



Educating with Extension

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UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension Services

September 2011

October in your Garden

What to Plant

Flower Beds: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Asters, Browallia, Carnations, Dianthus, and Geraniums are good plants for the fall garden. [Bedding Plants: Selection, Establishment, and Maintenance](#) and

[Flower Beds: Getting Started](#)

Bulbs: Plant Amaryllis, Dahlia, and Gladiolus now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting hole for best results. [Bulbs for Florida](#)

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seeds or plants this month. Some to try are dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro. [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce through the winter months, such as beets, carrots, celery, cauliflower, and spinach. [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#) and [Growing Vegetables in South Florida](#)



UF Resources for Gardeners

- Gardening in the Keys http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_keysguide.shtml
- Gardening in a Minute Radio Program <http://gardeninginaminute.com>
- SFYL Lawn & Garden web page http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden
- Vegetable Gardening in the Florida Keys http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/Hort/Vegetable_Gardening_in_the_Florida_Keys.pdf
- Minigardening: Growing Vegetables in Containers <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH032>
- Starting a Community Garden <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP124>
- Organic Vegetable Gardening http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_organic_gardening
- Hydroponic Gardening http://edis/ifas.ufl.edu/topic_hydroponic_gardening
- Living Green <http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu>

What to Do

Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs: This is the last month of the year to fertilize plants that aren't performing as desired. Slow or timed-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time.

[Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes](#)

Fertilize lawns: Fertilize Bahia and Centipede lawns with a complete fertilizer. This is the last fertilization for these lawn types for the year. [General Recommendations for Fertilization of Turfgrass on Florida Soils](#)

Oleander caterpillar: The Oleander caterpillar is a year-round resident in South Florida. To control it without harming beneficial insects, simply remove infested leaves or spray with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

[Oleander caterpillar](#)



Photo by James Caster
University of Florida

What to Do Every Month

- ◆ Adjust irrigation based on rainfall.
- ◆ Deadhead flowers to encourage new blooms.
- ◆ Monitor the garden for insects and disease.
- ◆ Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials, and water until established.

Mow lawns/grasses at recommended heights:

- Bahia: 3 - 4"
- Bermuda: 0.5 - 1.5"
- Centipede: 1.5 - 2"
- Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5"
- St. Augustine: 2.5 - 4"
- Zoysia: 1 - 3"



Mowing Your Florida Lawn

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LH028>



Regional Plant Clinics

It's the fall/winter season and Kim Gabel & the Master Gardeners are ready, willing, and able to help you with your plant and/or insect problems. Just bring a sample to one of the [Regional Plant Clinics](#) listed below and they will dazzle you with their expertise.

Key West: 1 to 4 p.m., Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260
 October 3 & 17
 November 7 & 21
 December 5 & 19
 January 23, 2012
 February 6
 March 5 & 19
 April 2 & 16

Big Pine Key: 9 a.m. to noon, Big Pine Academy, 30220 Overseas Highway (next to Flea Market)
 October 15
 November 19
 December 17
 January 21, 2012
 February 18
 March 17
 April 21

Marathon: 9 a.m. to noon, Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Hwy.
 October 15
 November 19
 December 17
 January 21, 2012
 February 18
 March 17
 April 21

Key Largo: 9 a.m. to noon, Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Suite 244, MM 102, Bayside
 October 5 & 19
 November 2 & 16
 December 7 & 21
 January 4 & 18, 2012
 February 1 & 15
 March 7 & 21
 April 4 & 18

October Events

Rugose Spiraling Whitefly Workshops

Kim Gabel will present three free workshops in October on the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly, also known as the Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly.

- [Key Largo workshop](#) on Wednesday, October 5, at the Murray E. Nelson Government Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, MM 102, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- [Key West workshop](#) on Tuesday, October 11, at the Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, from 3:00 4:00 p.m.
- [Marathon workshop](#) on Monday, October 31, at the Marathon Government Center, EOC meeting room, 2nd floor, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

To see the schedule for the remainder of 2011, go online to our Lawn & Garden web page at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn.shtml>, and for more information on whiteflies, go to the main page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting

Friday, October 7

Master Gardener Meetings

- ◆ Tuesday, October 18
2 - 4 p.m., Marathon
- ◆ Wednesday, October 19
12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Key Largo
- ◆ Thursday, October 20
2 - 4 p.m., Key West

31st Annual Florida Master Gardener Conference

October 24-26

For more details about these events and others, see our online calendar at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>.

Media Recap, etc.

Doug Gregory spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine", WGMX's "Morning Mix" and KONK AM about the deepwater grouper fishing ban and other fisheries issues.

Kim Gabel spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and WGMX's "Morning Mix" about October's Rugose Spiraling Whitefly Workshops and garden preparation.

Alicia Betancourt spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about the rules for selling homemade food.

Learn how to manage money

Everyone has to deal with money, whether budgeting, buying insurance, planning for retirement, or saving to buy a house.

Interestingly, an increasing number of young people are finding themselves living paycheck to paycheck with no clear understanding of where their money goes, let alone how to save for the future. Fortunately, help is available from the [Young Investors Program](#) through the Family, Youth and Community Sciences Department and supported by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

The program starts by helping young adults analyze their monthly income and expenses, take control of their finances, set financial goals, and begin saving. It includes basic financial calculators and budgeting spreadsheets. Once the basics are mastered, the Young Investors Program introduces the essentials of growing their money, including investment options, risk tolerance, return, diversifying, and the cost of investing.

The program also offers a list of additional resources for financial information. To find out how to become a more informed and empowered money manager, go online to the [Money Matters section of http://SolutionsForYourLife.com](#).





**Family, Youth,
and Community
Sciences News**
Alicia Betancourt

Alicia presented an overview of Monroe County climate change programming to county agents and IFAS directors at the annual meeting of the Extension Professionals Association of Florida.

She acted as a staff liaison for the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee's September workshop meeting, which focused on the development of the Climate Action Plan. She compiled reports and edits for discussion by the group and revised the document according to their direction.

Alicia worked with contractor Cameron Cole to design and develop an Energy Efficiency Strategy that is currently being finalized, along with the Inventory Management Plan. They developed a timeline to solicit staff and community input on the draft plan. The project completion date has been set for November 30, 2011.

She presented three lessons in the High School Financial Literacy Program to two different classes, which focused on the ability to get and maintain savings and credit.

When Alicia spoke on US 1 Radio, she talked about the rules for selling homemade food, called "cottage food products" by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). She gave guidance about what kinds of food and where you can sell it, as well as how it needs to be prepared and labeled. During the 2011 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 7209 allowing individuals to manufacture, sell, and store certain types of cottage food products in an unlicensed home kitchen. Cottage food products include breads, cakes, cookies, candies, jams, jellies, and fruit pies. "Cottage food operations" as they are called require no license or permit from FDACS and are not inspected by any state government entity. See www.freshfromflorida.com/fs/CottageFoodAdvisory.pdf



**Marine &
Green News**
Doug Gregory

Doug organized a meeting of the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee where the first major revision of the Draft Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan was completed.

He participated in two climate-related webinars: 1) Sustainability & Energy Planning for Communities; and 2) Legal Implications of Climate Change: Regulatory Takings.

Doug was involved with the EECBG grant-funded solar water heating bid evaluation meeting with Jerry Barnett, Project Management and Bob Stone, Public Works.

He reviewed a manuscript on Reef Fish Survival to Hooking Mortality at the request of the University of Miami Bulletin of Marine Science journal.

Doug attended a one-day University of Florida training in Gainesville on Emerging Energy Issues and Topics for Florida.

He attended the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Board of Directors meeting to discuss ongoing fishery issues related to the lobster and king mackerel fisheries, preparation for the 2012 Florida Keys Seafood Festival, the current increase in lobster theft from traps, and a discussion on lionfish bycatch in the lobster trap fishery with a Reef Environmental Education Foundation representative.



**Saturday, January 14, 2012
11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Bayview Park**



**Horticulture
News**
Kim Gabel

Kim concluded two Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (RSW) treatment experiments on 15 coconut palms (per experiment). Results indicated that the treatments were not effective in controlling the RSW.

She completed hosting a five-week Botany Class for Master Gardeners (MGs). The course was taught by local botanist Susan Sprunt. Ten MGs attended the course and three MGs attended via Skype.

Vermicomposting educational booths were set up for two church-sponsored "Communal Table" potluck events; one in Key West, where Kim and a Master Gardener answered 22 clientele questions, and one in Marathon, coordinated by three MGs who answered 14 clientele questions.

Kim and six MGs set up a horticulture informational booth at the Florida Keys Birding Festival held at Curry Hammock State Park in Marathon, where they answered many questions asked by several attendees.

She made three site visits:

- Key West - palm and downspout problem
- Big Coppitt - whiteflies on seagrape
- Key Largo - vegetable gardening information

Kim and five MGs held three plant clinics, assisting 10 clientele with their plant and/or insect problems.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BOLO - Be On the Look Out

Giant African Land Snails (GALS) are one of the most damaging snails in the world because they consume at least 500 different types of plants, cause structural damage to plaster and stucco, and carry a parasitic nematode that can lead to meningitis in humans. To read more and to see pictures, click or go online to:

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/press/2011/09152011.html>

“Green Pepper Frogs”

UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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This newsletter can be accessed online at the following link

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

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We're on the Web at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Florida Keys EcoWeek 2011 November 2 thru 5

Log onto the website, www.ecoweekfloridakeys.com, to see what events will be taking place and where.

Publications

Tomato Varieties for Florida: Florida Red Rounds, Plum, Cherries, and Grapes

Tomatoes were introduced to European culture more than a hundred years before Linnaeus developed the binomial system of naming plants. After a brief discussion of the scientific naming of tomato and tomato varieties, the tables in this 13-page fact sheet provide a guide to varieties used in Florida listing the companies selling each, growing season, characteristics of plant and fruit, disease resistance, and other comments, separated by regional adaptation. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs1189>

Shopping for Health: Vegetables

Choosing the right vegetables will help you get the nutrients your body needs every day. With so many choices, vegetable shopping can seem like a hard task, but it doesn't have to be. This 4-page fact sheet will help you learn to become a smarter vegetable shopper.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fs165>



Want to be a Sponsor for the 7th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival?

To download an application, log onto
[http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/environment/
2012_Sponsor_Application.pdf](http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/environment/2012_Sponsor_Application.pdf)

or call Vicki at 305-872-9026
E-mail: vickigale@bellsouth.net

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Phone calls	372	431	471	1274
Office visitors	41	35	39	115
Visits to clients	10	18	15	43
Group teachings	9	13	17	39
Participants	180	199	286	665
Media submissions	5	9	7	21
Publications distributed	413	507	483	1403
TOTAL contacts	1030	1212	1318	3560