

## FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB NOVEMBER 2017 HORTICULTURE HINTS

Are you a “transplant” from a state where winter prevents gardening? Have you been too busy with a career to pay much attention to your yard? Do you have a new house with nothing but the builders sod, a couple of saplings and a few tiny foundation plants? If you said yes to any of these you should learn about the Florida-Friendly Landscape (FFL) Program. The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Service partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection and the five Water Management Districts to create this program. There are free classes offered by the Extension Service and the County's Water Resources Department and online resources and publications that can help you learn about the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping. These can help you plan, plant and care for your landscape, conserve our water resources and preserve water quality. Our program this month is presented by the program coordinator, Steven Davis, who will be speaking on the #6 principle shown below. Don't miss it.

The principles are: #1 – Right Plant-Right Place; #2 – Water Efficiently; #3 Fertilize Appropriately; #4 – Mulch; #5 Attract Wildlife; #6 - Manage Yard Pests Responsibly; #7 – Recycle; #8- Prevent Stormwater Runoff; and #9 – Protect the Waterfront.

Check out this website for a listing of classes <http://www.citrusbocc.com/waterres/fyn/fyn.htm> . There is also a great plant database link on that page. Classes offered by Master Gardeners (volunteers trained by the Extension Service) are offered at libraries around the County too. Find the schedule at <https://www.citruslibraries.org/> . You can order a FREE 110 -page publication from the Water Management District (SWFWMD) at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/type/all> . This is a great plant selection and landscape design guide with color photos. It tells the common and botanical name, whether it is native, soil, sun, water, growth rate, mature size and wildlife attracting properties/needs of over 500 plants for you to choose the Right Plant for the Right Place.

So.... if you already chose poorly and a plant doesn't work where it is, it's OK to try another spot in the yard after deciding the new spot is better for the plant. Or what if it does too well for the space you provided; decide if you want the new plant there and take out the ones it is crowding (or resign yourself to occasional drastic pruning if the spreader will tolerate it).

One of the great things about gardening in Florida is that we can have something blooming every month of the year. I have pansies, Klondike cosmos, cranberry hibiscus, blue plumbago, Philippine petunia, coreopsis, snapdragons, salvia, firecracker, roses, vinca/periwinkle, porterweed, and (?) Mexican sage. Geraniums, petunias and alyssum also do well this time of year.

Veggies that are doing well in this fall's garden include red leaf lettuce and romaine, collards (always), broccoli and cauliflower. Ornamental kale makes for pretty winter foliage among the front yard flowers. I haven't tried eating it.

Our plants of the month for November will be a Swamp Mallow, also called a Swamp Hibiscus, and a Firecracker (*Russelia equistiformis*). See you on the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you want to do a dried fall arrangement, bring your own vase, frog or foam base if you have it and any dried items you want to share.