=Beautyberry%20serves%20as%20a%20crucial,to%20make%20jellies%20and%20wines>, <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp090>, and <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/shrubs/beautyberry.html>.

Time to Fall Back to Once a Week!

Lori Powell, Master Gardener Volunteer

Eastern Standard Time begins on November 1! Residential irrigation is restricted to one day per week until March 13, 2021. Odd-numbered residential addresses irrigate on Saturday and Even-numbered residential addresses irrigate on Sunday.

Irrigation is limited to ¾ inch of water per irrigation zone and to no more than one hour per irrigation zone. Hand-held hoses equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles and drip systems/bubblers are allowed at any time.

During the months of December, January and February, turf grass usually goes dormant, so watering every other week will usually suffice. For more information visit:

<https://www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions/>





Springlike Flowers Flourish in Florida's Fall Weather

Joanne Mason, Master Gardener Volunteer

October is the beginning of our fall weather in Florida as our humidity levels begin to decrease, along with the temperatures. Our unique climate is unlike any other in the country and provides challenges to all gardeners. However, there are many flowers that will thrive in our Florida fall landscapes and many of these flowering plants are naturally designed to do well in our climate. Prepare your gardening beds by spreading compost with slow release fertilizer just before planting; also mulch the flower beds to conserve moisture and decrease weed growth. The following are suggestions of flowering plants to add to your garden.



Photo Credit: J. Mason

Chrysanthemums are flowering plants that are native to East Asia, and come in a variety of colors, as well as various flower blooms. Mums are herbaceous perennials that can live for years and continue to bloom. They enjoy well drained soil, enjoy plenty of organic matter, a slow release fertilizer

and enjoy morning or afternoon sun. To maintain its compact shape, lightly prune when the plants grow more than 6 inches tall and "deadhead" them to enhance the blooms.

Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) commonly known as Egyptian star-cluster, are an excellent way to brighten your garden. The flowers come in a variety of colors (red, white, pink) and thrive in the Florida climate. Pentas also attract butterflies and hummingbirds because each flower contains nectar. They enjoy full sun or partial shade, organically rich, moist, well-drained soil and resist most pests; you may also pinch back in early growth to encourage bushier plants.



Photo Credit: J. Mason



Photo Credit: J. Mason

Mexican Heather (*Euphrates hysopifolia*) is another flowering plant that thrives well under our fall Florida sunshine and prefers good drainage. The flowers consist of profuse blooming small, lavender blossoms and re-blooms throughout the fall season. They enjoy low to high light levels, a thin layer of mulch, and general purpose fertilizer; just be sure to prune when overgrown.

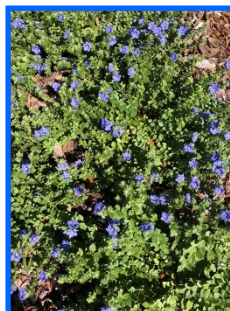


Photo Credit: J. Mason

Blue Daze (*Cuphea glomeratus*), also known as dwarf morning glory, is a delightful blue flower which consists of ruffled petals with a small white center eye that blooms from summer throughout fall. It is an attractive ground cover with silvery green leaves and grows best in full sun to partial shade along with well-drained soil. Blue Daze grows easily with little maintenance, attracts butterflies, and thrives in Florida's heat and humidity.

Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*), also called vincas, are a beautiful flowering "pinwheel-like" colorful flower which can be found in shades of whites, pinks, reds, or bi-colors. Periwinkles are native to Madagascar and have a long history of adding landscape beauty. The plants are easy to grow, prefer full sun or partial shade, well-drained soil, and a slow release fertilizer. It is also interesting to note that the flowers have also been used for medicinal purposes by the Caribbean people as an extract to treat eye irritations.



Photo Credit: J. Mason

Enjoy your gardening journey this fall in Florida's unique climate, and for more ideas and suggestions on fall flower plant selections, visit: <http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Fall Lawn Care

Lori Powell, Master Gardener Volunteer

During the fall months your lawn will start to go dormant. Here are some tips for maintaining your lawn this fall.

Do not fertilize after the beginning of October. The root system cannot take up nutrients if it is not growing. Excess runoff of fertilizer will occur. If you missed fertilizing the beginning of October you should not fertilize again until early April.

Mow your grass every 2-3 weeks if no rainfall occurs. mow your grass at the correct height and only remove the top 1/3 of the blade.

Adjust your sprinkler system to water once per week in accordance with current water restrictions. For more information visit: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pinellasco/2013/10/14/fall-lawn-care/>.



Fall Flowers

N	R	C	R	U	S	A	P	O	A	S	R	R	H
D	N	A	S	T	U	R	I	U	M	S	L	U	C
P	E	T	U	N	I	A	S	M	A	U	S	S	H
A	S	L	E	R	S	U	S	U	C	S	N	R	R
S	N	N	L	O	V	E	G	R	A	S	S	I	Y
T	A	A	N	O	T	O	R	C	S	E	S	M	S
E	P	M	A	R	I	G	O	L	D	S	U	M	A
R	D	M	U	I	N	A	R	E	G	S	D	R	N
O	R	N	O	S	C	E	A	E	S	S	E	A	T
T	A	S	N	R	U	R	S	Y	O	H	T	T	H
I	G	R	N	H	M	O	L	U	I	S	A	G	E
N	O	U	I	A	P	A	N	S	Y	N	Y	M	M
A	N	A	I	M	P	A	T	I	E	N	S	S	U
U	M	T	D	I	A	N	T	H	U	S	G	R	M

- SNAPDRAGON
- CROTON
- MARIGOLDS
- ALYSSUM
- PETUNIAS
- LOVEGRASS
- NASTURIUMS
- DIANTHUS
- CHRYSANTHEMUM
- ASTER
- IMPATIENS
- PANSY
- GERANIUM

Fall Planting Guide

Vegetables

- Beets
- Broccoli
- Brussel Sprouts
- Cauliflower
- Cabbage
- Kale
- Lettuce
- Mustard
- Onions
- Squash
- Strawberries
- Turnips

Annuals/Perennials

- Aster
- Calendula
- Celosia
- Croton
- Chrysanthemum
- Geranium
- Impatiens
- Marigold
- Petunia
- Snapdragon

Herbs

- Dill
- Mint
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Thyme

UF/IFAS Extension provides a printable garden calendar. Planting dates and other vegetable gardening information are also available as a free mobile app called 'Florida Fresh.' Access an app provider for your mobile phone or download it from <http://m.ifas.ufl.edu>.



UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteers

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Our Mission

To assist Extension Agents in providing research-based horticultural education to Florida residents.

Our Vision

To be the most trusted resource for horticultural education in Florida.

Virtual Plant Clinic

Please register for our Thursday Virtual Plant Clinic at:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsc-qrrDMvHtDKgWQOVlAPiXpNQk5w0qaA>

Please join our Virtual Plant Clinic at 10:00 am every Thursday morning. We will discuss plant disease and diagnostics of common plant species grown in Flagler County. The meeting will be set up as a question and answer period and each case will be allotted 10-15 minutes for open discussion, plant diagnosis, and recommended treatment.

When:

Recurring on Thursdays at 10:00 am

Zoom:

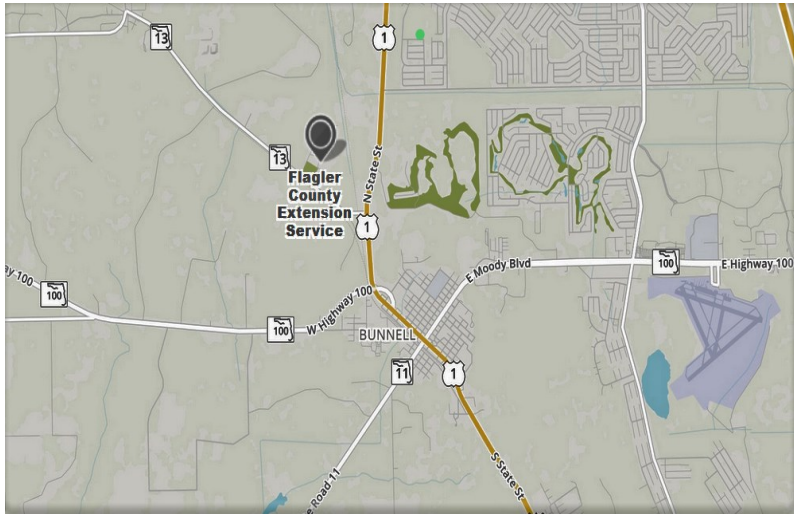
After you register using the link above, you will receive an email with the Zoom link and Meeting ID. Once you've logged into the Zoom meeting, you will be sent directly to a Zoom "Waiting Room." Please wait for a few minutes until the Zoom meeting host admits you into the meeting. The meeting host and attending Master Gardener volunteers will allow all participants to share their screen so that individuals can hold up their plant samples close to the computer screen for diagnosis. Before beginning the question and answer period, the meeting host will lead a brief introduction and provide a "hot plant topic" of the week.

By Whom:

The Master Gardener Volunteers of UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County with Horticulture Agent Mimi Vreeland.

Boom!

We will be ready to answer all of your lawn and garden questions. Please bring any plant samples on-screen to the Zoom meeting to better assist us with an accurate diagnosis and treatment recommendation.



Stay Connected!

Flagler County Extension: <http://flagler.ifas.ufl.edu>

University of Florida Solutions for Your Life: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu>

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™: <http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu>

UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida Master Gardener: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener>

The Flagler County Master Gardener and Horticulture program is open to all regardless of gender, race, color, nationality, creed or disability.