**Extension Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Registration Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 5, 2007</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>ReLeaf – Osceola - Free Tree Program</td>
<td>Extension Services, Osceola Heritage Park</td>
<td>321-697-3015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7, 2007</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>ReLeaf – Osceola - Free Tree Program</td>
<td>Extension Services, Osceola Heritage Park</td>
<td>321-697-3015.</td>
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<td>April 13-14, 2007</td>
<td>Osceola County Master Gardener Plant Sale</td>
<td>Osceola Heritage Park</td>
<td>Open to the public</td>
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</table>
By Carolyn Lamond, Master Gardener

As was mentioned in the previous article about Old Garden Roses, many of them have interesting histories and stories which help us to remember and appreciate them. In the previous issue Blush Noisette told her fascinating story. This time we will feature the Cherokee Rose 1759 (R. laevigata).

This particular rose is a Native of China and came to America in 1759 or there about, no one knows for sure. It managed to naturalize throughout the Southeast. It is hardy to Zone 6.

It was first described from a specimen planting in Georgia. It later was adopted as that state’s official flower.

When the Cherokee Nation was forced from its homeland in the East in 1838 some of the Native Americans took slips of the familiar rose with them and planted them wherever they settled as living mementos along the “trail of tears” perhaps marking graves of loved ones. The rose traveled as far west as Oklahoma.

It traveled even further when it was discovered to make an excellent cattle-proof hedge. Could barbed-wire have been invented by someone familiar with these rose fences?

Cherokee has nicely scented flowers that are wide and flat, consisting of five petals. It can be grown as a climber or cascading bush. It blooms every four to six weeks beginning in the early spring until early fall. It likes the southern climate so does very well from Georgia to Florida.

Next time another fascinating rose story will be available for you to discover.

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**ROSES: PART III**

By Carolyn Lamond, Master Gardener

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**GROWING DAYLILIES**

By Linda Meeks, Master Gardener

Daylilies are rugged, adaptable, vigorous perennials that sustain themselves for many years with little or no care. They adapt to a wide range of soil and light conditions. They survive winters with little or no injury.

Daylilies belong to the Hemerocallis family. This Greek word is made up of two parts: “hemera” meaning day and “kallos” meaning beauty. Some newer varieties have flowers that open in the evening and remain open until the evening of the following day.

Each daylily plant produces an abundance of flower buds that open over a long period of time. The flowers continue during the heat of the summer.

**Site and Soil**

Daylilies grow their best in full sun. They do tolerate light shade, but flower best with a minimum of six hours of direct sun. Light shade during the hottest part of the day keeps the flowers fresh. Daylilies should not be planted near trees or shrubs that will compete for moisture and nutrients.

Daylilies adapt to most soils; however, they do best in a slightly acidic, moist soil that is high in organic matter and well-drained.

**Planting**

Daylilies can be planted almost any time the soil can be worked. Till the soil deeply before planting. Work in well-rotted manure or compost to increase organic matter. Apply fertilizer based on a soil test. Your local Extension office can help with the soil test. Dig a hole large enough for the roots without bending or crowding them.
GROWING DAYLILIES - CONTINUED

The best time to transplant or divide plants is early spring or immediately after flowering. Some plants divided in the spring may not bloom the same summer. Division of the plant should have two to three stems or fans of leaves with all roots attached. When dividing, dig the entire plant and gently pull the fans apart. Cut the foliage back, leaving only five or six inches. Place the plant in soil so the crown (the portion where the stem and root meet) is one inch below the ground. Water thoroughly after planting. Mulch, straw, or shredded leaves helps ensure against winter injury.

Daylilies can be divided every three to four years.

Culture

In the early spring, remove the dead foliage from the previous year’s growth. Although daylilies tolerate drought, they prefer moist, but welldrained soils. Once inch of water weekly is ideal; more frequent watering may be necessary on sandy soils.

Remove seed pods after bloom to prevent seed production. Plants producing seeds are likely to have fewer flowers the following year.

Insects such as aphids and thrips sometimes feed on the flower buds. These can be controlled with insecticidal soaps or a repeated strong spray of water.

Annual fertilization may be helpful in producing more flowers. Applying manure or compost will be beneficial in the spring of each year.

Cultivars

More than 35,000 daylilies have been named, officially registered, and marketed. Many newly developed plants are introduced annually. Specialty nurseries often carry thousands of different cultivars. The majority of new cultivars are developed in the southern regions of the United States.

Daylilies are traditionally plants that stop growing and become dormant in the winter, but today there are semi-evergreen and evergreen cultivars.

Another characteristic is the ability to rebloom or to bear more than one blooming scape per fan of leaves. Stella de Oro is a cultivar known for numerous buds or flowers per scape.

Established daylilies can produce 200-400 flowers in a season. Bloom time extends from early to late summer. Each plant blooms for 30-40 days. With the large number of cultivars available, it is possible to have continuous blooms throughout the summer. Daylilies come in many colors, shades, and color combinations. Some are very full and round. Some have wide petals with fluffed edges and borders. Others, called spiders, are spidery in shape; doubles have double the number of petals and sepals.

Daylilies grow well only in certain parts of the country, usually over three hardness zones. You should purchase daylilies from a local nursery, a nursery within the state or a nursery in a neighboring state. Visiting a private or public garden that features daylilies will help in determining the varieties that grow well in your area.

"Ask an Expert" Day

Come and "Meet with the Expert" at our Osceola County Master Gardener Expert Fair! As many of you know, we have a knowledgeable group of gardeners. Several of our Master Gardeners loved gardening before they took the course and would like to share their knowledge. Come to look, learn about plants that will be sold at the Master Gardener Plant Sale and enjoy the displays. You will have the opportunity to speak directly with our multitude of experienced Master Gardeners. You may come in or call in on the day of the Expert Fair to ask the experts specific questions. Also, you may E-mail your questions in advance if you cannot come in on that day. Inquiries may be sent to oscmg@osceola.org, and the expert will e-mail you back.

The Expert Fair will be held on Saturday, March 31st from 10am to noon and will be accompanied by a ReLeaf Osceola workshop, where all Osceola County residents will receive a voucher for a free tree. We look forward to answering your gardening questions during this event, and remember that the plant clinic is open for questions every weekday for your convenience. The phone number is 321-697-3000.
The State Tree

The Sabal palm (Sabal palmetto) was designated the State Tree by the 1953 Legislature, concluding some years of controversy. Fla. Stat. 15.0031.

The 1949 House of Representatives endorsed the Royal Palm but the Senate did not join in this. There also was strong legislative support in that and other sessions for the slash and longleaf pines.

The argument was resolved in 1953, however, after the Federation of Garden Clubs pressed its contention that palms are characteristics of Florida and of the palms the Sabal was the most widely distributed over the state. The Sabal long had appeared on the State Seal. It also had been recognized as the State Tree by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Particularly in the early days, the Sabal furnished food and shelter. The bud was used as a vegetable. The fibrous trunk served as a wall for fort or cabin, affording good protection against weather and assault. The leaves provided thatching material for roofs and walls.

The Sabal Palm is also the State Tree of South Carolina whose nickname is The Palmetto State.

(quoted from P 356 The Florida Handbook 2005-6)

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START YOUR SPRING GARDEN NOW WITH SEEDS

By Nancy Pfister, Master Gardener

When I worked in a nursery, my favorite duties included the creation of flats of flowers from a single pack of seeds.

This is how to do it.

Find some very fine soil but potting soil will do if you can't find this specialized soil. Moisten and place in a flat container. If the seeds are very small, just sprinkle and cover with a sprinkling of the fine soil. If the seeds are large, plant them in the soil. The depth should be twice the size of the seed. Water with a mist, so the seeds aren't swept away with the water and continue to keep them moist with a delicate mist.

In a few days or weeks, depending on the type of plant, they will sprout. In about 6 to 8 weeks, you will have plants ready for your spring vegetable or flower garden. When the plants are 6 inches tall, they are ready for transplanting to a container or into your garden.

Prepare the containers by putting moist (not wet) potting soil in each of them. Scoop up some of the small plants from your "nursery" and very gently tease the roots apart. Place one or more tiny plants in each container, depending on the container's size. Follow spacing recommendations on the seed packet. Water the plants carefully.

The last time I did this, I had two wonderful flats of zinnias from a single pack of seeds that cost 10 cents at a dollar store.

By growing plants by seed, you can produce some unusual plants that cannot be found at local nurseries.

Start now to give your plants plenty of time to bloom and look beautiful.

TIP: If you want to grow nasturtiums, nick each seed and soak in water for 24 hours before planting. These guys are sensitive to transplanting, so I've never grown them in flats, but who knows. It may work. I generally plant them in the pot, which I want them to grow in permanently. One plant covers my largest pot, so you don't need a lot of them in one place. If more than one pops up, you can transplant it with no ill effects.
Try Something New: Grow Onions

By Dale Downing, Master Gardener

Growing onions in your home garden is a bit different than other vegetables, because onions are sensitive to the day length, that is, the number of hours of daylight during the growing season. Hence, all onion varieties fall into one of three categories: Long Day, Mid-Day, and Short Day onions.

Long day onions are used in the more northerly climates because in the summer, the north has very long daylight hours compared to the south. So we can think of long day onions as growing in areas with long summer day lengths, and short day onions as being for areas like Florida, southern Texas, southern California, Mexico, etc.

When onions are planted, they first develop their vegetative growth, and there is no sign of bulb formation. Suppose you live in the north and have planted a long day onion, and suppose that onion responds to a 15 hour day length. In the spring, when daylight hours are shorter than 15 hours, the onion develops its vegetative growth. Then, say on May 15th the day length reaches 15 hours. The magic of nature then takes over. The genetic makeup of the onion variety send a signal to the plant to stop producing vegetative growth and to start forming a bulb. At this point, the tops or leaves stop growing, and a bulb begins to form. As the onion matures, the tops will eventually fall and touch the ground, at which point the onion is ready for harvest.

Now, what happens if you plant a short day onion in a long day climate? Well, suppose the short day onion’s internal clock is set for 13 hour days. Instead of fully developing its vegetative growth, the onion senses that it is time to form a bulb while the plant is still very young. The result? You get a small onion, often referred to as pearl onions or cocktail onions.

At the same time, suppose you plant a long day onion in a short day climate, and the day length never gets long enough to trigger the onion’s internal clock. Then you get a bunching or “green” onion, with little or no bulb formation at all.

In view of these facts, it is best for you to plant onion varieties sold by a local nursery that are suited to your area. If you live in Florida and your cousin sends you seed from Oregon, you’re going to have pearl onions. It is ESPECIALLY important for you to be aware of this when you order onion seed or sets by mail-order. If you’re not sure, be sure to specify on your order that you need a variety suited to your geographical area.

TRY SOMETHING NEW: GROW ONIONS

Vermiculture: Worm Farming

Jan. 10 at 1:00 PM

Are Worms good for more than catching fish? Just what are they doing hiding around in the dirt? If you want to know more about those wonderful slimy, wiggly things and how they can enhance your garden, please come to the Master Gardeners monthly meeting Wed., Jan. 10 at 1:00 PM.

OUR VITAL EARTH, INC. will present Earth’s unsung heroes – WORM PRODUCTS 100 % Pure Organic for feeding plants, spraying foliage, controlling insects and fungi and building healthy soils and plants

Call 321-697-3000 to register.
ANNUALS

- Set out seasonal annuals which are cold hardy in January: Calendula, Carnation, Pansy, Petunia, Snapdragon, and Statice.

- Warmer weather in February allows planting of Ageratum, alyssum, aster, baby's breath, Begonia, Browallia, Cosmos, Dusty miller, Gazania, Geranium, Hollyhock, Lobelia, Marguerite daisy, pansy, periwinkle, Petunia, snapdragon, and Verbena.

- Annuals for March planting include Ageratum, alyssum, Amaranthus, baby's breath, balsam (Impatiens), Celosia, calliopsis, dusty miller, Gaillardia, Gazania, Geranium, hollyhock, Lobelia, Marguerite daisy, marigold, Nicotiana, ornamental pepper, Pentas, periwinkle, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Streptocarpus, Sweet Williams, Thunbergia alata, Torenia, Verbena and Zinnia.

- Fertilize annuals during soil preparation and then monthly.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS


- February planting of perennial bulbs includes African iris, blood lily, Caladium, Canna, Lilium, shell ginger, tiger flower, Potted flowering perennials can be planted any time of the year.


COLD PROTECTION

- Plants with young tender shoots need protection from frost or freezing weather.

- Move outdoor house plants to warm locations when cold weather is predicted. Clean pots and leaves and control insects and diseases before moving plants inside or into greenhouse. Outdoor tropical plants (Schefflera, croton, Dieffenbachia, pothos, Philodendron) should be protected from temperatures below 55°F.

- Have boxes, blankets, hay, plastic, lights, etc. ready for early freeze protection. Cover plants during cold spells, but be sure to remove any clear plastic covering once sun is out, since the heat buildup can cook plants. Be sure protective cover goes all the way to the ground.
• Protect citrus from temperatures below 28°F. If banking with soil, be sure to cover the bud union with soil that is free of sticks, leaves and other organic matter. Avoid damage to trunks of trees as this can lead to disease and insect damage. Applying a fungicide registered for citrus before banking or wrapping tree trunks will help reduce foot rot disease.

• Do not prune cold damaged plants until all danger of frost is past (early March) and plants have begun to show signs of new growth.

• Continue to water plants as needed during dry winter months.

PRUNING

• If deciduous trees and shrubs need pruning, wait until after new growth begins to avoid cold damage to new growth which will follow. Ex. Sweet gum, maple, crape myrtle, elm, peach, apple, pear, pecan and persimmon.

• Prune the tips of azaleas and camellias soon after flowering to promote fullness.

• Prune summer or fall flowering shrubs (hibiscus, thryallis, plumbago, powderpuff, etc.) in late February or early March to promote flowering on new growth.

• Prune poinsettias and holiday mum plants before setting into the landscape.

FRUITS

• Plant bare root apple, peach, pear, pecan, persimmon and blueberries by late February. Do not fertilize at planting time.

VEGETABLES

• In January, plant: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, eggplant*, endive, escarole, lettuce, mustard, green onions, parsley, English peas, pepper* (Sweet and Hot), potatoes, radish, turnips, watermelon*.
  (* - protect from frost).

• In February, in addition, plant beans, cantaloupes, celery, corn, cucumbers, kohlrabi, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, squash, Swiss chard, and tomatoes but protect from frost or late freeze.

• Wait until March to plant New Zealand spinach, okra, or southern peas. Safe to plant beans, beets, cantaloupes, carrots, collards, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, green onions, English peas, peppers, pumpkin, radish, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, turnips and watermelons.

• Start seeds of tender crops inside, and plant outside in March after all danger of frost is past.

LANDSCAPE

• In January, transplant shrubs and trees which were root pruned last summer.

• In February, root prune shrubs and trees to be transplanted next year.

• Fertilize landscape plants and fruit trees in late February using a general purpose fertilizer with slow release nitrogen. Use a rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet of lawn and landscape planting.
• Watch for scale insects which seem to multiply at the same time new growth is maturing. Monitor at least weekly for pests and disease problems.

• Use soap and oil sprays when soft insects are detected (scales, white fly, spider mites, thrips, aphids, mealy bugs). Use 2½ tablespoons each of liquid dish soap and vegetable oil in a gallon of water. Repeat spray in 5 days and then as needed.

• Apply crabgrass seed preventer in mid-February to keep seedlings from invading weak lawns.

• Calibrate fertilizer spreader to properly apply fertilizer each time a new brand is purchased.

• Check and repair sprinkler system. Calibrate sprinklers to apply about ¾" of water each time you water. Only water lawn when 30-40% of grass blades begin to wilt and turn blue/gray.

CITRUS

• Check citrus for ripeness by taste testing, not color. Varieties for January harvest include 'Navel', 'Parson Brown', and 'Pineapple' oranges, 'Temple' and 'Dancy' tangerine, tangelos, and grapefruit. Fruit doesn't ripen after picking. Over-ripe fruit will become dry and tasteless. By March, 'Valencia' should begin to sweeten.

• Fertilize in February or March with a citrus type fertilizer, using 1 pound of fertilizer per year of age of the tree. Spread evenly under branch spread.

• Keep weeds and grass away from the trunks of citrus.

• To prevent citrus scab on fruit, spray with benomyl or copper fungicide when 2/3 of the petals have fallen.

The 1989 Legislature passed a bill to designate Myakka fine sand (sandy, siliceous, hypothermic Aeric haplaquods) as the official Florida state soil. The bill declared the Myakka fine sand had more acreage (800,000) mapped than any other soil in the state. Sponsors said "by officially designated a state soil, Floridians are saying that they have a valuable heritage to protect and conserve") Fla. Sta. 15.047

(quoted from p. 360 The Florida Handbook 2005-06)
Live Forestry Satellite & Internet Program Announced:

“Preparing for the Next Owner” -

A 2007 Master Tree Farmer Mini-series Installment

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Eastern Time (6:00-9:00 pm Central Time)
Tuesday evenings: February 20, 27 and March 6, 2007
Broadcast live from the studios of Clemson University to interested locations throughout the South via Satellite and Internet

December 19, 2006, Gainesville, FL – Cooperative Extension Service foresters in the Southern Region have recently completed coordinating the development of the 2007 Master Tree Farmer Satellite & Internet Mini-Series program. This short course is designed for landowners, forestry association members, Extension agents, county foresters and others who find themselves dealing with the subject of preparing the their land for the next owner. This unique course is organized by a committee of several Extension foresters, state forestry agency professionals and federal natural resources specialists. Agenda topics include:

- Understanding heir property and having a clear title
- Basics on how real estate passes
- Basic estate planning with a focus on forestland options
- Intergenerational transfer strategies
- Conservation easements
- Charitable giving
- Generation skipping options
- Shared ownerships and family limited partnerships and property transfer issues

The mini-series is scheduled for live satellite and Internet feed from the campus of Clemson University beginning Tuesday evening, February 20th, 2007 and continuing for two additional Tuesday evenings through March 6th, 2007. The live Internet and satellite broadcast will begin promptly at 7:00 pm Eastern Time (6:00 pm Central Time) and continue until 10:00 pm Eastern Time (9:00 pm Central Time). In Florida the course will be hosted in Alachua, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Gadsden, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Osceola, Pinellas, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. The sessions are hosted by regional and national experts and include the opportunity for audience interaction via toll free and Internet call in options.

Registration for Florida locations will be through the Florida Forestry Association. Each attendee will pay $60 for the course. Those sharing materials with a registered attendee will pay $25. Registrants will receive a workbook and a CD with presentation notes for each session. Those completing all three sessions will receive a certificate and hat. Please register by February 6, 2007. Registrations postmarked after February 6 will be $70 ($30 sharing materials) and will be accepted until February 20.

Foresters, Society of American Foresters Continuing Forestry Education Credits will be provided, number TBA.

The registration brochure is in the mail to all on the Florida Forest Stewardship mailing list, but the brochure, program and host site details are all on-line at: http://www.sfdc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/events_calendar/preparing_next_owner.html

Questions about the program can be directed to Chris Demers at (352) 846-2375, cdemers@ufl.edu. Please share this announcement with others.

This program is made possible in Florida by: Florida Division of Forestry, Forest Stewardship Program, University of Florida, IFAS, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, IFAS, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Florida Forestry Association

This program is sponsored across the Southern region by: Clemson University, Southern Region Extension Foresters, and the USDA Forest Service
These delightful plants can be grown in most conditions and are best suitable for harvesting in the largest hanging baskets your beams can carry.

Most Americans love strawberries, but growing them in the garden requires well drained soil. This makes them perfect for hanging baskets. Harvesting a bumper crop of strawberries is easy because soil choice, drainage and available moisture can easily be controlled in your hanging basket. Though you probably won’t grow enough strawberries in your basket to start a roadside attraction, you should grow enough to feed yourself, your family and maybe your next door neighbors.

What You’ll Need:

- A strong 18” hanging basket.
- Rubber Liner is better as it tends to retain more moisture yet lets your strawberry plant roots breathe.
- Good quality soil mixture.
- Slow-release fertilizer.
- And, a few healthy plant sets from your local nursery.

You’re now ready to plant:

Begin by filling your lined basket with the potting soil. Fill approximately 1 inch below the rim of the basket.

Mix about 2 tablespoons of slow-release fertilizer with your potting soil.

After mixing the slow-release fertilizer, make a deep depression in the center of potting soil. The depression will cause the water to soak into the potting soil instead of spilling over the side of the basket.

Form a hole for each plant's roots with your finger. Start in the center of the potting soil. Gently insert the plant then firm it in. Plant your strawberry plants working outward and up the sides of the depression you made at about 6 inches apart in all directions. Make sure the roots of your plants are fully extended into the potting soil.

After planting, water your basket thoroughly. Then for the first week, water your basket about once a day. As the plants get larger, you'll need to water a couple of times a day.

Strawberry Fertilizer

At a later date you'll need to get some water soluble fertilizer. Use this about once a week to completely soak the roots. This will ensure that your soil is kept in prime condition.

Because you have complete control over your soil conditions and moisture, pest and disease problems are usually minimal. Take action if it becomes more necessary.

Protect your berry basket from strong winds, the afternoon sun and eager birds.

If you have 8 plants in a basket, you could harvest as much as 4 quarts of berries from your basket over the harvest season.

If you missed it the first time….
According to federal law, we must purge our mailing lists every few years. Please take a moment to renew your subscription to the Roots & Shoots newsletter. You can either call, email, fax, or mail your subscription form to us. **Even if this is your first issue of Roots & Shoots, you must renew.** Thank you!

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3) Faxing this form to us at (321) 697-3010
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