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**After the Storm** by Terry DeValle

October was a memorable month with Hurricane Matthew creating a lot of damage to area landscapes. Piles of yard waste may still be stacked up along roadsides for pickup. If this debris was on top of lawn areas, expect the grass to be damaged. It may be a straw brown color but with sunlight, perhaps it will come back. Hopefully patience will be our friend.



Other injuries to shrubs and trees may show up in the next couple of months while damage to some, especially palms, may not show up until next spring. Palms that were over pruned were likely stressed because the center growth bud can be damaged by high winds. As new leaves develop, they may be distorted, off-color or smaller than normal but over time the palm may recover and leaves might return to normal. That's why it is important to leave a full head of fronds in place because this helps protect the center bud. For more information on palms damaged by hurricanes, refer to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep465>.

**Upcoming November/December Classes**

**November 5, Gardenfest - 9am-2pm.** Topics include sustainable roses for NE Florida, troubleshooting tree problems, pollinators and their importance, and caterpillar gardening. Register by 10/31; cost is \$18 to attend which includes lunch. After 10/31 deadline, cost is \$20. This is a cooperative program sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District IV, and Duval County Extension, and will be held at the Duval County Extension Office. Call Nicole @ (904)343-8235 to register.



**December 14, Winter Workshop - 10am-12:30pm,** "Make & Take" Aquaponic Soda Bottle hands-on activity. Learn to recycle, grow fish and feed plants all at the same time. Plus gift ideas for the gardener. Cost \$10. Class is limited so don't delay. Call Sarah 904 255-7450 to register and pay. Deadline is December 8th.



**Saturday, January 21, 9am-noon, Vegetable Seed Workshop.** Make and take seed trays, learn how to start vegetables from seed. \$15, Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Number to attend is limited. Make checks payable to University of Florida. Call 255-7450 to register.

# Things to do in November/December By Terry DeValle

## Flowers

- **Divide and replant** overgrown perennials now except for those that are in bloom.
- **Continue treatment** of short-day/long night treatment for poinsettias which began in October for blooms at Christmas. Make sure poinsettias are not exposed to exterior lights at night because this interferes with flowering.

## Fruits and Nuts

- **Harvest persimmons** as they ripen. Astringent varieties must be left on the tree until they fully ripen but non-astringent types can be harvested when firm.



- **Harvest season for citrus** begins with Satsumas leading the way. These fruit are often ready even though peels are not completely orange so test one for sweetness.

• **Harvest pecans.** Beat the squirrels and harvest pecans as they ripen. If you don't have a tree, check local Farmers Markets for locally- grown pecans.

## Lawns

- **Adjust sprinklers** to one day a week on November 6, the start of Eastern Standard Time. Home properties that end in an odd number or with no address can irrigate on Saturday and those with even addresses on Sunday. Non-residential properties are on Tuesday. Turn sprinkler systems off when rainfall is adequate. There are several lawn diseases that thrive with cooler nights and moist conditions so irrigation when not needed only increases the problems.
- **Keep up with lawn mowing**, if needed, and mow high going into the winter. This will help develop a strong root system that is more cold hardy. Use up all the gasoline in the lawn mower or drain at the end of the mowing season to avoid mower problems next spring.
- **Do not add nitrogen** fertilizers to lawns. Nitrogen stimulates new growth and we want lawn to go dormant. If you missed the fall application, consider applying a fertilizer that contains potassium like a 0-0-16.
- **Got weeds?** Cool season weeds are popping up in plant beds and lawns. Hand pull or spot treat with a post-emergence herbicide labeled for your

lawn or plant beds. It's a good time to control tough perennial weeds like torpedograss as they go dormant during the winter.

Multiple sprays will be required. Sandspurs (photo) are producing seed now but it's not the time to treat. Wait to treat with a preemergence herbicide around March 1 or mid-Feb (if it's warm) to prevent seeds from germinating. For info on lawns go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep387>.



Sandspurs are seeding now

- **Monitor lawns** for large patch fungus (brown patch), take-all root rot, and pythium. Treat with a recommended fungicide if present. For more info: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh064>.

## Trees & Shrubs

- **Don't irrigate** established woody shrubs unless there is insufficient rainfall. At most, irrigate every two to three weeks if it's dry.
- **Rake leaves** and bag as they drop from deciduous plants if they had a leaf spot disease to reduce disease problems next year. Otherwise, use them to mulch plant beds, vegetable gardens, or in compost piles.
- **Install new ornamentals** in the landscape now to give them a chance to establish roots before the heat kicks in next spring. Keep watered if weather is dry. Remember to plant them about 10% above the existing soil grade in the landscape.
- **Avoid heavy pruning** because it will stimulate new growth that is susceptible to the cold. It is okay to prune dead wood, diseased wood, and suckers coming from the plant base anytime of the year. Spring blooming plants should be pruned shortly after bloom and summer/fall blooming plants like Althea should be pruned in late winter.

## Vegetable Garden

- **Scout for pests** daily, especially caterpillars and aphids. Insecticidal soaps and oils will control most soft bodied insects. Bt (Dipel or Thuricide) is a good treatment for small caterpillars. Switch to spinosad for larger caterpillars.



Cabbage looper

## What to Plant in November/December By Terry DeValle



Lettuce with calcium deficiency. Notice burnt leaf margins.

Fall gardening is in full swing. This is the season for arugula\*, beets\*, broccoli\*, Brussels sprouts, cabbage\*, carrots\*, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage\*, collards\*, English peas, kale\*, kohlrabi\*, leek\*, lettuce, mustard\*, onions\*, parsley\*, radish\*, spinach, and turnips.

Add to the list for December those with an \* listed above. Try growing leaf lettuce in a container so you can bring

them in during a hard freeze. Because a lot of vegetables are also attractive, consider using plants like Swiss chard or leaf lettuce in place of annuals.

Plant strawberries in November. Varieties include 'Chandler,' 'Camarosa,' 'Sweet Charlie' and Festival.' Plant in double rows and raised beds. Commercial growers cover soil with black plastic, but some home gardeners prefer to use an organic mulch like pine straw to prevent weeds and conserve moisture. Strawberries also grow well in containers.

There are many annuals for cool weather. For both

November and December, plant alyssum, baby's breath, calendula, carnation (China doll), delphinium, dianthus, dusty miller, foxglove (digitalis), hollyhock, larkspur, lobelia, ornamental cabbage, ornamental kale, pansy, petunia, Shasta daisy, snapdragon, verbena and violas. Remove old flowers on snaps, petunias, and pansies to encourage new blooms.

Bulb-type plants include African lily (Agapanthus), amaryllis, anemone, Aztec lily, calla, crinum, daylily, freesia, hurricane lily, hyacinth, Iris spp., ixia, kaffir lily, Lily spp, Moraea (African lily), narcissus, pineapple lily, shell ginger, snowflake (Nov. only), society garlic, spider lily, Star-of-Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum* spp., walking iris, ranunculus (buttercup), tritonia, tulip (Dec. only), voodoo lily (Dec. only), watsonia, and zephyr lily.



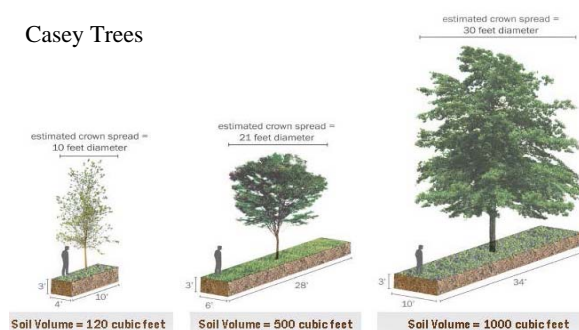
Alyssum/Lobularia

## To Replant my Trees or not.....by Larry Figart

With all the stuff in the news about the damage that trees did to electric lines and property during the storm you may be wondering "**should I even plant trees at all?**" The answer is yes, but maybe not the same species, size or location of the trees you had before. Trees provide us with so many benefits other than aesthetics and without them our quality of life would suffer. I cannot imagine a city without trees. The following guidelines can be used to figure out what kind of trees would be good to replace the trees you lost.

- 1) Do not replant a large tree under a power line. Trees within 20 ft. of a power line should not have a mature height of over 30 feet tall. Large trees should be planted no closer than 40 feet from the power line.
- 2) Pick a tree based on the space you have for it to grow. Big trees with small rooting areas were very common among the trees that failed. A small tree needs at least 100 square feet of planting area, a medium tree needs at least 400 square feet of
- 3) If your soil is poorly drained plant trees that are adapted to those soils such as wetland trees. Another strategy for wind tolerant landscapes is to plant medium sized trees in soils where root growth is limited by soil compaction.
- 4) After you plant your tree, prune for good structure as it grows. Don't just plant it and leave it. Well maintained trees do much better in storms. For more information on replanting after storms go to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/EP/EP31000.pdf>.

Casey Trees



planting area while a large tree needs at least 900 square feet of planting area.

## Good Mulching Practices by Terry DeValle

Nursery growers, landscapers and arborists have all been extremely busy due to the storm. Although many are well trained and up-to-date with current recommendations, this is not always the case. As a home-



Volcano mulching is a bad practice because it increases the risk of rot along the trunk area

owner, it is very important to be an informed consumer and have some basic knowledge of how things should be done. One recent landscape job that I observed

showed workers from a reputable business piling mulch against the stem of plants, a practice referred to as “volcano mulching.” Perhaps they have seen this done in the landscape and assume it is an acceptable practice.

Organic mulch is beneficial to plants because it reduces the number of weeds, adds organic matter to soil as it breaks down, and cuts back on water needs because it holds in the moisture. “Volcano mulching” is

a bad practice because piling mulch around the stems of plants keeps the trunk moist and increases the risk of rot along the trunk. It also creates a perfect habitat for rodents that might chew the trunk area, thus killing the tree.

Maintain a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch around plants and leave a 2 to 3” gap around plant stems. Some mulch will become matted over time so it is a good idea to periodically rake it up and replace it with fresh mulch. This will improve the penetration of water and fertilizer to plant roots plus it will remove harmful weed seeds lying in wait for the right temperatures to germinate.

When selecting a good mulch for your plant beds, choose a coarse textured mulch like pine straw or large pine nuggets. Coarse textured mulch dries out more quickly so it doesn’t provide a good medium for weed seeds to germinate. Small, fine mulch particles hold more moisture so hence, more weeds.



Pull mulch 2” to 3” away from plant stems/trunks

## Poinsettia Varieties for the Landscape by Terry DeValle

If you are interested in growing poinsettias in the landscape, you might consider purchasing one around Thanksgiving. Two varieties recommended by Dr. Jim Barrett, Professor Emeritus from UF/IFAS, are Orion and Advent. Both of these are known as early varieties that are typically ready for sale by Thanksgiving. Sometimes the plant tag may indicate the variety or you might just take a chance by buying some of the first plants available in area stores. Dr. Barrett added that you are setting yourself up for disappointment by trying to grow some of the newer, novel varieties in the landscapes. They are just not strong performers and are better adapted to greenhouse production.

Advent™ Red has dark green leaves and large bracts (red leaves). It is known as a vigorous variety with a pronounced v-shaped growth habit.

Orion Red also has dark green leaves with large red bracts. It has good branching characteristics which means pinching is not required to create branching. (Photos from trials at North Carolina State University)



# Questions About Mosquito Spraying by Terry DeValle

Although we are coming to the end of mosquito season, October rains helped increase our mosquito populations. Consumer complaints about mosquitoes are up so area spraying is as well.



To find out where they are spraying in Jacksonville, go to <http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/mosquito-control/where-we-are-spraying>. The pesticide that is used in aerial applications to control adult mosquitoes in Duval and St. Johns Counties is naled. Homeowners obviously are concerned and have submitted several questions regarding exposure to the pesticides used in aerial sprays. Some are related to the safety of vegetables in their garden while others are about the effects on pets or children. Here are some of the more common questions and responses provided by the Florida Departments of Agriculture and Health.

## What happens to naled in the environment?

When droplets from a sprayer reach open air, naled quickly begins to break down. Breakdown products of naled only last a short time in the air, water, or soil.

## What can I do to reduce exposure to pesticides like naled during spraying?

EPA has evaluated naled for mosquito and dog fly control and concluded that naled poses little risk to human health when used according to the label. Also, a number of common sense steps can help reduce possible contact with pesticides during spraying:

- Look for spraying notices in the newspapers. Stay tuned for radio or TV announcements.
- If you have to stay outdoors, try to keep the spray out of your eyes. If you get it in your eyes, rinse them right away with water or eye drops.
- Wash exposed skin with soap and water if you come in contact with the spray.
- Wash any fruits and vegetables that were outside during spraying with water before storing, cooking or eating.
- Talk to your doctor if you have major health concerns about the spraying.

## Will naled harm my pets?

The amount of naled from mosquito spraying that enters the body of dogs, cats, or other animals is very

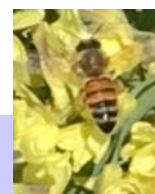
small. It is not likely to harm pets, even if they are outside during spraying. To further reduce any risk of harm to your pet's health, you can take the same safety steps as for humans. Naled is not very toxic to mammals, so it is not likely to harm pets such as dogs or cats when used according to the label.

## Does naled pose risks to livestock?

Naled is not likely to harm the health of livestock when used for mosquito control according to the label.

## Will naled affect my fish pond?

Naled can be toxic to fish, but the amount likely to enter an outdoor fishpond or any other water body after spraying for mosquito control is much lower than that shown to be toxic to fish. If you wish to reduce exposure, you can cover your fish ponds with a tarp before spraying. Do not leave tarps on long enough to cause overheating or a decrease in oxygen. Some people may prefer to bring their fish to a tank inside.



## Attention Beekeepers

If you are a beekeeper, please contact Merah Clark directly via email: [MClark@coj.net](mailto:MClark@coj.net). Merah is the Mosquito Control Entomologist with COJ Mosquito Control. That office maintains a Pre-notification Spray List and works to contact any beekeepers with hives in the areas where they are conducting applications for adult-flying mosquitoes, especially if it is an aerial application. Beekeepers are also encouraged to register their hive(s) with the state.

### Information Merah needs is:

contact name, address of the hive(s), how many hives, if there are multiple, best contact phone number, email address, and if they are registered with the state of Florida.

To register your bees with the state, go to <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Business-Services/Registrations-and-Certifications/Beekeeper-Registration>

## What effects does naled have on wildlife?

Naled used for mosquito control does not pose high risks to wildlife or the environment. Naled breaks down quickly in air, water and soil. It is not very toxic to birds and mammals. The small amount needed for mosquito control is not known to cause acute or chronic toxicity to fish.

## Winter Crops Well Suited for North Florida By Mary Puckett

One of the keys to success is knowing the average first frost and then planting your crops early enough to let them establish themselves or reach full maturity before the first freeze. Starting out with transplants that are already growing gives you a 3 to 4 week advantage.

In Jacksonville our average first freeze in the fall is November 15th.

Cool season vegetables prefer daytime temperatures ranging between 60°F and 80°F and lose quality in hot weather.

Hardy vegetables will grow with a daytime temperature as low as 40° F and may survive a frosty nip. Included in this group, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, leeks, lettuce, kohlrabi, sweet onions, radish, spinach and turnips.

Semi-hardy vegetables can handle minimum daytime temperatures ranging between 40°F to 50°F, but are less tolerant of a frosty night. Included in this group, beets, carrots and cauliflower.

### A few of the varieties growing in our demonstration garden:

#### Broccoli

*Brassica oleracea var. italica*

- ◆ When planting your broccoli transplants, space them 12—18 inches apart.
- ◆ Fertilize with a complete fertilizer such as 3-4-4 or 10-10-10 for transplants and side-dress with nitrogen fertilizer when the plants are half grown.
- ◆ Provide ample soil moisture, especially as the heads develops.
- ◆ Harvest the central head when still tight and compact. Size varies with variety and growing conditions. Cut the central head when 4 to 8 inches in diameter and still compact with 5 to 6 inches of stem, but before it begins to loosen and individual flowers start to open (showing bright yellow).
- ◆ Removing the central head stimulates the side shoots.

Broccoli, Blue Wind F1  
Days to Maturity: 49-59  
Early variety  
Produces medium sized head



#### Beets

*Beta vulgaris*

- ◆ Soak seeds several hours before planting.
- ◆ Spacing averages 2-4 inches apart based on variety.
- ◆ Thin as several seedlings emerge from each seed.
- ◆ For optimum flavor, harvest when beet roots are young, between 1 1/2 to 2 inches.
- ◆ Over-mature beets lose tenderness and sweetness and become tough, woody and stringy.
- ◆ Beets become tough if temperatures exceed 80° for long periods.

#### Sweet Onion 'Granex'

- ◆ Transplants should be about the size of a pencil in diameter and planted right away.
- ◆ Best grown on raised beds at least 4" high.
- ◆ A complete fertilizer with minor elements (10-10-10; 5-10-10; 5-10-15; 10-20-10) is suggested.
- ◆ Make a trench in the top of the bed 4" deep, distribute fertilizer per label at initial planting.
- ◆ Follow-up every 3 weeks with a nitrogen-based fertilizer, such as ammonium nitrate. Make final application approximately 4 weeks before harvesting (neck starts feeling soft, more flexible).
- ◆ Transplants are planted 4 to 6 inches apart on raised rows. Do not plant too deep, or you will have scallions. Plant 1" deep.
- ◆ Water the transplants immediately after planting to help get them established.
- ◆ Onions are shallow rooted, so irrigate frequently to keep soil moist and promote steady growth. As plants reach maturity, the soil should be kept less moist.
- ◆ Bulbs can take 4 to 5 months to mature. When tops of onions fall over, they are fully mature.



**Resources:** Solutionsforyourlife.com  
N C State University

# Dealing With Trees Post Matthew

by Larry Figart

There have been a lot of questions having to do with trees after Hurricane Matthew passed by us. Here are a few of them:

## I had damage to my house from my neighbors' trees. Who pays for the damage?

According to the Insurance Information Institute; in most cases, if a tree falls and damages your structure, no matter whose tree it is, the damage to the structure is covered. Their reasoning is that many times the tree debris comes from a distance, and they don't need to be figuring out where it came from. In some cases if the tree came from your neighbor's property, your insurance company may go through the process of subrogation where they try and collect from the tree owner's insurance company. If they are reimbursed, you may get your deductible back.

If the tree causes damage to your structure, you may also be covered for removal of the tree, or tree parts, on your property. The coverage is generally up to about \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the type of policy you purchased. If the tree debris did not cause any damage to a structure, the cost of cleanup is usually not covered, unless it is something like the debris is blocking your driveway, or your handicapped access.



the damaged portion of the tree. If your neighbors seem like they are not going to do anything about it then you should probably contact an ISA Certified Arborist and have them look at it and write you a report. You can then send a copy of the report to your neighbor via certified mail, as well as send a copy to your insurance company. This way, you are making them aware of an expert opinion about the tree. To find an ISA Certified Arborist go to: [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).

## I have hired a contractor to remove damaged and fallen trees. Is there anything I should know?

There are a few questions you should have answers to prior to having tree work done. The first thing is to verify that their insurance is up to date. This involves **contacting** the company's insurance agent to verify that the company's personal and property liability insurance and worker's compensation policy is valid. Get a written estimate specifying the work to be done. Make sure you understand what they are going to do and how they are going to dispose of the debris. Avoid tree professionals that demand payment in advance. Avoid using the lowest bidder. Low price is a poor gauge of quality tree work considering the costs of equipment, personnel and insurance. The opposite is true as well. Be on the lookout for price gouging. If you suspect price gouging call the State Attorney General's office at **866-9-NoScam** or file a claim online at <http://myfloridalegal.com/>.



## After the storm, I can see that one of my neighbors' trees is damaged and is threatening my property. What should I do?

First you should notify your neighbor. Also, with today's digital technology, you should take images of

For further information about Hurricanes and Trees go online to: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes>.

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Visit our Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/DuvalCountyAgriculture>

## Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair By Terry DeValle

Don't miss the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair running from Nov. 2 through Nov.13 at 501 Fairgrounds Place, next to the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium.

Sure there are rides, games, animals and music but don't forget to visit the Exhibit Building. Master Gardeners will be on hand in the Florida Crops area to answer gardening questions, plus there is lots of educational information available. Tour the educational exhibits on growing Peppers, Urban Grow Buckets, Hydroponics, Dooryard Fruit Trees, Termites, Invasive Plants, Sharpening Tools, Drying Herbs and more.

Get the kids involved by making a radish seed necklace to take home and plant once the seed germinates. Visit the Country Store to see what Master Gardeners have canned using local products. Squash pickles, fig preserves, pickled okra, blueberry lemon jam and more are available at the store. The Jacksonville Beekeepers Association members are selling local honey and can offer advice on starting your own hive. Check out their hive at the fair and find the queen bee. Junior Master Gardener posters are on display to show what they learned about beneficial insects.



Palette Garden

Hours for the Exhibit Building on weekdays unless otherwise noted are from 5PM to 10PM, 3 PM to 10PM on Fridays, 10AM to 10PM on Saturdays and Sundays and 10AM to 10PM on Nov. 10 and 11 (Veterans Day). For details go to <http://www.jacksonvillefair.com/p/the-fair/event-map>.

Once you have read this newsletter, turn "A New Leaf" and pass this information on to a friend.

Terry B. DeValle  
Extension Agent-Environmental Horticulture

For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904-255-7450) within a minimum of 5 working days of the program. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, when contacting our office please use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

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