



Educating with Extension

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UF/IFAS Extension Monroe County

September 2016

Vegetable Gardening in the Florida Keys

October is the time of the year to start your vegetable garden. Are you ready? Here are a few pointers:

First, you should read the "Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide" which can be found online at edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021.

Next, decide whether you're going to plant right in the ground or use raised beds or have a container garden. Keys' soils are low in organic matter, have a high soil pH level, and are difficult to dig; therefore two successful gardening methods are raised beds or container gardening. For more information on gardening in raised beds see EDIS publication edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep472; and for container gardening, edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep326.



Mulch. Mulching is important in that it reduces weeds, retains soil moisture, prevents soil erosion, and keeps the soil cooler. Common mulching materials are store-bought mulch, pine straw, leaves, sawdust wood shavings, pine bark, and newspaper. For more information on mulch, visit livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/landscaping/mulch.html.

Fertilizer. To grow healthy vegetables, you will need to provide organic fertilizer (animal manures or compost), inorganic fertilizer, or a combination of both. Reading this EDIS publication, edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh025, will help you.

Sun. Fruiting vegetables will be more productive if given full sunlight for a minimum of 6 - 8 hours during the day. If you have limited sunlight, grow leafy vegetables since they can withstand more shade.

Water. Irrigating with salt water will harm vegetable plants, so use tap water or rainbarrel water. If you use well water, get the salinity levels checked at the Extension office. Keep the soil moist to a depth of six to eight inches. Check the plants on a daily basis to see if watering is needed. For newly planted surface seeds, keep the soil moist until they germinate, then lengthen the period between waterings.

Types of vegetables to grow. Beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, peas, peppers, potatoes, radish, spinach, squash, tomatoes, turnips, and more can be grown at this time of year. Read "Growing Vegetables in South Florida" for more information. <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/hort/growing-vegs-so-fla.pdf>

Upcoming Class: Market Research for the Time Constrained

Monroe County Extension's Economic Resource Development program offers courses and projects aimed at optimizing natural, built, cultural, social, and monetary capital resources in the county. We offer programs supporting entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development.

In our "Time Constrained" series, we will present a sequence of micro-workshops targeting the success of both existing and start-up businesses.

Harry Crissy, Economic Resource Development Agent, will be conducting a class that enables students to use readily available online resources and existing profiles to identify their customers, the location of their customers, and their customers' personal and spending habits, in order to utilize product development and marketing dollars more efficiently.

By using customer profiling techniques, students will learn to target and serve their markets with better efficiency, while gaining understanding of the spending potential (existing market dollars) for current and new products in the area they are serving.

Businesses often have general policies concerning the use of limited resources. These policies often overlook the use of simple procedures that can more carefully target expenditures towards their intended purposes.

The improved efficiencies gained by using the methods taught in this class will enable attendees to use resources that might otherwise be depleted on marketing efforts to be spent on product development, improving their profitability while better serving their markets.

This class uses problem solving and applied learning techniques, making the presented material practical for immediate use by participants. It is aimed particularly at tourism, retail and experience related businesses, but the concepts are applicable to any business model.

The class is free. Basic internet searching capabilities are the only prerequisites.

When: Friday, November 4, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Marathon Media Room, First Floor, Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway

To enroll, contact Harry at harrycrissy@ufl.edu or by phone at 305-295-4325.



Horticulture News

Kim Gabel



Kim recently accomplished the following activities:

- Completed a Master Gardener project "Key Largo Community Park" with three Master Gardeners who dedicated 60 hours of volunteer work that consisted of over 20 tree identification signs developed with text and photos, laminated, and installed.
- Participated in a Monroe County Integrated Pest Management meeting. Topics discussed were pesticide materials listed in the manual, developing upcoming Green Industries-Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) workshop for Public Works employees, and developing impending pesticide educational programming.
- Attended an all-day Miami-Dade County Extension pesticide training class "Limited Lawn and Ornamental" to prepare for Monroe County pesticide education training course.
- Involved with improving the Grimal Grove plant propagation and nursery through reconstruction, planting, and maintenance, along with five Master Gardeners.



- Held four Summer Plant Clinics with seven Master Gardeners assisting 17 clients.
- Made two site visits in Key West:
 - √ zoysia turf - shade, animal damage
 - √ palm nutritional deficiency and fruit tree growth
- Spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" twice and on WFFG 1300 AM about an upcoming GI-BMP workshop.



Winter Plant Clinics

KEY WEST

Gato Building / Extension Office

1100 Simonton Street, #2-260

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

October 3 & 17

November 7 & 21

December 5 & 19

Please note: No plant clinics will be held in Key West in January due to Monday holidays schedule

February 6, 2017

March 6 & 20

April 3 & 17

BIG PINE KEY

Grimal Grove

258 Cunningham Lane

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

October 15

November 19

December 17

January 21, 2017

February 18

March 18

MARATHON

The Home Depot

4555 Overseas Highway

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

October 15

November 19

December 17

January 21, 2017

February 18

March 18

KEY LARGO

Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center / Extension Office

102050 Overseas Hwy., #244

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

October 5 & 19

November 2 & 16

December 7 & 21

January 4 & 18, 2017

February 1 & 15

March 1 & 15

April 5 & 19



Marine
News
Shelly
Krueger

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Attended the annual Extension Professional Associations of Florida (EPAF) Conference in Daytona Beach where she was given the Early Career Leadership Award and delivered a presentation with Dr. Maia McGuire on the Florida Microplastics Awareness Program.



Florida Microplastic AWARENESS PROJECT

- Was invited to speak to the Florida Sea Grant Advisory Council at their annual meeting in Key West about her programming in Monroe County.
- Finished certification to begin collecting phytoplankton information for the NOAA Phytoplankton Monitoring Network, along with three volunteers.
- Participated in the Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP) annual meeting where she is the South District Representative.



- Taught three Florida Keys Water Watch (FKWW) workshops for Cudjoe Key, Sugarloaf Key, and Summerland Key. There are currently 58 sites in Monroe County.
- Spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about National Estuaries Day, International Coastal Cleanup Day, and a Beach Wrack Walk she conducted on Boca Chica Beach.

 <p>Family and Community Development News Alicia Betancourt</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">October Calendar</h2>	<p>Economic Resource Development News Harry Crissy</p>
<p>Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was inducted as president of the Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP). She created the agenda and led the annual membership meeting, developed and recorded online voting, and led two board meetings. • Served on the Extension Professional Association of Florida (EPAF) board as a voting member. The EPAF board does all the planning and coordination for the annual meeting for over 400 Extension professionals. • Was selected to present an abstract to Extension agents outlining the creative “Borrow, Adapt, Adopt” model that was used to provide tools and technical assistance to local governments dealing with climate change. • As a member of the Florida Sea Grant Work Action Group on climate change, the group was selected to present a half day training on climate change issues called “Climate Change Isn’t Part of My Program Area, Is it?” She worked with specialists from all five major program areas to develop program specific climate impacts that Extension agents can include in their programming efforts. For example, climate impacts for horticulture agents such as planting zone changes, pest and disease ranges, and salt tolerance recommendations were explored. • Developed a training opportunity for County Extension Directors at their annual meeting. The training utilized nine “key informants” who are experts on specific knowledge areas to provide individual and small group instruction. The training received excellent reviews. • Spoke on US 1 Radio’s “Morning Magazine” about bank account fraud and protection. 	<p>Hurricane Season June 1 - November 30 Don’t be scared; be prepared! http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/families/families_hurricanelinks.shtml</p> <hr/> <p>Key West Garden Club General Meeting Thursday, October 6 at 1:30 p.m. 1100 Atlantic Boulevard, KW keywestgardenclub.com</p> <hr/> <p>Flood Mitigation Workshop Monday, October 18 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Marathon Government Center 2798 Overseas Highway 2nd Floor, EOC meeting room In conjunction with CCAC meeting ↓ ↓ ↓</p> <p>Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting Monday, October 18 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>17th Annual Lights on Afterschool Thursday, October 20 afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm</p> <hr/> <p>Big Pine Key Botanical Society Monthly Meeting “Demystifying Bonsai” - Donna Coffin Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. Lord of the Seas Church Key Deer Boulevard, BPK Deb Curlee, 305-849-2986</p> <hr/> <p>Marathon Garden Club Membership Meeting Friday, October 21 at 1:00 p.m. 5270 Overseas Hwy., Marathon marathongardenclub.org</p> <hr/> <p>Ocean Life Series Lisa Symons: Damage assessment and cultural resources of national marine sanctuaries Friday, October 21 6:00 - welcome 7:00 - lecture Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center 102050 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo</p>	<p>Harry recently accomplished the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with administrators at Studios of Key West to discuss use of space and offering entrepreneur classes to the art community. • Met with Alison Higgins, Key West Sustainability Coordinator to discuss strategies for organic waste digester in Key West Bight and decided on different point relevance for participants in the Green Business Certification Program. • Gathered extensive secondary GIS data and data functionality for Monroe County businesses, consumer expenditures, and economic conditions. Agreed to be on committee for food waste stream strategies for Key West restaurants. • Met with Bernhard Rasch and Misha McRae to discuss strategies moving forward for the Key West Tropical Forest and Garden. • Met with Monroe County Library management staff to discuss use of facility and possibly working together on various classes. • Met with a local developer to discuss affordable housing possibilities and to tour existing and potential facility sites. • Created scope of work for University of Florida architects to consider for Key West Wildlife Center project. • Had a conference call with San Francisco Institute of Architecture to discuss working together on affordable housing in Monroe County as an applied learning project. • Met with Dee Dee Green from Key West Solid Waste to discuss composting strategies, packaging strategies, and coconut strategies to improve waste stream flow. • Currently developing a wage and benefit survey instrument for the Lower Keys, based on conversations with the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. • Attended Key West Chamber of Commerce Trade Show. • Visited Cuba for infrastructure project for value added agriculture activity.

Reminder: Extension Office will be closed on Monday, October 10, in observation of Columbus Day.

UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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This newsletter can be accessed online at:

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

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



on Facebook



Twitter



<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

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Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H
and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents
from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

COOL-SEASON VEGETABLES

Fall is a popular time to plant vegetables, and there are lots of choices for your veggie garden. It's the season for greens of all sorts. Sow your edible landscape with mustard greens, kale, spinach, lettuce, collard greens, and cabbage.

All of these vegetables are high in Vitamins A and C, and many also contain high levels of important nutrients such as calcium and iron. Other cool-season vegetables include cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, carrots, celery, and radishes.

Because the sun dips more to the south in winter, you may need to relocate your garden to a sunnier part of your yard. Many cool-season crops can be planted multiple times throughout the growing season, providing an extended harvest.

Here are some EDIS publications to get you started:

- ◆ [Broccoli](#)
- ◆ [Collard Greens](#)
- ◆ [Brussels Sprouts](#)
- ◆ [Kale](#)
- ◆ [Romaine Lettuce](#)



Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* L.)

Picture provided by gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Also, for everything you need to know about vegetable gardening, read the [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#).

EDIS Publications

Pest Identification Guides

Created to help growers and crop consultants, private homeowners, Master Gardeners, and the general public identify common arthropod pests and the damage they inflict, each field guide provides photos of the important life stages and crop damage associated with arthropod pests. The text highlights key general morphology and biology, distribution, and natural enemies. edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_pest_identification_guides

[topic series pest identification guides](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_pest_identification_guides)

Florida Extension Needs Your Advice

Florida Extension invites you to participate in their Community Input Survey as a way to give your opinions about certain issues that may impact future decisions which will be made by Florida Extension that influence you and your community.

The focus of this survey is your own community - where you live, shop, work, and play.

The survey runs September 1 through December 31, 2016. The results of the survey will be available in spring 2017.

Please share this survey link with your family, friends, and coworkers. We look forward to hearing from all of you. https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4MAOfUFiafbNYrz

International Master Gardener Conference 2017

Portland, Oregon July 10 - 14, 2017

Registration opens October 10 and will run through January 13, 2017

The schedule for the conference includes an array of gardening sessions, tours, a mini film festival, regional mixers to network with other Master Gardeners, and a trade show.

For more information, log onto <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/trade-show/>



UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Phone calls	190	225	206	621
Office visitors	16	33	44	93
Visits to clients	18	29	27	74
Learning events	36	31	47	114
Participants	336	536	499	1371
Media submissions	9	4	5	18
Publications distributed	561	526	549	1636
TOTAL contacts	1166	1384	1377	3927