

# Know, Sow, Grow newsletter

UF/IFAS Extension Flagler County

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## CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY AND SUPPORT THE MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE!

By Judy Jean, Extension Agent, Urban Horticulture

With Father's Day just around the corner, there's no better way to honor the green thumbs in our lives than by indulging in a gardening extravaganza! Flagler County's Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) have an exciting treat in store for gardening enthusiasts and plant lovers alike. On June 17, they will be hosting a special plant sale that not only offers a wide variety of beautiful plants, but also serves as a fundraiser to support educational and horticulture classes. Get ready to celebrate Father's Day in a blooming way and contribute to a great cause!

### PLANT SALE DETAILS

The MGVs have curated an impressive collection of plants for this special event. From vibrant flowers to lush foliage, succulents, and even herbs, there's something for everyone's taste and gardening preferences. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting your green journey, you're sure to find the perfect additions to your garden.

**Date:** June 17, 2023

**Time:** 9 am - Noon

**Location:** Flagler County Fairgrounds - Cattleman's Hall

### WHY ATTEND?

- Support Horticultural Education:** You'll be directly contributing to education in Flagler County. These classes play a vital role in promoting sustainable gardening practices, environmental stewardship, and fostering a love for gardening within the community.
- Expert Guidance from MGVs:** They are a group of dedicated gardening enthusiasts with extensive knowledge and experience. At the plant sale, they'll be ready to assist you and provide expert advice on plant selection, care, and gardening tips. It's a fantastic opportunity to tap into their wisdom and enhance your gardening skills.

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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.

*Celebrate Father's Day continued from page 1*

3. **Discover Unique and Rare Plants:** The sale will feature a diverse range of plants, including varieties that may be hard to find elsewhere. Explore the selection and uncover hidden treasures to add to your garden. If you're looking for a statement plant or something more subtle, you're sure to find a gem that catches your eye.
4. **Connect with Like-minded Gardeners:** Gardening is not just a hobby; it's a community. The sale provides a chance to connect with fellow gardeners, share experiences, and exchange ideas. Discover new techniques, gain inspiration, and foster meaningful connections with people who share your passion for plants.
5. **Enhance Your Outdoor Space:** Adding new plants to your garden can transform your outdoor space into a vibrant oasis. If you're looking to create a colorful flower bed, start an herb garden, or revamp your patio with containers, the sale offers a wide array of options to create a visually stunning haven.

Mark your calendar for June 17, and join Flagler County's MGVs in celebrating Father's Day with their exciting Plant Sale. Not only will you have the opportunity to find fantastic additions to your garden, but you'll also contribute to the success of educational horticultural classes in Flagler County. Don't miss this chance to support the community, connect with fellow gardeners, and create a beautiful, thriving garden that will be the envy of all.

Please watch our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyMasterGardeners) for updates (<https://www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyMasterGardeners>), changes and additional details. Happy Father's Day & Happy Gardening!

**PHOTO:** MGV George Carfagno prepping for the Plant Sale, Kathi Wright, MGV

## CREATING A BROMELIAD TREE

By Sharon Smith, MGV

This is a nice project if you have extra bromeliads lying around. I used a dead tree that I cut back to the trunk and a few main branches. You can also use a live tree or sturdy trellis.

I started with about ten bromeliads. They varied in color and were medium-sized. I wrapped twine multiple times around the base of the bromeliad and the V-shaped area of the tree limbs until it seemed secure from all directions. Some needed rewrapping after a few days, so expect to reinforce it when needed. If there is a frost, you can easily cover the tree with a sheet.

Water frequently while they are settling in. Only the pups will attach to the tree. Watch for sunburn. You might need to rearrange a few. The plants will need watering if there is no rain for more than a week. As the pups appear, the tree will get fuller and more beautiful.

**PHOTO:** Bromeliad tree, Sharon Smith



## ANOLES

By Mary Ellen Setting, MGV



Wherever you walk through your garden or in your lanai, you will see scampering lizards darting about or sunning themselves on a plant or table. The most common of the native lizards are the green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*). Adult green anoles are 5 to 8 inches long with a solid pink dewlap, or throat fan. They can change color from green to brown based on the heat and the sun. The male displays its dewlap as a sign of dominance or as a mating display. If grabbed by a predator, the tail of an anole will break off and regrow. They eat flies, beetles, cockroaches and other small invertebrates.

Populations of green anoles are in decline partly due to the presence of the non-native Cuban brown anoles (*Anolis sagrei*), which was accidentally introduced to south Florida in the early 1900's. Native to Cuba, the Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands, brown anoles are quickly becoming the most common lizard in many urbanized parts of Florida. Adult brown anoles are 5 to 8 inches long and are various shades of brown. They cannot change colors. Males have an orange dewlap with a white or yellow border. They can be distinguished from the green anole by their shorter snouts.

Non-native, invasive species harm native species through direct predation, competition for resources, spread of disease, and disruption of natural ecosystems. Both the native and the non-native lizard species compete for the same food and shelter, but the green anole has been able to adapt. When brown anoles are present, green anoles move vertically up in the habitat to decrease competition. Brown anoles will feed on young green anoles, and they reproduce more rapidly than green anoles, giving them a competitive advantage. Both species are beneficial predators in the landscape.

### PHOTOS

Left: Brown Anole, Mary Ellen Setting

Right: Green Anole, Mary Ellen Setting

### REFERENCE

Leaping Lizards! <https://tinyurl.com/mr2zdaxy>

Anoles <https://tinyurl.com/28zwfa45>



## LIVING IS EASIER IN THE SUMMER WHEN YOU MULCH

By Claudia Lappin, MGV

You've just finished planting and using timed-release fertilizer in your garden beds during the spring. The rainy season is in full swing, and you have weeds of course! What's a gardener to do? You've got 2 choices: pull weeds or mulch. Mulching is Number 4 of our 9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles.

### Advantages of Mulching

- **Reduce weed germination and growth** by blocking light and releasing natural chemicals that inhibit weed seeds.
- **Retain soil moisture** by reducing evaporation and increasing water infiltration.
- **Moderate soil temperature** by keeping the soil cool in summer and warm in winter.
- **Improve soil structure and fertility** by adding organic matter and nutrients as the mulch decomposes.
- **Protect plant roots and stems** from mower and trimmer damage, erosion, and pests.
- **Enhance the appearance** of your landscape with different colors, textures, and patterns of mulch.

### Mulch Options

Research by UF/IFAS and advice given by the MGVs demonstrate the pros and cons of various mulch options. Let's take a closer look:

#### CYPRESS

**Pro:** Inexpensive, easy to apply, and readily available.  
**Con:** Cutting down cypress trees, a valuable resource in our hammock and other forested areas is not ecologically sustainable. Does not break down easily and must be re-applied to continue looking attractive. **Avoid using.**

#### Stone/Gravel/Pebbles/Rock

**Pro:** Readily available.

**Con:** Heavy to carry and transport. Takes time, energy, and strength to apply. Does not prevent weeds from growing. Difficult to remove. Causes high temperatures in the landscape which can cause plants to burn, dry out, and/or die. Does not break down. **Avoid using.**

#### Large Pine Bark

**Pro:** Inexpensive, readily available. Fairly easy to apply. Breaks down over many seasons.

**Con:** Does not break down as well as mini pine bark. Can wash away in heavy rain. May need to replenish more frequently due to weather, or general use in the yard. **Florida-Friendly.**

#### Mini Pine Bark

**Pro:** Inexpensive, readily available. Easy to apply. Good size for a variety of attractive uses in the landscape: use in flower and landscaping beds and as an inexpensive way to create paths through your garden. Breaks down over time.

**Con:** Need lots of bags to create a finished look. Will wash away in heavy rain. Frequent application may be necessary. **Florida-Friendly.**

#### Pine Straw

**Pro:** Specialty landscaping stores and/or nurseries. Comes in light-weight bales. Easy to apply. Does an excellent job keeping weeds in check. No known risk of adding too much acidity to the soil where none exists.

**Con:** May not be a finished look you want. May have to apply more than once a year. **Florida-Friendly.**

#### Flora-Mulch

**Pro:** Melaleuca bark, from a highly invasive tree in Florida, helps eliminate it. Readily accessible.

**Con:** Similar in use to mini-pine bark above. **Florida-Friendly.**

#### PHOTOS

Top Left: Pine Straw, Claudia Lappin

Bottom Right: Large Pine Bark, Claudia Lappin

#### REFERENCES

Mulch, Principle 4: <https://tinyurl.com/mw4en6xn>

FFL Mulches: <https://tinyurl.com/y2fxsw3t>

Mulches Gardening Solutions: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8w2zs9>



## PRETTY IN BLUE, THE LOVELY PLUMBAGO

By Barbara Sharf, MGV

There are actually two species of Plumbago: the Florida-native white (*Plumbago zeylanica*) and the blue (*Plumbago auriculata*), which is native to South Africa. The blue plumbago is an easy to care for perennial considered to be Florida Friendly.

It develops into a sprawling bush with phlox-like flowers that attract a variety of butterflies, bees, and flies. In one season, a Plumbago can grow to 6 by 8 feet. Pruning restricts its size, but it looks best in large spaces.

Frost will cause dieback. After the danger of frost, dead foliage can be removed, and new shoots will appear. In Zone 9A, blooming continues non-stop on new growth until frost. Plumbago thrives in full sun to part shade. They do well in the soil generally found in Flagler County building sites if the soil is not highly alkaline. Once established, they are fairly drought tolerant and don't have major problems with pests and disease. Blue Plumbago is readily available in box stores and nurseries in our area, though white Plumbago is harder to locate.

**PHOTO:** *Plumbago auriculata*, Barb Sharf

### REFERENCES

Plumbago Gardening Solutions: <https://tinyurl.com/ycy98f3x>



## MCKEE GARDENS

By Sharon Smith, MGV



Located in Vero Beach, Florida, McKee Gardens is a fun day trip. The gardens are 18 acres but seem much larger. The park is 100 years old, was built by Walter Sexton, and was originally called McKee Jungle Gardens. It was a tourist attraction on US 1, and was much larger and also included animals. Over time, sections were sold, and the City of Vero Beach preserved and renovated what was left.

The park is oval-shaped with multiple paths through the tropical landscape with plants from all over the world. There are also ponds with various water plants. Lastly, there are buildings and structures that were brought in 100 years ago.

On most Tuesdays, there are guided tours of the garden included in the admission price. I highly recommend doing the tour to learn the history of the gardens as well as featured areas and plants. About once a month, there is a class. We took a class on water lilies.

In the classroom, we learned about the three main types of water lilies in the park. The rest of the class took place in the ponds. The lilies are grown in clay-filled containers that are submerged. Our instructor pulled plants she wanted to trim or relocate, demonstrating how she maintains the plants. She pointed out the unique structures of the lilies and passed them around so we could closely examine them. It was an amazing day.

### PHOTO

Water Lily Class, Sharon Smith



## THE MONARCH MIGRATION

By Doreen Westcott, MGV

The monarch butterfly is the only butterfly species in the world to undertake a long-distance roundtrip migration. The generations live 2-6 weeks. The last generation of each year is the migrating generation that can live 8 or 9 months - long enough to make the one-way journey and return to the southern states to lay their eggs before dying. They start this journey in September, October, and early November to their over-wintering sites. They remain until March when they begin their journey north laying eggs that become the new generation along the way.

In the fall, the monarchs that fly from southern Canada and the US east of the Rocky Mountains make the longest one-way journey up to 3,000 miles to the mountains of Mexico. The monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains travel to the California coast. Each year a new last generation of butterflies makes this trip. They instinctively know where they are going and how to get back home, never having made this trip before.

The monarch butterflies in Florida stay in Florida all year round and are found during the winter in South Florida. Migratory butterflies may stop over in Florida on their way to Mexico or may stay in South Florida, Cuba, or the Caribbean.

A monarchs generation life-cycle develops from an egg to an adult butterfly in about 30 days. The female lays an average of 100 to 300 eggs on the underside of a milkweed leaf, their host plant. The larva hatches in 3-4 days. The larva (caterpillar) gets too large, sheds its skin, and the body size changes 5 times called instars. This stage only eats milkweed to survive, and after 10-14 days the caterpillar is ready to attach itself hanging like the letter J to a safe place for the chrysalis stage. From the black lines on the caterpillar, the chrysalis material flows starting at the bottom pushing the skin up and continuing to the top until the skin falls off, or the caterpillar may eat it before the chrysalis starts to take its shape. It takes 10-14 days to emerge as a butterfly.

The butterfly emerges with tiny wings and a swollen stomach full of fluid used to pump up the wings. Still hanging, it waits a few hours for the wings to dry then flies away to start a new generation.

Migration is in danger due to deforestation of overwintering sites. To help save monarchs, gardeners can plant native milkweed species and nectar plants that attract them. For a list native nectar plants for North and Central Florida, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4c7m62t7> and view Table 7.

### PHOTOS

Top Left: Adult, Andrei Sourakov

Bottom Right Top: Pupa, Andrei Sourakov

Bottom Right Bottom: 5th Instar, Andrei Sourakov

### REFERENCES

Native Habitats for Monarchs:

<https://tinyurl.com/m6579ac7>

Monarch Butterfly: <https://tinyurl.com/4mpayfws>





**ONGOING EVENTS**

Plant Clinic at the Flagler County Public Library in Palm Coast the last Saturday of every month from 9:30 - 11:30 am.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Father's Day Plant Sale**

At the Flagler County Fairgrounds at Cattleman's Hall

June 17

9:00 am to Noon

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

Stay up to date with Master Gardener events and read educational information to help you have success with your landscape and garden.

Follow UF IFAS Flagler County Master Gardeners on Facebook!

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8srfaw>

**YOUR MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**

**Congratulations** to our new Master Gardeners!! Our new class graduated in May and are excited to help work in and educate the community.

**RECENT EVENTS**

We've enjoyed being out in the community at the Spring Fest, Earth Day, Arbor Day, and the Potato Harvest!



If you have any plant-related questions or need gardening advice, don't hesitate to reach out to us. Flagler County Master Gardener Volunteers are a great resource for home gardeners and can provide valuable info and guidance on topics such as soil health, pest management, plant selection, and more. We are trained volunteers who have a passion for gardening and can provide advice on a wide range of topics. If you need help, stop by or reach out to your local Master Gardeners.

**Helpful Links**

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

UF Solutions for Your Life: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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

UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>

UF Master Gardener: <https://tinyurl.com/nhk2z2eh>

Know, Sow, Grow Past Issues: <https://tinyurl.com/yc67dfwk>