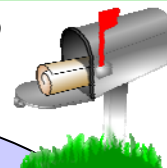


## In this Issue

Things to do in September/October	Page 2
What to Plant in September/October	Page 3
Fall Webworm	Page 3
Is Your Landscape Storm Ready?	Page 4
Some Fall Standouts	Page 5
Poinsettias in the Landscape	Page 5
Kale, Nutritious and Delicious	Page 6
Why the Dead Branches?	Page 7
Kale, cont. from p. 6	Page 8

## Fall Brings Changes by Terry DeValle

Fall will bring much needed rain and temperatures will drop. Due to the drought and extreme heat, it has been a brutal summer for plants and the results are all around us.



Fall begins September 22nd and the days are already getting shorter. Many plants respond to the shorter days by flowering, producing fruit or going to seed, and preparing for dormancy. Others, like cool season weeds, are just coming to life. This is a transition time for plants. It's also a great time to make landscape changes. Now that cooler weather is here, it's time to reclaim the landscape. Get busy!!

If you receive a hard copy of this newsletter, our annual survey is attached. If you receive the newsletter electronically, expect a Qualtrics survey within the next week. The information gathered helps us to improve our newsletter plus helps with funding. Please respond promptly so we can see if this newsletter was helpful.

## Upcoming September/October Classes

**Canning Classes** \$20 per person, pre-registration & pre-payment required. To register call 255-7450.

- ◇ Saturday, September 17th, 9 am—1 pm, Pressure Canning—Italian Green Beans & Tomatoes
- ◇ Monday, September 19th, 9 am—1 pm, Beauty Berry Jelly
- ◇ Monday, October 3rd, 9 am—Noon, Cranberry Orange Chutney
- ◇ Saturday, October 22nd, 9 am—Noon, Apple Pie Filling.

**September 17, 9am-Noon, Growing Cool-Season Vegetables and Composting.** \$5 per person, checks payable to University of Florida. To register call 255-7450.

**October 1 (10am-5pm) & 2 (10am-4pm), Master Gardener Plant Clinic & Garden Tour** a part of Beaches Art Festival @ Historical Beaches Museum Park on 381 Beach Blvd.

**October 8, 10:00am-1:00pm. Landscape Workshop** featuring Curb Appeal, Early Tree Care, and Managing Pests @ Mandarin Garden Club on 2892 Loretto Rd., call 255-7450 to register. \$5 per person.



### Fall Gardening Series: For any of the following programs, call 255-7450 to register

- ◇ **September 9, 6 to 7pm, Fall Tips: Veggies, Color and More** @ Regency Square Library, 9900 Regency Square Blvd.
- ◇ **September 14, 6 to 7pm, 13 Garden Ideas with Recycled Materials** @ University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. N.
- ◇ **September 17, 6 to 7pm, Citrus Woes** @ University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. N.
- ◇ **September 24, 10:30-11:30am, Growing Cool-Season Vegetables** @ Pablo Creek Regional Library, 13295 Beach Blvd.

# Things to do in September/October By Terry DeValle

## Flowers

- **Start ten weeks** of short-day treatment for Christmas cactus in mid-October to enjoy blooms at Christmas.
- **Scout for insect and disease problems.** Aphids, mealy bugs, whiteflies and other insect populations can build up quickly.
- **Remove old flowers** to keep plants in bloom and reduce disease problems.

## Fruits and Nuts

- **Harvest** season for grapes comes to a close as other fruits like Persimmons and Pecans begin their season. Satsumas ripen around late October, especially if we start getting cooler weather.
- ♦ **Fertilize fruit trees/shrubs** in September as a final application. Wait to fertilize Persimmons because they may drop fruit if fertilized.
- ♦ **Check grafted plants** to make sure no growth emerges below the graft union. Graft unions are usually 6" above the soil level and a swollen area is usually noticeable.

## Lawns

- **Keep up with lawn mowing** - Sharpen those mower blades and remove no more than 1/3 the height at each mowing. Leave the clippings on the grass unless you are bagging to collect weed seed heads or the lawn has disease problems. Keep grass clippings out of drainage ditches, off hard surfaces, and out of water bodies.
- ♦ **Fertilize lawns going into the winter** using one with equal amounts of nitrogen and potassium and no more than 2% phosphorous (15-0-15 or 18-2-18). Make sure it has at least 30% or more water insoluble nitrogen (N) and apply at no more than 1% N per 1,000 square feet. Check the label to determine the appropriate amount to apply or go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep236>. Apply 1/4" water following application. Do not apply fertilizer prior to a heavy rainfall or potential storm.
  - ♦ **Got weeds?** Now's the time to spot treat for perennial weeds. Hand-pulling is still the best option if a weed is setting seed. If cool season weeds were a problem last year, treat area with a preemergence herbicide when air temperatures reach 65 to 70°F for 4 to 5 consecutive days (early October).



Pull up weeds like Asiatic Hawkbeard before they go to seed

For more info on weed control, go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP141>.

- ♦ **Scout lawns for pest problems.** Chinch bugs and lawn caterpillars are still active. Go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in383> for info on chinch bugs and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in968> for sod webworms.

## Trees & Shrubs

- **Do not prune** spring blooming shrubs or trees now or there will be no flowers next spring.
- **Scout ornamental plants** for scale, grasshoppers, caterpillars, whiteflies, and leaf beetles. If treatment is needed, treat only the affected area and use a Florida-Friendly insecticide (soaps, oils, neem, BT) to protect beneficial insects. Grasshoppers are laying eggs so to avoid higher numbers next year, kill manually because insecticides are not effective.
- **Fertilize trees and shrubs**, if needed, in September. If trees have been in the landscape for over three years and are surrounded by lawn and/or shrub beds, no additional fertilizer is needed if those areas are fertilized. If plants look healthy and growth is adequate, skip this application.
- **Prune trees now** to remove dead branches and check for structural problems. Don't wait for hurricanes to arrive to prune; be proactive!
- **Put new plants in landscape now.** Cooler weather and more rain will make it easier to establish. Make sure to call 811 before you DIG and don't plant too deep!



Photo: Bill Schall UF/IFAS

## Vegetable Garden

- **Start cool season transplants** for fall gardens. This is one of the best times to garden in north Florida. If you don't have a traditional garden, consider planting a few edibles in landscape beds or try growing in a container. An assortment of lettuce=dinner salads.
- **Plant warm season vegetables ASAP.** Buy determinate, early varieties of tomatoes for a quicker yield before the cold weather moves in.





## What to Plant in September/October By Terry DeValle



Lobelia 'Techno Heat'

For instant color now plant coleus, marigolds and garden chrysanthemums or wait until October to plant cool season flowers like dianthus, lobelia, pansy, petunia, phlox, shasta daisy, snapdragon, viola, status, flowering kale and cabbage.

Marigolds are an inexpensive alternative to chrysanthemums and will frequently provide fall color for a longer period. Wait until the heat subsides in late October to plant pansies and violas.



Zephyr Lily

Bulbs or bulb-types to plant include amaryllis, Aztec lily, calla, grape hyacinth, iris, lachenalia (leopard lily), narcissus, snowflake, watsonia, and zephyr lily. In October add to the list African lily (Agapanthus), daffodil, gladiolus, kaffir lily, lily, marica (walking iris), moraea, society garlic, spider lily, anemone, hyacinth, pineapple lily and Star-of-Bethlehem. The

zephyr lily in the photo is also called the rain lily. It will

pop up with beautiful flowers in response to rain. If wet soil becomes the norm this fall, pull up caladium tubers to prevent the tubers from rotting and store in a cool dry area.

For northern type bulbs (tulips and hyacinths), buy in October and store in the refrigerator for about 60 days. Plant bulbs immediately upon removal. Keep them away from ripening fruit during storage. Many are available pre-chilled, but make sure to check before purchasing.

In September, plant bush beans, pole beans, cucumbers, summer squash, tomatoes, beets\*, broccoli\*, Brussels sprouts\*, cabbage\*, carrots\*, cauliflower\*, collards\*, endive, kale\*, kohlrabi\*, leek\*, lettuce\*, mustard\*, onions\*, parsley\*, radish\* and turnips\*. Add to the list for October those with an asterisk listed above, plus Chinese cabbage and spinach. For more information on vegetables, go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>.



Cabbage 'Capitata'

## Fall Webworm By Terry DeValle

Have you noticed the tips of branches on some of your trees encased in webs? Look closely and you might find a lot of caterpillars munching on the leaves. The fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury) is a common occurrence in our area. Although called fall webworms, they become noticeable in late summer due to those unsightly gray webs. They commonly feed on hardwood trees like pecan, hickory, sweetgum, native persimmons, bald cypress and some fruit trees.

The caterpillar is about an inch long, is pale yellow with black spots and has long white to yellowish-tan hairs. Depending on the type, it can have either a red or black head. They have voracious appetites and if they run out of leaves inside of the webbing, they will encase another branch for more food. The adult is nocturnal, bright white with a fuzzy body.

They rarely kill the tree, but multiple generations feeding on trees like pecans will have an effect on production.

Control options are to:

- Prune out small nests and remove
- Break up webs so predators can help
- Monitor for good guys like paper wasps
- When young, treat with Bt (Dipel or Thuricide)



Late instar of fall webworm with black head (photo: Lyle Buss)

# Is your Landscape Storm Ready? by Terry DeValle

We have seen very little hurricane activity over the last few years but according to NOAA, things may be picking up this year. They now estimate an 85% chance that we will be near normal or above normal this year whereas the last three years were below normal. With Hermine just moving through Florida, it is time to get your landscape storm-ready.

## Trees and Shrubs: Canvas the landscape and



Double trunk with V-shaped crotch could be a hazard during a storm

inspect for branches that are close to the home that might rub against the home or roof during a storm. Go ahead and prune these now and get rid of the branches prior to a storm.

Are there branches or trees that are potential hazards during a storm? Do they have a target like your home or your neighbors home? Large trees with multiple trunks with V-shaped branch angles may split during a storm. If there is a tree that is a potential problem, contact a certified arborist to inspect your tree. To find a certified arborist in your area, check this [website](#) and

type in your information. Ask for ISA certification and proof of insurance to cover personal and property liability.

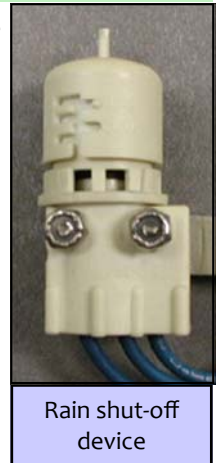


Incorrect pruning of palm

**Palms:** Remove broken, hanging dead palm fronds. Also remove flowers and fruits because they could become airborne during a storm. Do not prune leaves above the horizontal plane so the palm should have a full head of leaves extending from 9 to 3 o'clock. Leaving just a few palm fronds makes the center bud more susceptible to damage during a hurricane.

**Irrigation:** Hurricanes normally mean lots of rainfall so it's a good idea to shut the irrigation system off. If soils are saturated, rain sensors will not prevent the system from running after the corks inside have dried

so look for the large dial on your irrigation clock and turn it to "off" until the soil dries out. Too much water will lead to root rot and trees with saturated soils and shallow root systems will sometimes topple during a storm. Don't add to the problem by leaving the irrigation system on.



Rain shut-off device

**Fertilizer:** If a storm/hurricane or heavy rain is imminent, wait until after the storm is past to make that last fertilizer application to your lawn. Watering in lightly with 1/4" water is completely different than several inches of rain that could potentially wash all the fertilizer into the nearest water body or into the storm drain.

**Container Plants and other Loose Items:** Container plants, yard art, rain barrels, chimes, and patio furniture can all become airborne during a major storm. All loose items should be moved to a sheltered area. If plants are too heavy to move, put them behind a hedge close to the foundation and lay them flat on the ground.

**Gutters:** Make sure gutters are cleaned so they function efficiently taking water away from the home. If the gutter is hooked up to a rain barrel, make sure to leave the spigots open and consider disconnecting it if there is a tight connection because the rain will flow into the barrel quicker than it can be discharged through the spigot. Water may back up into the gutter or the rain barrel may split.



**Critters:** If we get lots of rain and the soils are saturated, be prepared for bugs and other critters looking for higher ground to make their way into homes. Ants, earwigs, roaches, and snakes will escape saturated soils because they are in the survival mode. There are plenty of products available to control the insects. A sticky board may be the best bet for capturing a snake that enters the home.

We may get lucky once again but it's better to be safe and prepare for the worst. For more info on preparing for hurricanes, go to the [UF Extension program's disaster preparation website](#).



## Some Fall Standouts by Terry DeValle



Philippine Violet

Now is a great time to enjoy many of our fall bloomers. Ornamental grasses and many flowering plants really add to local landscapes.

One that is a showstopper is the Philippine violet, *Baleria cristata*. Plants have dense dark green foliage and in fall are covered with lavender or white flowers. Give this plant some room because it will reach 4-6' tall and 3-4' wide.

Who doesn't appreciate beautyberry, *Callicarpa Americana*, when it is full of berries. This is a great addition to the landscape if you



Beautyberry is a great native plant for color



need a specimen plant. In late winter, prune back hard to keep the plant size in check.

Candy corn, *Cuphea micropetala*, is the perfect plant for fall color with its orange tubular blooms. This festive plant makes a good background in a perennial garden



as it reaches 5 to 6' in height.

Amethyst toad lily, *Triicyrtis lasiocarpa*, is an attractive plant for lightly shaded areas. In late summer to fall, look for 1" wide orchid-like flowers atop 3' tall plants.

Several salvias put on a show in late summer and fall. The

one that most are familiar with is Mexican Sage, *Salvia leucantha*. The fuzzy purple or white flowers appear in late summer through fall. If we have a mild winter, plants will bloom again in the spring.



Don't forget ornamental

grasses like muhly grass in pink or 'White Cloud' for something different. The one in the photo is *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gold Bar' which has an upright, compact vase shape and reaches 4-5' tall. The variegated foliage is attractive year round and couple that with burgundy blooms in the fall.



## Poinsettias in the Landscape by Terry DeValle

Now is the time to think about final steps in getting your poinsettia plant to bloom in time for the holiday season. The photo is of a poinsettia in my neighbors landscape and it put mine to shame. It was planted in an eastern exposure right up against the house for protection from the cold and wind.

Poinsettias are considered short-day plants so the flowering is triggered by short days and long nights. Flower initiation occurs in October so this is a critical time to protect plants from exposure to exterior lights like a street or porch light at night. Otherwise, plants will stay a beautiful, green color.

Plants should be fertilized monthly and the last application should be made in September. Use a balanced fertilizer that has equal amounts of nitrogen and potassium and low phosphorous (middle number). Magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) are also recommended

as a supplement to prevent leaf yellowing between the veins and along the margin of leaves. The rate is 3 T per square yard in early spring and again in July.

If the variety is a non-branching one, plants are sometimes tip pruned to create a fuller plant. The last pruning date is September 10.

Potential pest problems include spider mites, whiteflies, aphids, mealybugs, soft scales and poinsettia hornworm. For more info, refer to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep349>.



## Kale, Nutritious and Delicious By Mary Puckett

To be prepared for the upcoming fall weather, start planning your cool-season vegetable garden now. Many favorites that grow best in our cool weather are referred to as Cole crops. Cole crops are in the Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) family and include broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kohlrabi, mustard, radish, turnip and kale.

If you want to add interest and nutritional value to your landscape consider incorporating kale. Kale grows best in our cool season and is cold hardy, tolerating a frost that only improves its flavor by increasing the sugar content of the leaves.

Kale, *Brassica oleraceae*, are cabbage-like plants native to the British Isles and to the Mediterranean area of Europe. They have green or purple leaves, in which the central leaves do not form a head.

Kale is not only attractive, adding interest to your landscape, but valuable nutritionally since it supplies important amounts of vitamin A, iron, calcium, and vitamin C. Pound for pound, greens such as kale contain many times more vitamin A than snap beans, sweet corn or green peppers. Varieties are widely diverse in their growing habits, ranging from being tall or short as well as the foliage texture.

There are several varieties to consider: Vates Dwarf Blue Curled, Tuscan, Winterbor and Redbor. Two of my favorites, Toscano and Red Russian.

### Red Russian

Heirloom (pre-1885)  
Quick growing (2-3' tall)  
Oak-type leaves with a red tinge



### Toscano

Italian heirloom  
Dark green, non-curling but blistered leaves  
“Dinosaur” type

Whether planting kale in a traditional in-ground plot, a raised bed or simply incorporating kale into pockets available throughout your landscape, consider its basic needs:

- Kale prefers full sun in the cooler months, but can benefit from light shade during hot weather.
- Soil should be well-drained “loose” and high in organic matter



# Why the Dead Branches?

by Larry Figart

This has been a long hot dry summer so far. It has been especially hard on our trees. Folks are calling about dead branches and wondering if their tree is dying. While we have southern pine beetles, lightning, and mushroom root being made worse by the heat, the dead branches do not mean that our trees are dying.

The first question to ask is whether or not the damage is on a small branch, or a twig. If it is on a small branch look up in the tree and observe the branch very closely. If you see a place on the branch where the bark has been stripped off of the branch, the damage is probably from squirrels. If you prune out the branch and look at it up close you may even be able to see the teeth marks that the squirrel made.



**Squirrel Damage on Oak**

Girdling the branch inhibits its ability to transport water and nutrients from the roots out to the leaves, and results in the death of the branch.

There are several thoughts as to why the squirrel would do this to the tree. Ideas include everything



**Squirrel teeth marks on branch**

from utilizing the sugar rich phloem to pregnant squirrels chewing to ease their pain. Recently a research paper in the Journal of Forest Ecology and Management stated that the squirrels use the calcium in the phloem to offset a calcium deficiency. Further

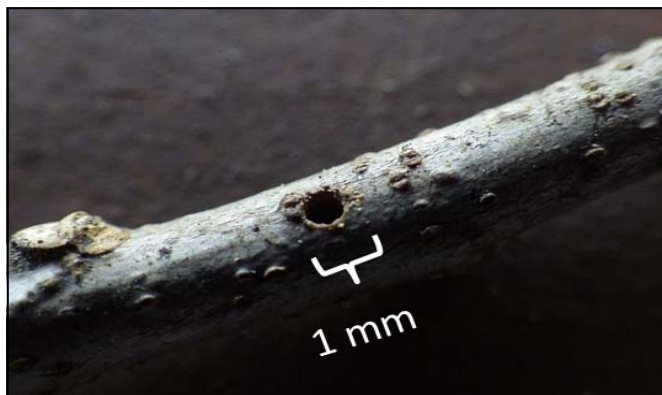
research will be needed to see if and how we can add calcium to their diet so they will stop damaging trees.

If the damage you are noticing consists of several leaves on a twig dying off (also known as flagging) then the culprit is more than likely the Black Twig Borer. The female black twig borer drills into the small twig in order to create a gallery where her eggs are deposited. She also cultivates a fungus in the gallery that the young larvae will use as food.



**Black Twig Borer twig "flagging"**

If you carefully inspect a flagging branch you can usually find the hole that the black twig borer created in the twig. It is very tiny (less than a millimeter). If you snap the twig at the hole you will see the gallery in the center of the twig. Sometimes you even see a beetle in the gallery. There is no treatment for this insect other than pruning and destroying infected twigs. The good news is that this pest is not going to kill your tree. Trees can easily rebound from the minor damage this insect causes.



**Black Twig Borer entry hole**

Duval County Extension  
1010 N. McDuff Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32254  
(904) 255-7450  
Fax: (904)387-8902  
Website: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Jacksonville, Fl  
Permit No. 1482

### Address Service Requested



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

## Growing Kale continues.... By Mary Puckett

- Kale is tolerant of a wide pH range from 6.0 to 7.5. If you have not tested your pH in the last 3 years, test the soil and amend it according to recommendations. For details refer to (Duval County Extension Soil pH Testing @ [http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture\\_forms.shtml](http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture_forms.shtml)).
- Even though Kale can be drought tolerant, the quality and flavor of leaves may suffer without consistent moisture.
- Space plants 12 to 18 inches apart, apply fertilizer and water in.
- To help reduce disease, do not plant Kale or other Cole crops in the same spot year after year

The lower leaves can be harvested individually as needed when small and tender, ranging from 6 to 10 inches in height. For a steady supply of young baby leaves for salads or juicing you may want to consider sowing a new batch of seed every 2 to 4 weeks.

As plants mature and lower leaves are harvested, plants begin to resemble a small palm tree with a cluster of leaves at the top. The larger older leaves are best steamed or sautéed. They are also great in soups.

**Resources:** [gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)  
NC State and Cornell University

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).

Extension programs are open to all regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, religion, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no endorsement by the Extension Office is implied.