

# Gardening in the Panhandle

## Color in the Landscape

It's easy to have color in the landscape in May. Petunias, dianthus, snapdragons and other annuals that thrive in the mild weather of spring are still blooming. But as we move into summer, with its heat, rainfall and humidity, many of these same flowers start melting out. So anything you plant now needs to be capable of tolerating the north Florida summer. Here are some tips for picking the right plant for the right place.

If you have an area receiving full sun, there are many choices. Let's



*Justicia carnea*. Photo: David Marshall.

start with taller plants. If you have room for a small tree, crape myrtles would be at the top of the list. But be careful as to which type of crape myrtle you select. 'Natchez', for example, which is a popular white crape myrtle, grows well over twenty feet tall with an equal spread. However, 'Acoma', another white-flowering variety, doesn't usually exceed twelve feet tall. It has a spreading growth habit or form. If you need a slender, upright tree for a narrow space, consider 'Sioux', which has pink flowers. It grows to about twenty feet tall but maintains a slender form. For more information on selecting the proper crape myrtle, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG266/> on the web.

There are several flowering shrubs that can be used in full sun. Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) can grow to five or six feet with about an equal spread. It flowers summer through fall

May-June 2008

Volume 2, Issue 3

IN THIS

## Issue

PAGE TWO

- Attracting Wildlife to Your Landscape
- Mowing Your Weeds

PAGE THREE

- Citrus Leafminer
- Blossom-end Rot

PAGE FOUR

- Upcoming Events

PAGE FIVE

- It's Getting Warmer for Plants, Too

PAGE SIX

- Pest and Disease Management in Blackberries

PAGE SEVEN

- Scale Insect Problems on Trees and Ornamentals

PAGE NINE

- Garden Tips for May and June

PAGE TEN

- Muscadine Grapes in the Landscape

*continued on page 8*

## Attracting Wildlife to Your Landscape

An exciting part of having a Florida-friendly yard is attracting wildlife to your property. With more than 1,200 kinds of animals, Florida ranks third in the nation in wildlife diversity. However, Florida is also third in the contiguous 48 states in the number of plants and animals federally listed as being in danger of becoming extinct. Construction of homes, businesses, and roads leads to more space for people, but unfortunately less room for plants and animals. Ironically, many people visit and even move to Florida for the opportunities to explore and enjoy nature, so we should all do our part to make room for our wildlife.

Just how do we provide wildlife habitat? All animals require food, cover, water, and space to survive. While the scale of an animal's habitat may change depending on its size (for example, a hawk may look for food throughout an entire section of town, while a sparrow could live comfortably in a small city park), every animal has these four requirements.

To provide food, think about the diets of the animals you'd like to see. Want a butterfly garden? You'll need certain herbs, colorful flowers and patience with caterpillars in your garden. Do you like birds? Depending on the size of the bird, you might want birdfeeders, bird-baths, fruit and nut-bearing plants and perhaps even small rodents. Native vegetation is often very good for attracting local species, because they are adapted to feeding on these plants.

Water is an essential element for all living things. Birds will appreciate bathing and drinking from bird-baths, while lizards and frogs will flock to backyard ponds. For

butterflies, provide a puddling station, which can be made easily by filling a shallow bowl with rocks, sand and water.

Providing cover means giving animals shelter in which to rest, hide from predators and care for young. Layers of vegetation, such as a grouping of tall trees, medium bushes, and low groundcovers, help animals of all sizes find spaces to hide and live. Other examples of cover could be dead trees (called snags) for cavity-nesting birds, brush piles for hiding small mammals, or a wooden bat house. Grass is attractive, but it's not considered good cover for wildlife because they are easily exposed to prey when running across grass. If you're interested in attracting wildlife, the general rule of thumb is less grass and more landscaped plant beds.

Space refers to providing room for animals to move around and gain access to food, water or members of the same species. It can be hard for one individual to provide a lot of space within their property lines, so talk with neighbors and your neighborhood association about providing wildlife corridors. Residents can plant natural vegetation in their individual yards so it is near or connected to vegetation in the next yard, or wooded area, and so on. This creates a corridor that animals can use to safely travel from one natural area to another, thus benefiting wildlife at a larger scale.

A couple of final tips on attracting wildlife; while some animals are certainly more desirable in your yard than others, try and be open-minded about minor damage they may cause to your plants or turf. Even moles need to eat! Don't feed animals by hand, and make sure your garbage cans aren't vulnerable to animal foraging. Also, be aware of your pets. Dogs and cats will hunt small mammals and birds for fun,

and actually make quite an impact on bird populations throughout the state. It's rather unfair to lure wild animals into your yard, and then allow a pet to stalk them, so use gates and keep pets inside or away from feeders when possible to prevent unnecessary loss of wildlife. Interactions between animals and people should be positive experiences.

For more information on providing habitat for wildlife, be sure to read, "Landscaping Backyards for Wildlife: Top Ten Tips for Success," at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW175>

---

CARRIE STEVENSON  
Escambia County  
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods  
Faculty  
[ctsteven@ufl.edu](mailto:ctsteven@ufl.edu)

## Mowing Your Weeds

Late season winter weed control in most large lawns can be a chore if you have a severe weed infestation. Although there are a few herbicides that work and can be applied now one of the best methods of weed control for some weeds is mowing. Weeds like the cudweed (also known as rabbit tobacco) and the dreaded spiderwort or dayflower will respond to mowing. Mowing these weeds while they are in early seedhead and flower stages will keep them from maturing the seed and growing you a new crop next year.

If you were to try controlling these weeds by way of herbicides, it would be costly. To control by mowing, just make sure your mower has sharp blades and the deck or blades are set just high enough (range of 2-3 inches) to clip the tops and make a good cut. Be careful not to scalp your yard.

Mowing your weeds is one practice that can help you control your weeds and improve your lawn's

performance in the future. If you need weed identification, please dig up a sample of the weed and the surrounding grass, including the roots and take it to your County Extension Office for identification and control recommendations.

---

**CHARLES BRASHER**

Jackson County  
Extension Faculty-FAMU/Vegetables  
clbrase@ufl.edu

## Citrus Leafminer

For most homeowners, citrus in Northwest Florida have relatively few insect pests. Occasionally white fly is found on the undersides of leaves or the orange dog caterpillars feast on new foliage. In recent years, more homeowners have found distorted new growth and the interesting whitish 'leaf mines' of the citrus leaf miner. Weather stresses that have caused flushes of new growth have increased cases of citrus leafminer and the need for management on young trees.

The tiny adult moths of the citrus leafminer are rarely seen and lay eggs singly on the underside of leaves. Within a few days, larvae enter the leaves and begin feeding. They make serpentine mines on young leaves, resulting in leaf curling and distortion. Normally, one mine is present on a leaf and the larvae remain protected while feeding. The entire life cycle, from egg to adults, can take about 3 weeks in our area.



*Citrus Leafminer.*

Because the larvae are inside the leaf, controlling them with insecticides is difficult. Sprays need to be applied when new foliage is only half emerged and affected leaves are starting to curl. If you only have a few affected leaves, rub your finger over the serpentine mines to crush the larva. Remember that beneficial wasps can help manage some of the pests. Always use an insecticide cautiously and according to the label in order to prevent injury to nontarget organisms.

The best prevention of any pest is to keep your citrus healthy and stress free. Follow recommended fertilization and watering practices which promote healthy plants but do not encourage frequent growth flushes. For more information on citrus leafminer visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CH083> and [http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus/citrus\\_leafminer.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus/citrus_leafminer.htm)

---

**BETH BOLLES**

Escambia County  
Horticulture Extension Faculty  
bbolles@ufl.edu

## Blossom-end Rot

Tomatoes are one of the most popular plants in the home garden. Unfortunately a common problem in tomatoes is blossom-end rot, a disorder, not a disease. Blossom-end rot develops from a lack of calcium during fruit development. Blossom-end rot can also occur in peppers, squash, melons and eggplant.

Several factors can contribute to this problem:

- Extreme soil moisture fluctuation, from wet to dry. Rapid growth followed by drought.

- Rainy seasons that cause root hairs to drown.
- Excessive salt build up in the soil.
- Cultivating to close to plants which can damage roots.

The first indication of blossom-end rot is a slight discoloration occurring at the blossom-end (bottom) of the fruit. This area enlarges rapidly producing a brown or black sunken area. The skin over the affected area becomes dry and leathery.

Calcium moves slowly in plants and even slower in the fruit, so deficiencies can occur even when there is adequate calcium in the soil.

Once you see blossom end rot, it's too late to do anything. Remove the fruit and add to your compost pile.

To help prevent blossom end rot use best management practices. Maintain uniform watering and apply mulch. Avoid heavy applications of high nitrogen fertilizers or large amounts of fresh manure. Plant in well-drained soils. If your water or soil is salty, apply more water to leach out salts.

---

**KEN RUDISILL**

Bay County Extension  
Horticulture Extension Faculty  
krru@ufl.edu



*Blossom-end Rot disorder.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

May 3: *Escambia County Master Gardener Spring Festival*, 8 am-12 noon. Escambia County Demonstration Garden, 3740 Stefani Road, Cantonment. For details contact Beth Bolles at 850-475-5230

May 20-July 15: *Florida Master Naturalist "Coastal" module*, Tuesday nights from 6-9 pm with two Saturday field trips. Escambia County Extension office, 3740 Stefani Road, Cantonment, 475-5230. Contact Carrie Stevenson (ctsteven@ufl.edu) or Andrew Diller (apdiller@ufl.edu) for more information. Registration for course and detailed information available at [www.masternaturalist.org](http://www.masternaturalist.org).

June 10-August 12: *Junior Ranger camp* (ages 6-8 on Tuesdays, ages 9-11 on Wednesdays), Gulf Islands National Seashore, 9:00-11:30 am. Children go on hikes, learn about wildlife, snorkel, and more. Extension Agents frequently assist park rangers with activities. Contact Amanda Carrigan-Grissom (850-916-3001) for more information and (free) registration.

### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

June 18: *Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day*. WFREC Research and Education Center. For more information contact Robin Vickers at 850-983-5216 x 113, 850-393-7334 or [rvickers@ufl.edu](mailto:rvickers@ufl.edu) Web Site: [Miltongators.com](http://Miltongators.com).

June 19: *Florida Lawn Field Day*. WFREC Research and Education Center. For more information contact Robin Vickers at 850-983-5216 x 113, 850-393-7334 or [rvickers@ufl.edu](mailto:rvickers@ufl.edu) Web Site: [Miltongators.com](http://Miltongators.com).

May-June: *Panhandle Butterfly House*. Located in Navarre Park at the intersection of Hwy 98 and the Navarre Bridge Causeway in Navarre, FL. Open to the public Thursday through Saturday 10am to 3pm and Sundays from noon to 4pm. Admission free, donations welcomed. Scheduled group tours are available Monday-Wednesday. More information available at [www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org](http://www.panhandlebutterflyhouse.org) or by calling Theresa Friday at 850-623-3868.

“ The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses. ”

HANNA RION



Colorful waves of Phlox flowers bloom. UF/IFAS Photo: Tyler Jones.

## It's Getting Warmer for Plants, Too

Recently there has been a lot of discussion about climate change. Of special interest to gardeners is that the Arbor Day Foundation just completed an extensive updating of U.S. plant hardiness zones. This change is based on the most recent 15 years of data available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's five thousand cooperative National Climatic Data Center stations.

Plant hardiness zones are what you see printed on the back of seed packets to tell you when you can plant seeds based on where you live. They often say things like, "If you are in zone 8 you can plant your impatiens in April." This cold-tolerance information is also useful as it helps

provide guidelines as to what plants can over-winter in a given area. The information is based on averages of minimum temperatures for a given area.

These plant hardiness zones divide the United States and Canada into eleven areas, based on a 10 degree Fahrenheit difference in the average annual minimum temperature. The United States falls within Zones 2 through 10. For example, the lowest average temperature in Zone 2 is -50 to -40°F, while the minimum average temperature in Zone 10 is 30- 40°F .

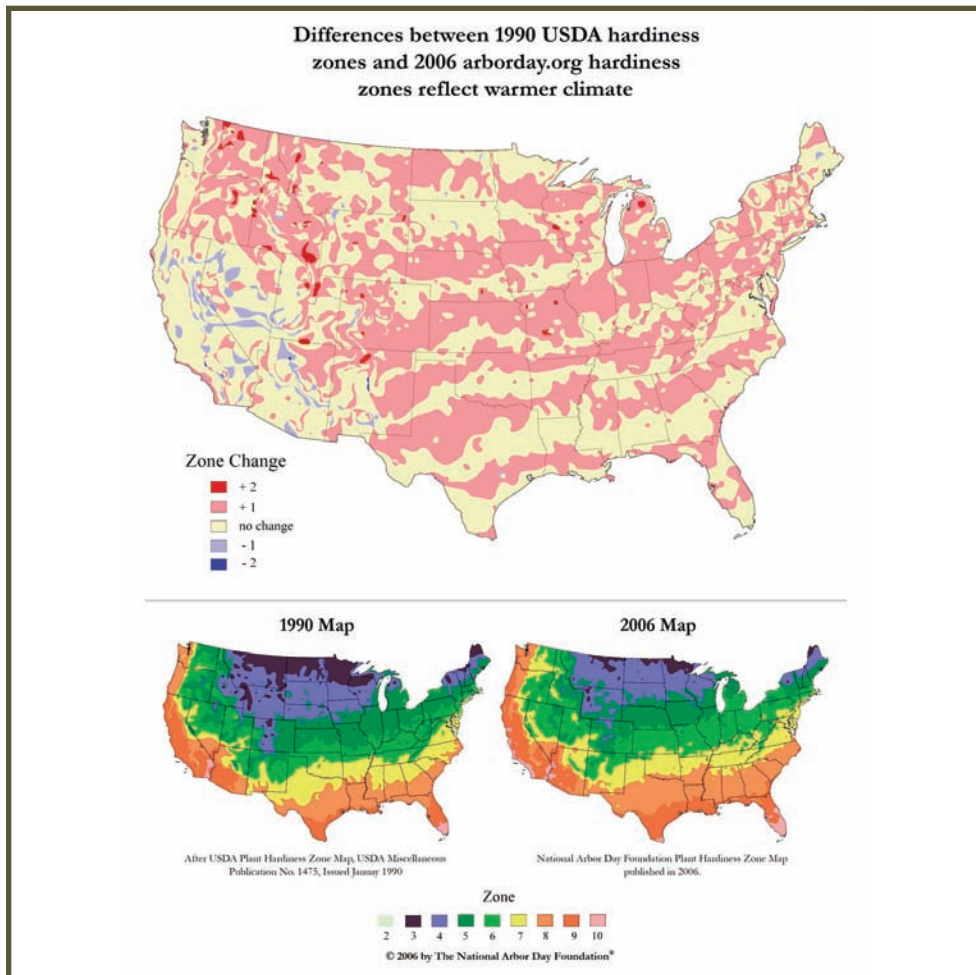
What does this mean to us? Our area used to be solidly in Zone 8, which meant minimum temperatures were predicted to be between 10°F and 20°F. Recent changes have shifted us to (depending on exactly where you live) either Zone

8 or Zone 9. Zone 9 has minimum temperatures of 20-30 degrees Fahrenheit. In other words, most of our area is transitional between Zone 8 and 9 instead of being solidly in Zone 8.

Again, these are general guidelines and local variations such as moisture, soil, winds and other conditions might affect the viability of individual plants. We often call these local variations "microclimates". Microclimates often occur in most large cities due to the urbanization effect that buildings bring about. In addition, regions of the country with large bodies of water or mountains may contain microclimate pockets. These climatic pockets are warmer or cooler zones than the surrounding region.

Some plants that couldn't be grown here in the past may have a better chance of surviving here now if temperature trends stay the same in coming years. So a plant that cannot take hard freezes now stands a better chance of surviving here, especially if the plant is in a protected microclimate situation. On the other hand, some species that need a good cold snap may not fare as well. For instance, we are in the southern end of the range of both American beech and shortleaf pine. In the future it may be possible that these trees do not reproduce as successfully here as they have before. If that is the case, we may eventually lose them in this area.

We as humans have always had an effect on plants through our creation of microclimates. But what is especially significant about the change in plant hardiness zones is that we may be having an effect on the macroclimate too.



STAN ROSENTHAL

Leon County  
Forestry Extension Faculty  
stanr@ufl.edu

## Pest and Disease Management in Blackberries

Competition from weeds can cause a significant reduction in blackberry bramble (fruit) production and plant vigor of blackberries. Weeds may compete with blackberries for nutrients, water, light, and space. A successful weed control program can add to a very productive season. Blackberries produce and grow the best when a 4 to 6 foot wide area around the base of the plant is kept free of all vegetation. Home gardeners can attain reasonable weed control by mowing, hoeing and/or mulching around plants. There are also several herbicides available to home gardeners that will provide excellent weed control, but these chemicals must be used carefully around blackberries due to possible plant injury. Some common herbicides labeled for blackberries are listed in table 1.

There are several insects that may cause problems for blackberries. Thrips and some weevils attack the blooms. Aphids, spider mites, caterpillar and beetles will most often cause damage to the foliage. And, stinkbugs, plant bugs, leaf footed bugs, weevils and sap bugs are usually problems on the berries. When it comes to insect management, chemical control is really the only effective means of reducing populations and damage. Some common herbicides labeled for blackberries are listed in table 2.

Blackberries can also be infected by several plant diseases. These pathogens may include anthracnose, rosette, orange rust, leaf spot and numerous viruses. These diseases can severely limit bramble production. To prevent many of these diseases, fungicides like azoxystrobin (*quadris* or *amistar*) can be applied along

**Table 1. Herbicides labeled for use in blackberries production**

Pre-emergent (PRE)		
Chemical Name	Common/Trade Name	Targeted weeds
Dichlobenil	Casoron <sup>1</sup>	Annual Broadleaf and Grasses
Napropamide	Devrinol <sup>1</sup>	Annual Broadleaf and Grasses
Oryzalin	Surflan <sup>1</sup>	Annual Broadleaf and Grasses
Simazine	Princep/Princeo <sup>1</sup>	Annual Broadleaf and Grasses
Terbacil	Sinbar <sup>1</sup>	Annual Broadleaf and Grasses
Post-emergent (POST)		
Chemical Name	Common/Trade Name	Targeted weeds
Glyphosate	Roundup <sup>1</sup> , Touch-down <sup>1</sup> , UltraMax <sup>1</sup> , Glyphomax <sup>1</sup> , etc. <sup>1</sup>	Annual Broadleaf and Grasses
Sethoxydim	Poast	Annual and Perennial Grasses <i>only</i>
Fluzaifop-butyl	Fusilade <sup>2</sup>	Annual and Perennial Grasses <i>only</i>

<sup>1</sup>May cause herbicide injury if it comes in direct contact with Blackberry stems or foliage.

<sup>2</sup>Apply post-emergence on non-bearing crop only.

**Table 2. Insecticides labeled for use in blackberries production**

Chemical Name	Common/Trade Name	Targeted Insects
Carbaryl	Sevin	Aphids, Leafhoppers, Borers, Beetles
Malathion	Malathion, Chemethion, Various more	Aphids, Leafhoppers, Mites, Thrips, Weevils, Stinkbugs, Borers, etc.
Pyrethrins + Rotenone	Pyrellin	Aphids, Leafhoppers, Mites, Thrips
Spinosad	Spin Tor	Beetles, Caterpillars, Thrips, Aphids
Insecticidal soaps	Safer, M-Pede	Aphids, Leafhoppers, Mites
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bt)	Crymax, Dipel	Caterpillars



*Blackberries. Photo: Theresa Friday, Santa Rosa County.*

with sanitation by proper weed and insect control and planting resistant cultivars. Unfortunately, there is no cure for viruses only prevention.

NOTE: When applying pesticides, remember to always thoroughly read and follow pesticide labels to avoid unnecessary crop injury!

---

**COLLIN ADCOCK**

Washington County  
Horticulture Extension Faculty  
collinwa@ufl.edu.

## Scale Insect Problems on Trees and Ornamentals

Scale insects are one of the most serious problems homeowners face on ornamentals and trees. The most common scale insects are soft scale, armored scale and mealybugs. They cause damage by sucking plants fluids out of the leaves, stems and

sometimes roots. Some species feed on the underside of the leaves causing damage that can appear as yellowing spots or chlorotic lesions. Heavy infestations can cause extensive leaf yellowing, premature leaf drop, branch dieback and plant death.

The life cycle starts when the eggs are laid beneath a waxy covering or beneath the adult female. Two to three weeks later the eggs hatch and the nymphs, or crawlers, move around the plant until they find a suitable feeding site. Crawlers then insert their straw-like mouthparts into the plant and begin to feed and grow. The male often times develops wings and flies to locate a mate.

Soft scale also secretes a waxy covering but it is attached to the bodies. Soft scales vary in color, size and shape. They are usually circular shaped and range from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch

in diameter. Because they consume so much of a plant's sap, they excrete a lot of sugary liquid called honeydew. Honeydew is a sticky liquid that can be found on the leaves.

Armored scales are distinct from other types of scales because they secrete a waxy covering over their body that is not attached to the body. The scale, ranging in size from  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, lives and feeds under this covering. Depending on the species, they can be any color or shape. Armored scale does not produce honeydew.

Mealybugs are soft-bodied insects that are often covered with cottony white filaments. They are  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in size and feed on all parts of the plants. Injured plants have discolored, wilted and deformed foliage.

Sooty mold is caused by mealybugs and soft scales excreting large amounts of honeydew which provides an excellent medium for the growth of the black fungus. Sooty mold is not only unattractive, but it can slow down the growth of the plant and interfere with photosynthesis. Over time, with the control of the insect population, the sooty mold will fade away. Ants can also play a big factor in controlling sooty mold.

To reduce problems from scales and mealybugs, avoid overfertilizing and monitor plants often. If the infestation becomes overwhelming, spray a fine mist of horticultural oil on the foliage. Avoid spraying in the summer heat because of damaging foliage.

---

**EDDIE POWELL**

Horticulture Agent  
Walton County  
poweddie@co.walton.fl.us

with tubular red-orange flowers that are very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. The plant will die almost the ground after a killing freeze but quickly resumes growth from the base in the spring. Yellowbells or yellow elder (*Tecoma stans*) attains a similar size in north Florida and has clusters of large, bright yellow flowers summer through fall. There is also an orange form of *T. stans*, 'Orange Jubilee'. Both the yellow and the orange die to the ground in winter but quickly resprout in spring if they're in a sunny location. Spicy jatropha (*Jatropha integerrima*), another tropical shrub with clusters of small red flowers, will also provide color summer through fall. Angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia* spp.), with its large, hanging, trumpet-shaped flowers of yellow, peach or white, gives you the additional reward of sweet fragrance in the early evening.

An old favorite for full sun is the oleander. Available in a range of shades of red, pink, yellow or white, oleander is very drought-tolerant. All parts of the plant are poisonous if eaten, so it may not be a good choice if small children will be using the area. Oleander, which may reach a height of 8 feet, has



*Stromanthe sanguinea tricolor*.  
Photo: David Marshall.

few problems except for occasional attack from the oleander caterpillar. They can quickly defoliate the plant and will have to be sprayed with an insecticide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* if they cannot be hand-picked from the plant.

A lower-growing shrub for full sun is dwarf red powderpuff (*Calliandra haematocephala* 'Nana'). It is yet another tropical that will die almost to the ground after a hard winter freeze but will usually re-sprout in spring. It only reaches a height of two to three feet but produces a continuous supply of bright red, powderpuff-like flowers. Bush allamanda (*Allamanda neriifolia*) is another tropical that will provide a continuous supply of large yellow flowers on a compact 3-foot shrub with glossy green leaves. *Euphorbia cotinifolia*, still another tropical, doesn't have showy flowers but has beautiful burgundy-colored foliage which can add interesting contrast in the garden. *Duranta* 'Gold Mound' has bright yellow-green foliage that combines well with many other plantings.

For a low-growing bedding plant, *Torenia* 'Summer Wave' is difficult to beat. It has a trailing growth habit that will quickly fill a bed with a carpet of blue, purple or white flowers. It does best in an area that receives morning sun but some protection from the harshest afternoon sun.

*Alternanthera* 'Brazilian Red Hots' also prefers a location in the garden with some protection from the hottest afternoon sun. This plant grows 24 inches tall and has brilliant purplish-red foliage that will be noticed from across the garden. Plant it where you want to draw attention. A more subdued *Alternanthera* is 'Purple Wave' that has deep, dark burgundy foliage and grows to 3 feet tall.

Other colorful choices for sunny landscape beds include pentas, verbena, scaevola, melampodium, portulaca, purslane, croton, sun coleus, African marigolds and various types of copper plant or *Acalypha*. Easy-to-grow flowers from seed are zinnias and cosmos. My favorite new plant for hot, sunny areas is African bulbine (*Bulbine frutescens*). The foliage is low-growing with a grass-like texture. The orange-flowering cultivar 'Hallmark' is best, only growing 14-16 inches tall and spreading up to two feet across. The plant flowers nonstop, surviving winter well here, too, and being drought-tolerant.

If you have a lightly shaded area, one of the most exciting new plants is *Stromanthe sanguinea* 'Tricolor'. Its foliage is a striking combination of variegated green and cream, with undersides of bright burgundy red. The plant grows to about 30 inches tall. For a taller plant in shade (up to 5 feet), use variegated shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata'), which has variegated leaves of green and yellow. Persian shield (*Strobilanthes dyerianus*) (3 feet) has leaves of pinkish-purple and green and silvery white. Jacobinia (*Justicia carnea*) produces feathery flower clusters of bright pink. And, of course, there are also caladiums and many choices of coleus for the shade. And, don't forget impatiens.

Colorful vines include allamanda (yellow flowers), mandevilla (pink), Spanish flag (*Mina lobata*) (numerous clusters of small yellow and orange flowers), yellow butterfly vine (*Mascagnia macroptera*), trumpet creeper (orange), and coral honeysuckle (red or yellow).

---

DAVID W. MARSHALL  
Leon County  
Horticulture Extension Faculty  
davidwm@ufl.edu

## Garden Tips for May and June

### Flowers

- Annuals to plant include celosia, coleus, crossandra, gaillardia, geranium, hollyhock, impatiens, kalanchoe, marigold, nicotiana, ornamental pepper, penta, phlox, portulaca, salvia, torenia, verbena, vinca and zinnia.
- For a more tropical look, install colorful foliage plants like coleus, copper plant (*Acalypha*), croton, alternanthera, ornamental sweet potato and 'Magilla' perilla.
- Bulbs or tubers to plant now include agapanthus, blackberry lily, clivia, gloriosa lily, crinum, flag iris and Louisiana iris.
- Fertilize annual and perennial flowerbeds. Choose a product that contains nitrogen and potassium, but little or no phosphorus for this purpose.
- Rejuvenate houseplants. Take them outdoors and inspect for spider mites and mealybugs. Shift pot bound specimens to a size larger pot.
- Set out caladium bulbs in prepared beds. Plant them 18 inches apart and 2 inches deep.
- Control black spot on roses by applying fungicides on a regular basis.
- Keep spent blooms on roses and butterfly bushes cut. Cutting flowers is good for the plants and will give you more flowers in the long run.
- Allow the foliage on spring bulbs to grow. Do not cut it off until it turns yellow and falls over.

### Trees and Shrubs

- Finish pruning spring flowering shrubs such as azaleas, spiraeas, camellias and forsythia by early June.
- Mature palms should receive an application of granular fertilizer. Use a special palm fertilizer that has an 8-2-12 +4Mg (magnesium) with micronutrients formulation. Apply one pound of fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of canopy area or landscape area.
- Do any necessary pruning of junipers in May.
- Inspect maple trees, especially silver maple, for infestations of maple soft scale. Look for a white substance with some black on one end. Individual maple scales are about 1/4 inch in diameter and resemble bird droppings. They occur mostly on leaves and can cause defoliation unless controlled.
- Inspect the undersides of azalea leaves for lace bugs. Go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG326> for more information

### Fruits and Nuts

- Fertilize citrus with a special citrus fertilizer. Be sure it contains about 1.6% magnesium, about 0.5% manganese and small amounts of copper and boron.
- Harvest peaches, nectarines and plums as soon as they mature, before the squirrels and birds get to them.

### Vegetable Garden

- Vegetables that can be planted outdoors include eggplant, lima beans, okra, southern peas and sweet potatoes.
- Side-dress vegetable gardens with fertilizer containing nitrogen and potassium. A fertilizer such as a 15-0-15 can be used. Use approximately 2 to 3 cupfuls (1 to 1 1/2 pounds) per 100 feet of row.
- Increase watering frequency and amount as tomatoes load up with fruit.
- Sweet potatoes are started from plants or "draws". Be sure to purchase only certified weevil free sweet potato plants.

### Lawns

- Calibrate the lawn sprinkler system so that approximately 1/2 inch of water is applied at each irrigation.
- Water lawns in the morning to help prevent disease problems.
- Watch for excessive populations of spittlebugs as they can damage centipede lawns. These small, black insects with 2 orange strips across the back can cause yellow or reddish streaks down the grass blades which eventually turn brown.
- Chinch bug damage in St. Augustine lawns appears as straw-colored areas in full sun. These tiny insects are black with white wing patches on their backs.

---

Theresa Friday  
Santa Rosa County  
Horticulture Extension Faculty  
[tlfriday@ufl.edu](mailto:tlfriday@ufl.edu)

## Muscadine Grapes in the Landscape

Muscadine, *Vitis rotundifolia* Michx., is a grape species native to the southeastern United States. Before the arrival of the first European settlers, Native Americans ate the small bronze or purple-black fruit. In 1584, the famous writer, poet and explorer, Sir Walter Raleigh, described their presence on the North Carolina coast as being *"on the sand and on the green soil, on the hills as on the plains, as well as on every little shrub ... also climbing towards the tops of tall cedars ... in all the world the like abundance is not to be found"* (USDA-Agricultural Research Service, America's First Grape: The Muscadine).

Today, muscadines are grown mainly for fresh fruit and wine making, as well as for processed juice and jelly. However, many homeowners grow muscadines in the landscape. Muscadines are relatively resistant to insect, nematode, viral, and fungal pest, and are a reliable source for fresh fruit year after year. Because of their vigorous vining growth habit that can reach 60-100 feet in the wild, muscadines are trained to grow on a trellis for ease of maintenance and fruit harvesting.

As a landscape plant, muscadines can be grown on a trellis system or on an overhead structure such as an arbor or a pergola, for shade and decorative appeal. Most muscadine vines in the landscape are grown on a single wire trellis known as a bilateral cordon trellis. The single wire system is commonly used in homeowner landscapes. Trellis panels can vary in width to accommodate 1 or 2 vines. Panels can range from 6 feet for a one vine trellis panel, to 12 feet for a 2 vine/panel. It is recommended that you choose pressure treated posts and 9-gauge, high tensile steel wire for longer

trellis durability. End posts should be approximately 6 inches in diameter and interior row posts should be 3 to 4 inches in diameter. The wiring on the end post should be securely attached yet amendable, allowing you the ability to tighten the wire each season as necessary.

The growing site should receive full sun and have adequate air circulation and water drainage. If possible, avoid sandy soils, as these can be problematic during drought. Plant growth can be reduced due to sandy soils poor nutrient status. To assess your garden soil nutritional status, visit your local county extension office to obtain a soil sampling kit and analysis information. Muscadines perform better in loamy to clay soils with a pH in the range of 5.5 – 6.5.

Muscadines are an excellent plant to use for shade on overhead structures, such as an arbor or pergola. Landscaping for energy conservation practices using overhead structures modifies the climate in and around the home by reducing sunlight penetration while providing shade for outdoor entertainment. Muscadines

are deciduous vines that can provide a solid overhang in the summer and more open to filtered sunlight in the winter. Overhead structures can either be attached or adjacent to the home. These can shade walls and windows thereby reducing direct sunlight and glare.

For muscadine cultivar selection, vineyard design options, grape vine training and pruning, and cultural practices including related pest of muscadines type this link, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/HS/HS10000.pdf>, into your favorite web browser address bar to obtain a copy of "The Muscadine Grape", an electronic publication from the University of Florida IFAS/Extension. For a hard copy of the "Muscadine Production Guide" or further information on muscadine health benefits, cultural practices or cultivar selections, please contact the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research at Florida A&M University/CESTA at (850) 599-3996.

ALEX BOLQUES

Gadsden County  
Horticulture Extension Faculty  
abol@ifas.ufl.edu



Muscadine grape vines at the Lakeridge winery near Orlando. Photo: UF/IFAS Photography.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local Extension office

SolutionsForYourLife.com

### NORTHWEST DISTRICT EXTENSION OFFICES

#### BAY COUNTY

647 Jenks Avenue, Suite A  
Panama City, FL 32401-2660  
(850) 784-6105  
<http://bay.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### CALHOUN COUNTY

20816 Central Avenue East, Suite 1  
Blountstown, FL 32424-2276  
(850) 674-8323  
<http://calhoun.ifas.ufl.edu/>

#### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

3740 Stefani Road  
Cantonment, FL 32533-7792  
(850) 475-5230  
<http://escambia.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY

66 Fourth Street  
Apalachicola, FL 32320-1775  
(850) 653-9337  
<http://franklin.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### GADSDEN COUNTY

2140 West Jefferson Street  
Quincy, FL 32351-1905  
(850) 875-7255  
<http://gadsden.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### GULF COUNTY

200 North 2nd Street  
Wewahitchka, FL 32465-0250  
(850) 639-3200  
<http://gulf.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### HOLMES COUNTY

201 N Oklahoma Street  
Bonifay, FL 32425-2295  
(850) 547-1108  
<http://holmes.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### JACKSON COUNTY

2741 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 3  
Marianna, FL 32448-4022  
(850) 482-9620  
<http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

275 North Mulberry Street  
Monticello, FL 32344-2249  
(850) 342-0187  
<http://jefferson.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### LEON COUNTY

615 Paul Russell Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-7060  
(850) 606-5200  
<http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### LIBERTY COUNTY

10405 NW Theo Jacobs Way  
Bristol, FL 32321-0368  
(850) 643-2229  
<http://liberty.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

6263 Dogwood Drive  
Milton, FL 32570-3500  
(850) 623-3868  
<http://santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### OKALOOSA COUNTY

5479 Old Bethel Road  
Crestview, FL 32536-5512  
(850) 659-5850  
<http://okaloosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### WAKULLA COUNTY

84 Cedar Avenue  
Crawfordville, FL 32327-2063  
(850) 926-3931  
<http://wakulla.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### WALTON COUNTY

732 N 9 Street Ste B  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433-3804  
(850) 892-8172  
<http://walton.ifas.ufl.edu>

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

1424 Jackson Avenue Ste A  
Chipley, FL 32428-1602  
(850) 638-6180  
<http://washington.ifas.ufl.edu>