In this Issue

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. Albert Camus

While autumn still feels far away when stepping outside into the stifling heat, it will be upon us before we know it. October is my favorite time of year in northwest Florida--the humidity often drops away, temperatures can hover right at a perfect 80 degrees, and everywhere you turn, there is a festival celebrating the harvest or our local cultural or natural resources. Several festivals and field days are listed in our "Upcoming Events" section, so be sure to take in one of the great offerings provided by UF IFAS Extension in the next few months!

We encourage everyone in our readership to participate in our new online subscription service, so we can better serve you and keep you up to date on workshops and events in your area. In this issue you'll also see information on preparing your lawn for the fall, managing winter weeds, landscape trees that provide fall color, and diseases and pests for which to keep an eye out.

While school is back in session and the oil leak is capped, be sure not to become complacent and forget to stock your pantry and make a disaster plan for hurricanes. While our season has been mild so far, September and October are typically the busiest months of the year for big storms--Erin, Opal, Ivan, Katrina, and Rita all hit in this time frame. Be sure to remove dead or dying tree limbs well before a storm forms in the Gulf, and get an assessment of your trees from a certified arborist before removing a tree that is actually strong and healthy. A wealth of information on hurricane preparedness and recovery can be found at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_hurricanes

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Mission Subscription

Homeowners and businesses have a new option for finding “Solutions for Your Life.” University of Florida/IFAS Extension has created an online subscription system linking them directly to their local Extension office.

UF/IFAS Extension is dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences and to making that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life.

“Newsletters and county fact sheets are great ways of disseminating current information to our audiences,” said Theresa Friday, Extension Agent Santa Rosa County. “But with decreasing budgets and the increased use of the internet for information, we had to find a faster way of delivering information to large groups of people.”

The Subscription Management System (SMS) was developed to meet Extension’s need to provide faster and better service to their audiences. SMS allows users to subscribe to a variety of information including topics of agriculture production, the environment, families and consumers, lawn and garden, sustainable living and 4-H Youth and Volunteer development.

To utilize this new and free system, simply go to http://subscribe.ifas.ufl.edu. Once there, create a new subscription and follow the instructions. You will be able to customize your choices. When information becomes available, you will receive an e-mail with the specifics.

“In addition to subscribing to newsletters, clients can pick specific topics that they are interested in,” said Dr. Pete Vergot, Northwest District Extension Director. “Once a client subscribes to a topic, they will receive an e-mail announcing when Extension programs, workshops or demonstrations will be presented. If registration is limited, SMS subscribers will have an advantage since they will receive their notifications electronically.”

In addition to email notifications, you can sign-up to receive information via text message. “SMS text messaging is the fastest means possible to inform our clients of a pest or disease outbreak,” according to Dr. Vergot. “Instant notification of problems can help save crops, reduce costs and increase profit.”

Seasonal Color

Angel's trumpet (Brugmansia) is a large, fast-growing perennial that will bring a pleasant fragrance to your garden with these large, trumpet-shaped flowers that hang from the plant. Give angel's trumpet at least half a day of full sun and plenty of room to grow. The plant will grow to about seven feet tall with an almost equal spread in one growing season. It dies to the ground in winter but should return reliably each spring. Plant it where you will be able to enjoy the fragrance of the flowers in the evening.

Photo Credits: David W. Marshall

September and October mark the climax of one gardening
year in north Florida and the beginning of another. As the
days become a little shorter and the nights a little cooler,
it’s as if the plants anticipate the coming of winter and they
really begin to show their colors. It’s a good time to enjoy
the color and take notes of plants you will want to add to
your landscape next spring.

Heliconia hirsuta ‘Peru’ can bring a tropical touch to the
north Florida landscape. It is the best heliconia that we
have grown in the demonstration garden at the Leon
County Extension Center. We have found that it stays
green and continues flowering right up until a killing freeze
in December. It’s best, though, to dig the plants in late Oc-
tober to mid-November, while they are still green, put them
in pots, and store them inside during the cold winter nights.
They won't survive freezing temperatures outdoors, but if
you overwinter them in pots in a protected location, they
will resume growth quickly in the spring and be flowering
again by summer. Plant in a spot that receives protection
from the harsh afternoon sun. Warning: this plant will be
difficult to find at the local level. You will probably have to
find a source by internet until you can convince a local
nursery to find a source to buy from and carry them during
the summer.

Cigar flower (Cuphea micropetala) is extremely easy to
grow. Put it in a sunny location, give it a little water to get it
started, and you will soon find yourself with more clumps of
this spreading perennial. The best show of flowers comes
in the fall. The tubular flowers are very attractive to hum-
ingbirds. The plant grows to about 3-4 feet tall and the
clumps gradually spread wider and wider.

Candlebrush (Senna alata, formerly Cassia alata) has to
be the showiest of the fall flowers. The terminal spikes of
golden-yellow flowers draw your eyes to them from across
the garden. Start the plant from seed or from a small seed-
ling in the spring in a spot in the garden that receives full
sun. By fall when it begins to bloom, the plant may be 7-8
feet tall with an equal spread. Next spring you will find a
generous supply of new seedlings sprouting in the area
close to the original plant. You will probably want to pull
the majority of them, though, or you will soon have a jungle of
candlebrush. So far the plant has not been evaluated by
UF-IFAS to be invasive in natural areas, but as respons-
able gardeners we do want to be alert to this possibility. Let
your local extension agent know if you do see this plant es-
Lion’s ear (*Leonotis Leonurus*), sometimes also called lion’s tail, is a south African native that adapts well to north Florida landscapes that are well-drained or slightly dry and in full sun. The terminal clusters of orange flowers appear in the fall. In this photo lion’s ear is shown blooming alongside the purple flower spikes of Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*). Both plants are perennial in our area, dying back in the winter but resprouting in spring.

Photo Credits: David W. Marshall

Philippine violet (*Barleria cristata*) isn’t really a violet. It is more closely related to tropicals such as firespike and shrimp plant. But its lavender-blue flowers don’t appear until the fall. The plant grows to 3-4 feet tall with an almost equal spread. It grows best with a little morning sun but protection from the harshest late afternoon sun. In dense shade it is likely to get a leafspot disease. It is perennial, dying back in the winter and resprouting the following season. The plant will also reseed itself and you will likely find a few new Philippine violet plants in the garden after a few seasons.

Photo Credits: David W. Marshall

### Preparing Your Lawn for Winter Starts Now

Even though it’s still hot outside, it’s time to start preparing our lawns for cold weather. Shorter days, lower light intensity and cooler temperatures result in slower growing lawns and a reduced potential for them to recover from stress, poor growing conditions or pest injuries.

**Winter weed control:** Did you have to fight the weeds this past winter and spring? If so, then now is the time to begin doing something about preventing this from happening again this winter. See Larry Williams’s article for more information.

**Winterizing Fertilizers:** Warm-season grasses slow down their growth in response to lower temperatures and shorter day length. Applying nitrogen fertilizer late in the season disrupts this natural cycle by promoting growth, leaving the turf susceptible to other stresses.

Lawns can benefit from a late season application of potassium (the third number on the fertilizer label), but too much nitrogen (the first number on the fertilizer label) can increase your chance of winter kill. For north Florida, mid-September would be about the latest to apply nitrogen.

**Fall Diseases:** Centipede and St. Augustine lawns are very susceptible to large patch fungus disease in the fall. If this disease is not managed the lawn will be unattractive all through the fall, winter, and into next spring. Avoid excess nitrogen fertilizer and water early in the day to avoid long periods of leaf wetness. Apply fungicides if you’ve had repeated problems with this disease. For more information, review the University of Florida online publication at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044).
Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) is a widespread, low-growing winter weed.

Photo Credits: Theresa Friday, Santa Rosa County

**Fall Insects:** Scout for sod webworms, as this is the time of year that they can become very destructive with little time for turf recovery before winter dormancy.

**Winter Annual Weed Control in Lawns**

October is the month to apply a preemergence herbicide to control winter annual lawn weeds.

Timing is critical when it comes to weed control. The mistake many homeowners make is to wait too late to treat winter weeds. If you can see them, it’s too late. If you plan to use a preemergence herbicide in your lawn to control winter annuals, you need to apply the product during October when nighttime temperatures drop to 55 to 60 degrees for several consecutive days.

Common winter annual weeds include annual bluegrass, chickweed, henbit, hop clover, lawn burweed and Carolina geranium.

These and other winter annual weeds germinate from seeds during fall as the soil temperature cools and the day length shortens. The little seedlings usually go unnoticed at first but continue to slowly grow through the colder winter months. Approaching spring, as the day length becomes longer and the soil temperature warms, these previously inconspicuous weeds put on a growth spurt.

The majority of questions on winter annual weed control come to me in late February through April when these weeds are the most visible. But by then, it’s too late. The parent plants are mature and their seeds have been scattered all over the lawn.

Carolina Geranium

Photo Credits: UF/IFAS

If your lawn has a history of problems with winter annual weeds, attempt control measures before the weeds go to seed. If you intend to use a preemergence herbicide, apply it during October. This will be just before the winter weeds germinate and emerge.

Look for a preemergence herbicide for lawn use that lists the type of grass you have and the weeds you are targeting. Always read and follow the label directions and pre-
cautions for any pesticide, including herbicides.

For additional information on lawn weed control, contact your UF/IFAS County Extension Office or visit http://yourfloridalawn.ifas.ufl.edu.

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“Bee” Aware of Native Pollinators

Europeans began arriving in America well over a hundred years before the introduction of honey bees. So, if honeybees are pollination’s “heavy lifters,” how were the Native Americans successfully growing squashes and other crops that require pollination by insects?

Though honeybees have been effective pollinators since their introduction in the early 1600’s, there are many mostly unrecognized native pollinators that have also been busy pollinating food, feed and fiber crops too. Pollinators other than honeybees include ants, butterflies, beetles, birds, bats, flies, moths and wasps.

Because honeybees have been such efficient pollinators, there has been little interest in learning about our native pollinators. As a result, it is embarrassing to find how little we know about them and the job that they are doing. There are about 4,000 native bee species in North America and 316 of them are in Florida. Even those interested in native bees can only identify two or three of these in flight.

Some of the native creatures that help pollinate plants can be highly specialized. For example, the so called “hard shell” gourds belonging to the genus Lagenaria bloom at night and are pollinated by night flying hawk moths. Blueberries are most effectively pollinated by the Southeastern blueberry bee, which has the ability to reach all flower parts and “sonicate” or shiver its flight muscles, releasing pollen from the male flower parts.

This sudden interest in native pollinators is due in part to the widespread decline in honeybee numbers over the past several years. Known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), the causes for the loss of so many honeybees remains unknown.

A native bee at work. Note full pollen sacks on rear legs.
Photo Credits: Dan Mullins

The University of Florida has recognized the importance of native pollinators and is one year into a five year study. This study will try to determine the most effective ways to attract native pollinators, keep them around and encourage them to pollinate Florida crops.

The study, which is part of a larger effort known as Operation Pollinator, has been supported with a $160,000 grant for its first year by Syngenta and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Research partners include Michigan State University and the University of California, Davis. The objective is to evaluate native pollinators, especially bees, as pollinators of agricultural crops.

Dr. Akers Pence, a postdoctoral researcher at UF, has four sites around the state with experimental plots filled with native perennials and annual wildflowers. These plots are being monitored to determine which works best to attract native bees and other pollinators. Once more is known, agricultural producers and even backyard gardeners could plant those types of flower mixes to encourage native pollinators to visit, linger and even take up residence.

Much more information about bees and other pollinators can be obtained from the state beekeepers’ newsletter. This quarterly publication is entitled The Melitto Files.
The unique name is associated with the “bee dance” – a method that bees use to communicate with their hive mate concerning the distance, direction and quality of a flower food source. Go to: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/melitto.shtml to download and view and/or print the newsletter.

The IFAS Small Farms website is also a wealth of information for beekeepers and those who are interested in learning more about pollination. Go to: http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/ Scroll the menu on the left side of the page and open the beekeeping section for viewing and downloading publications.

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Firespike

Looking to add something to brighten your landscape this autumn? Firespike (Odontonema strictum) is a prolific fall bloomer with red tubular flowers that are very popular with hummingbirds and butterflies. Its glossy dark green leaves make an attractive large plant that will grow quite well in dense shade to partial sunlight. In frost-free areas, firespike grows as an evergreen semi-woody shrub, spreading by underground sprouts and enlarging to form a thicket. In zones 8 and 9, it usually dies back to the ground in winter and resprouts in spring, producing strikingly beautiful 9-12 inch panicles of crimson flowers beginning at the end of summer and lasting into the winter each year. Firespike is native to open, semi-forested areas of Central America. It has escaped cultivation and become established in disturbed hammocks throughout peninsular Florida, but hasn’t presented an invasive problem. Here in the panhandle, firespike will remain a tender perennial for most locations. It can be grown on a wide range of moderately fertile, sandy soils and is quite drought tolerant. Firespike may be best utilized in the landscape in a mass planting. Plants can be spaced about 2 feet apart to fill in the area quickly. It is one of only a few flowering plants that give good, red color in a partially shaded site. The lovely flowers make firespike an excellent candidate for the cutting garden and is a “must-have” for southern butterfly and hummingbird gardens. Additional plants can be propagated from firespike by division or cuttings. However, white-tailed deer love firespike too, and will eat the leaves, so be prepared to fence it off from “Bambi.”

Hummingbirds are frequent visitors to firespike plants. Photo Credits: Candy Butler, Floridata.com

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Invasive Plant Management in the Home Garden: Japanese Climbing Fern

Introduction

At first glance, that lone winding green vine with its feathery leaves may appear harmless in your garden, but as many home gardeners have discovered this invasive plant is quite the opposite. Japanese climbing fern (Lygodium japonicum) is a non-native, invasive vine which since its introduction around 1900 has become established throughout the southeast primarily naturalized in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in counties...
Japanese climbing fern poses both economic and ecological threats to forests in Florida. It is especially problematic in pine plantations managed for pine straw production. For years, pine straw bales have been a suspected vector of viable Japanese climbing fern plant parts and spores (Zeller and Leslie 2004). The fern is also problematic during prescribed burning because it provides a fuel ladder to canopy trees. Further, because of its ability to engulf and out-compete native vegetation, Japanese climbing fern can be of particular concern in natural areas (Minogue, et al. 2009).

**Control Options**

Because this fern is dispersed over large areas by its tiny spores and re-grows from its underground rhizomes, Japanese climbing fern is difficult to manage. As with any invasive plant species; identification, prevention, and swift management are our first lines of defense. For the home garden, strategies to control Japanese climbing fern are outlined below:

Once established in your garden, Japanese climbing fern is difficult to control. Care must be taken to avoid injury to landscape plants.

Photo Credits: Judy Ludlow

Learn to identify Japanese climbing fern, and look for it every time you are in the garden. If you find it weaving through your landscape plants, take swift action.

Photo Credits: Judy Ludlow

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Biology/Ecology

Japanese climbing fern has climbing, twining fronds which can reach lengths of 90 feet. It occurs as both individual plants and as dense tangled masses which can eliminate the underlying vegetation and cover larger trees. Frost causes above-ground portions of Japanese climbing fern to die but does not necessarily kill the below-ground portion of the plant. Japanese climbing fern spreads vegetatively by rhizomes located below the soil surface. These rhizomes spread and re-sprout after winter frosts. Climbing fern also reproduces by spores that are extremely numerous, long-lived, and readily disseminated. Spore abundance increases through the growing season and in north Florida, peak spore release occurs in October (Van Loan 2006). (Minogue, et al. 2009). The spores are microscopic and are dispersed by wind, clothing, and possibly water. (http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/639)
**Mechanical control:**

If you have very little of the vine growing in your garden, and it is not well established, then mechanical control is one option for you. Although hand pulling the twinning vines may seem a quick way to remove these small patches of climbing ferns, the plant will re-grow from below the cut, and will continue to spread by its rhizomes. To increase the success of mechanical control, it is best to remove these patches by digging out, as much as possible, the underground roots and rhizomes. Discard the plant and roots by placing in a plastic trash bag. Do not put them in your compost pile, as they will likely re-grow and spread.

**Chemical control:**

Field research has shown that a 2-3% solution of the herbicide active ingredient called glyphosate (Roundup, etc.) is effective for controlling Japanese climbing fern ([http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/639](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/639)). For the home garden, however, use of this non-selective herbicide needs to be approached very carefully. Since much of the undesirable climbing fern is often found growing within or near your desirable garden vegetation you must be painstakingly careful when using herbicides. Glyphosate is not selective and will kill both the unwanted and wanted plants if not properly applied. Glyphosate is an herbicide that circulates throughout the plant, including the roots. So, the more surface area of the plant that you can spray, the more effective glyphosate will be.

To use herbicides for vine control, first isolate the vines from your desired plants before applying herbicides. One method for the home landscape is to gather the long vines (but not breaking the stems) into an area where you can separate them from the garden plants. Then apply the herbicide to the separated plants. For example if the climbing fern is weaving throughout a hedge that is adjacent to a walkway or driveway, try to pull, without breaking, the vines onto the cement or dirt and spray them with the herbicide. This will help minimize damage to your desirable landscape plants and lawn. If that is not possible then try to separate the vine from the garden plant using some type of barrier such as thick cardboard or plastic. Spray the vine on the barrier and when the herbicide has dried, remove the barrier. Do not spray in windy weather or when rain is expected within six hours. As always, take the time to read the herbicide label, and follow directions.

The label is the law!

**Summary**

Invasive plants know no boundaries. They invade our wild natural areas as well as our backyards. Successful reduction of invasive species depends on coordinated, long term management, and management of invasive species on public and private lands.

**References:**


[http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/639](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/639)

Theresa Friday. Spread the word, not the weeds. 2009. [http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/lg_invasive_week.pdf](http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/lg_invasive_week.pdf)


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**Growing Indoor Plants**

According to the University of Florida publication, "Care of Plants in the Home," by Robert Black and Richard Henley, "Plants create an atmosphere of warmth and life that cannot be equaled by any other home furnishing." Caring...
for houseplants has increased in popularity over the past few years, and as more people grow plants indoors they need to be aware of some of the issues surrounding plant management inside a home or office.

Allowing plants to receive the proper amount of light is the most important factor related to successfully growing indoor plants. Some plants require more or less lighting than others, and a more in-depth discussion on this topic can be found at the article linked here: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg031. The article reviews techniques for learning to measure indoor light levels and knowing what amount of light is important for growing your favorite indoor plant. Using appropriate lighting can save you money and time in the future.

Zebra Plant (Aphelandra squarrosa)
Photo Credits: Eddie Powell

On average, indoor temperatures are 68 to 78 degrees and approximately 10 degrees lower at night, which is satisfactory for most plants. A sudden drop in temperature for a long period of time can really damage indoor plants, resulting in wilting, yellowing, and leaf drop. Examples of extreme temperature fluctuations include being left in the direct sun for a period of time or left outside during some of the cold winter nights that we saw this past winter.

Houseplants also need to have good air circulation around them. Air circulation is necessary, although plants should not be placed in a windy area where draft may be a problem.

Improper watering is a frequent cause of death for indoor plants. If overwatered, plants with saturated soil are unable to function properly because of a lack of oxygen in the soil. Potting mixtures may differ in composition, as organic mixes retain more water than sandy mixes. Clay pots require more water than plastic because the water seeps out of the clay pots. There are many different ways to determine if a plant has adequate water, including, "by feel," but if someone hasn’t grown many indoor plants they won’t have a natural feel for adequate moisture. Specific methods for determining proper soil moisture can also be found in the article cited above. In addition to soil moisture, research has shown that indoor plants grow their very best at a 40 to 60 percent humidity level.

Indoor plants also have different fertilization requirements. They typically have slower growth rates than those of plants grown outdoors and therefore do not need as much fertilizer. Also, the goal of fertilizing a houseplant is for the plant to keep good color but not outgrow its location indoors. Most indoor plants should be fertilized every two to three months. There are many special commercial materials available for fertilizing indoor plants. Miracle Grow with an analysis of 20-20-20 is a good choice for the homeowner as well as Osmocote low release fertilizer. Please read the label before use indoors, but most of the products seem to be safe and effective. Until next time, enjoy your indoor gardening.

Z Z Plant (Zamioculcas zamiifolia)
Photo Credits: Eddie Powell

Article adapted from, "Care of Plants in the Home," by Robert J. Black and Richard J. Henley, available at the
Leyland Cypress Disease Problems

The Leyland Cypress is known for its use as a landscape plant. It has been used mostly for tall hedges. In recent years it has been plagued with several diseases: Cercospora Needle Blight, Seiridium Canker, and Phytophthora Root Rot.

Cercospora Needle Blight occurs on the lower branches first. The disease moves outward from the tree and upwards. The needles and twigs turn yellow, then brown, and finally turn a grey color. The tips of the diseased tree will remain green. Reddish-brown lesions will form on 1 year old twigs. Needles will then drop from the tree. The spores on the blighted tissue will appear as olive-brown tufts of spores. Older trees who are diseased will have thin, brown foliage. To control the disease prune affected branches. Fungicides can be applied at bud break every 10 days until the new growth matures.

Seridium Canker generally occurs on trees that are under stress. Dieback occurs on twigs, branches, and stems. There are numerous long, thin cankers that form on stems, branches, and branch axles. Cankers are usually associated with resin flow. The bark will have sunken patches that are a dark brownish purple color. The foliage above the canker is a yellow, reddish brown color. Fruiting bodies appear on
the bark surface as dots. To control this disease, prune the infected twigs and branches one inch below the canker. Do not overwater the tree.

Phytophthora Root Rot causes the foliage to have a yellowish color with some tip dieback. It generally infects smaller roots. The woody roots decay and are firm and brittle, eventually becoming soft. The disease is more severe when roots are exposed to excess water due to poor drainage. The roots will become soft over time. When the roots are affected it can cause the tree to grow more slowly and eventually decline. Large, established trees are not usually affected. To control the disease avoid planting in compacted, poorly drained, or excessive wet soil. There is no chemical control for the landscape. Do not apply mulch too deeply around the tree.

If you have had problems with this disease, consider replacing the tree with Thuja 'Green Giant', 'Emerald Green', and cultivars of Cryptomeria japonica.

Source: Dr. Colleen Warfield, Extension Specialist, NC-SU, Diseases of Leyland Cypress in the Landscape, Dr. Alfredo Martinez and Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward, Extension Plant Pathologists, University of Georgia.

Compost Bins and Soldier Flies

If you are a backyard composter, it may only be a matter of time before you find the large maggots of the soldier fly working through the decomposing material. Although the initial sight and sound of the maggots in your pile may be disturbing, these are helpful flies in your composting process.

The adult soldier flies are attracted to the ‘green’ materials of the compost pile, including manures and food scraps, where the female will lay eggs. The emerging larvae are flattened brown maggots with a head much smaller than the body. They eat their way through six larval stages in about two weeks and then pupate in a drier location around the bin. The adult fly only lives a few days and is a fast flier around suitable breeding habits – moist, nitrogen-rich organic materials. Although it looks wasp-like, the adult does not sting or bite.

Soldier flies can be important decomposers and nutrient recyclers in both compost bins and gardens with applications of manures. In commercial swine production, these flies can significantly reduce manure quantities and serve as a food source for animals.

If you absolutely object to these maggots in your compost pile, you may use a screen over the bin holes to keep the female flies from laying eggs. You may also bury your food scraps to make the pile less attractive to the flies. If you compost with earthworms, the soldier fly may outcompete worms for food but they do not eat earthworms. For more information on soldier flies, visit University of Florida "Featured Creatures" at: http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/livestock/black_soldier_fly.htm. For more information on backyard composting visit: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep323

Soldier fly larvae in their last instar before pupating to the adult.

If you absolutely object to these maggots in your compost pile, you may use a screen over the bin holes to keep the female flies from laying eggs. You may also bury your food scraps to make the pile less attractive to the flies. If you compost with earthworms, the soldier fly may outcompete worms for food but they do not eat earthworms. For more information on soldier flies, visit University of Florida "Featured Creatures" at: http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/livestock/black_soldier_fly.htm. For more information on backyard composting visit: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep323

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Monarch Madness Photo Contest

The Panhandle Butterfly House is pleased to announce its first Monarch Madness Photo Contest.

In celebration of the annual monarch butterfly migration through Northwest Florida, the Panhandle Butterfly House will hold its 4th Annual Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival on October 8 and 9, 2010.

A new feature is a photo contest. Photos of butterflies, larvae, pupae and/or butterfly eggs may be submitted from **August 21 through September 20, 2010**. The contest is open to ALL photographers, professional and amateur. There are five entry categories: professional adult, amateur adult, and students (ages 6-10, 11-14 and 15-18).

There will be two grand prize winners and five runners-up. Awards will be presented and photos displayed at the Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival.

Taking photos of butterflies is a great hobby.

Photo Credits: Theresa Friday, Santa Rosa County Extension

For details and entry form visit [www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org](http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org) or email webmaster@panhandlebutterflyhouse.org or call 850-623-3868.

The Panhandle Butterfly House provides our area residents with a wonderful learning opportunity focusing on Florida Butterflies and their habitats.

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Upcoming Events

Some great events are listed below in alphabetical order by county:

**Escambia County**

**Fall Festival and Plant Sale:** Visit the Escambia County Demonstration Garden on Saturday, October 9 from 8:00 am - Noon. Program includes sale of perennials, flowering shrubs, and vegetables, children's activities, and tours of the beautiful demonstration garden. Program is free. You may bring a pet food donation to support adoptable dogs and cats. Address is 3740 Stefani Road, Cantonment, FL 32533.

**Gadsden County**

**Fall Field Day:** North Florida Research & Education Center (NFREC), Quincy to be held Tuesday October 5th beginning at 4:00 pm eastern time.

This year tours will include but not limited to “Deciduous and Cold-Hardy Fruit”, “Florida-An Island for Invasive Pests”, “Fall Pumpkin and Winter Squash Demonstration”, “Great Expectations for Gardens and Landscape” and “Easy Hydroponics for Hobbyists and Homeowners”. There will be a choice of two tours with dinner following. Visit [http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/events/pdf/Fall_Field_Day_Brochure_2010.pdf](http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/events/pdf/Fall_Field_Day_Brochure_2010.pdf) for agenda details.

Location: NFREC off Pat Thomas Parkway at 155 Research Road. The cost is $5.00 and **pre-registration is required by Thursday, September 30**. All payments will be accepted via cash or check made payable to University of Florida. To register or for more information on the UF/IFAS Fall Field Day, call (850) 875-7100.
Okaloosa County

**Educational Seminar with Developer of Encore® Azaleas:** September 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.) at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Event features guest speaker Buddy Lee, developer of Encore® Azaleas. Selected Encore® Azaleas and new varieties of Southern Living plants will be featured and available for purchase in a silent auction. Please preregister no later than September 10 by mailing check in the amount of $10.00 to Daisy Pfoertner, 4082 Indian Trail Drive, Destin, Florida, 32541. Make checks payable to OCMGA. Registration at the door is $12.00. For more information on this event, contact Daisy Pfoertner at (850) 650-6170 or Joyce Waters-Smith at (850) 269-2170.

**2010 Fall Home & Garden Expo:** October 2, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Crestview Community Center, 1446 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL. This will be the inaugural fall home & garden expo brought to you by the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa & Walton Counties and the Okaloosa County Master Gardeners Association. Tickets purchased in advance will be $4.00 and can be purchased at all Eglin Federal Credit Union Branch Locations. Tickets purchased at the gate will be $5.00 per person with children 12 and under getting in free. The Home & Garden Expo will feature indoor and outdoor exhibits of products and services and educational seminars for the homeowner and gardener. There will be a food vendors as well as children's activities.

**Plant Clinics:** Plant Clinics to diagnose lawn, landscape and garden problems will be held September 25 and October 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fort Walton Beach at the Okaloosa County Extension building, 127 West Hollywood Boulevard. To participate, bring a fresh sample of the weed, plant, insect, etc., that you’d like diagnosed. This may include a plant stem with several leaves, a 4-inch square of grass with roots attached, etc. For additional information on the plant clinics, call the Okaloosa County Extension Office at (850) 689-5850, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Santa Rosa County

**4th Annual Monarch Madness Butterfly Festival:** October 8th and 9th from 10 am to 5 pm at the Panhandle Butterfly House, 8581 Navarre Parkway, Navarre, FL. Events will include tours of the butterfly house, tagging of monarch butterflies, release of butterflies into the vivarium and much, much more. To learn more, visit our website at www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org.

**Gardening 101--Fall Vegetable Gardening:** Two-hour seminars on Saturday from 9am to 11am at the Santa Rosa County Extension Office, 6263 Dogwood Drive, Milton. These classes, for the curious beginner or the experienced gardener, will cover soil preparation, vegetable selection and garden maintenance. To make a reservation for these free gardening class, or for more information, please call 850-623-3868 or visit http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu/hot_topic_four.shtml. Due to limited class size, reservations are required.

- **Sept 4: Digging In:** How to improve your garden soil Register online by going to http://www.eventbrite.com/event/795985815?ref=elink
- **Sept 18: Picking Plants** Register online by going to http://www.eventbrite.com/event/795990830?ref=elink
- **October 2: Making Your Garden Grow** Register online by going to http://www.eventbrite.com/event/795995845?ref=elink

**Master Gardener Class:** Always wanted to learn more about gardening and then have the opportunity to share your knowledge and skills? If so, then you might find the Master Gardener volunteer program just the thing. Santa Rosa County residents can apply for the class by completing an application. The application and additional information are available online at http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_garden_mg_application.shtml.

**Introduction to Organic Production:** Are you interested in growing your own organic produce for sale or for your own consumption? Pensacola State College (formerly Pensacola Junior College) is offering a new course for those interested in starting their own small or large organic production operation (i.e., organic farming operation). This is a brand new, college credit (1 college credit) course offering geared towards helping people learn the basic principles of organic production systems and how to start their own organic production business. The class will be held this fall and will meet only once a month on the
second Saturday of the each month through December (the first class will be held Sept. 11) from 8am-12 noon at the Pensacola State College (formerly Pensacola Junior College) Downtown Center at the intersection of Garden and Devilliers Streets. Call 850-484-4433 or e-mail acompton@pjc.edu for more information.
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<tr>
<th>Northwest District Extension Offices</th>
<th>Holmes County</th>
<th>Okaloosa County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay County - Northwest</td>
<td>201 N Oklahoma Street</td>
<td>5479 Old Bethel Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>2728 E. 14th Street</td>
<td>Bonifay, FL 32425-2295</td>
<td>Crestview, FL 32536-5512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panama City, FL 32401</td>
<td>(850) 547-1108</td>
<td>(850) 659-5850</td>
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<td>(850) 784-6105 (Phone)</td>
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<td>(850) 784-6107 (FAX)</td>
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<td>Calhoun County</td>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>Walton County</td>
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<tr>
<td>20816 Central Avenue East, Suite 1</td>
<td>2741 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 3</td>
<td>732 N 9 Street Ste B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blountstown, FL 32424-2276</td>
<td>Marianna, FL 32448-4022</td>
<td>Crawfordville, FL 32327-2063</td>
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<td>(850) 674-8323</td>
<td>(850) 482-9620</td>
<td>(850) 926-3931</td>
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<td>Escambia County</td>
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<td>3740 Stefani Road</td>
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<td>Cantonment, FL 32533-7792</td>
<td>Monticello, FL 32344-2249</td>
<td>Chipley, FL 32428-1802</td>
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<td>(850) 475-5230</td>
<td>(850) 342-0187</td>
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<td>Franklin County</td>
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<td>66 Fourth Street</td>
<td>615 Paul Russell Road</td>
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<td>Apalachicola, FL 32320-1775</td>
<td>Tallahassee, FL 32301-7060</td>
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<td>(850) 653-9337</td>
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<td>Quincy, FL 32351-1905</td>
<td>Bristol, FL 32321-0368</td>
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<td>(850) 875-7255</td>
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<td>200 North 2nd Street</td>
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<td>Wewahitchka, FL 32465-0250</td>
<td>Milton, FL 32570-3500</td>
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<td>(850) 639-3200</td>
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