

Edible Gardening Series with Sarah Bostick and Carol Wyatt-Evens UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

Resources from Session 01 and 02

Koppen-Geiger Climate Classification Map – check it out! This is a really neat lens to see the world through. It also illuminates why gardening in S. Florida is so different than gardening in the rest of the United States.

- <http://koeppen-geiger.vu-wien.ac.at/present.htm>

Florida gardening books and planting guides:

- *Vegetable Gardening in Florida* by James Stephens (book)
- *Organic Methods for Vegetable Gardening in Florida* by Ginny Stibolt and Melissa Contreras (book)
- University of Florida online planting guides. Find the whole list here: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/vegetable-gardens-by-season.html#:~:text=In%20Florida%2C%20fall%20is%20an,%2C%20Brussels%20sprouts%2C%20and%20radishes.>
- Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (11-page UFL publication): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>
- Grow to Learn School Gardening Guide (112-page UFL, downloadable publication written for school gardens but helpful for all Florida gardeners) <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota-docs/hortres/GrowtoLearnSchoolGardeningGuide.pdf>

Answers to a few of the questions asked during Q&A

- **What are the best tomato varieties for Florida?**
 - This publication is a very deep dive into Florida-appropriate tomato varieties: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1189>
 - A few of the varieties tried and tested in our office's demo garden, school gardens in the area, and on some area farms:
 - Everglades, Juliet, New Girl, Skyway, and Mountain Magic
 - Cherry, grape and roma tomatoes tend to do much better than full-sized tomatoes in Florida.
- **What are the best blueberry varieties for Florida?**
 - This publication is a very deep dive into Florida-appropriate blueberry varieties:
 - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1245>
 - The two most important things to remember about blueberries:
 - a. They need acidic soil to thrive
 - b. You will need to choose "low chill" varieties. All blueberry varieties require a minimum number of cold hours during the winter. Most of Florida has a very small number of sufficiently cold hours during the winter. Because of this, you will need to choose blueberry varieties that can still produce fruit with a very low number of "chill hours".

- **How do I keep rabbits out of my garden?**
 - Rabbits can jump over a fence or tunnel under a fence, so constructing a rabbit-proof fence is essential. Your fence should be at least two-feet tall to prevent rabbits from jumping over the fence. To keep rabbits from tunneling under the fence, bury an L-shaped section of fence about one-foot deep along the perimeter of your garden. This article does a good job of showing how this is done: <https://garden.lovetoknow.com/garden-tools-supplies/rabbit-proof-garden-fencing>
- **How do I know that a product is organic?**
 - If you prefer to use pest control products that fall into the category of “acceptable for use on certified organic farms”, look for the word “OMRI” on the packaging. OMRI stands for the Organic Materials Review Institute.
 - To learn more about how OMRI designates products acceptable for use on certified organic farms, check out their website: <https://www.omri.org/>
 - Here’s what the label will look like on packaging:



Feel free to reach out with questions any time!

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