2011 Master Gardener
Awards of Excellence & Recognition
2010 Numbers

• 4,024 Active volunteers in 54 counties
• 460,364 hours donated
• Value of $8,862,025
• 1,256,234 client contacts
• Reporting
  – Hours
  – Contacts
  – Continued Training
Congratulations to Polk County

Placing 1st Place
In the Youth Project category
for
The 2011 International Master Gardener
Search for Excellence Awards
Agri-Fest

- Educational program in Polk county that has served up to 6,000 forth graders annually for 22 years.
- A series of programs that teach students about agricultural economy and addresses specifics of each discipline from blueberries to phosphate mining.
- Works in coordination with local schools to create pre-program and take-away materials to be implemented at home.
- Students work closely with MG mentors in planting activities
- Last year, 53 MGs volunteered their time
Awards of Excellence Categories

Beautification
Demonstration Garden
Displays/Exhibits
County Master Gardener Newsletter
Educational Materials Development
Extension Awareness
General Achievement
Mass Communication
Outstanding Master Gardener
Personal Communications
Service to 4-H and Other Youth
Special Audiences
Beautification

Brevard
Collier
Osceola

Polk
Sumter
Little Gem Magnolia Planters
Demonstration Garden

Martin Polk
Polk
Purchase your plants from us and start your own garden today.

The Demonstration Garden is sponsored by the

UF/IFAS Polk County Extension Service
ΠΠΠΠ
Polk County Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
ΠΠΠΠ
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program
ΠΠΠΠ
Master Gardener maintained ΠΠΠΠ
ΠΠΠΠ
For information please call:
UF/IFAS Polk County Extension Service Demonstration Gardens
1702 Highway 17-98 South
Bartow, FL 33831
(863) 519-8677
Or
http://polkfyn.ifas.ufl.edu/

Landscape irrigation makes up approximately 50% of total household water use.

A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most—during periods of drought—to water your plants, wash the car, or fill the pool. Contact your local Extension Service for more information on rain barrels.

Polk Training Center
Lake Alfred, FL

ORLANDO

Polk Training Center for Handicapped Citizens
111 Creek Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850
Phone: 863.956.1620
www.polktrainingcenter.org

We provide landscape design and installation!

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY™ DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

WELCOME
Displays/Exhibits

Santa Rosa
Marion
St. Johns
Santa Rosa
County Master Gardener Newsletter

Brevard Marion

Nature Coast
Nature Coast
Growing Camellias

Jerry Hosette, a professor at the University of Florida, was our guest speaker at the Spring Meeting. His topic: camellias. Jerry has been very involved in the local Camellia Society since he started cultivating camellias in 1980. He emphasized that camellias are well suited for our local climate and easy to manage once you master the basics.

Camellias were first grown in China and Japan. They have been used to make tea for many years. Europeans imported camellias from the Far East, and then brought them to America in the 1700s as they crossed the Atlantic. Camellias are long-lived with some 300-year-old Japanese specimens.

Jerry talked about showing camellias in competitions. The American Camellia Society (located near Perry, GA) sets the judging standards. The blooms are judged on a number of characteristics, and are categorized by form (single, semi-doubles, anemone, peony, rose form double and double) and size (miniature, small, medium, large, and very large). Jerry showed photos of examples so we could see how the blooms differ. He mentioned that aficionados are working hard to develop blue and yellow flowers. He observed that flowers are paler in colder weather.

Planting: Camellias tolerate cold to 25° very well, but they usually do not flourish in semi-tropical or tropical conditions. Plant camellias in the fall. Planting depth is important, and Jerry stressed that the root ball should usually be planted 2 inches higher than the soil line to allow for settling. Plant in locations with high shade, such as under oaks or pines, in well-drained soil that is slightly acidic (pH 5-6). Mulch with pines needles or oak leaves.

Care: Camellias have one or two growth spurts a year, usually in March and May. Soil amendment, such as milled pine bark, adds water-holding capacity while soil supplements, such as super triple phosphate, aid in root growth.

Water camellias frequently and deeply for the first year. Water in a zone around the plant, up to a minute for each plant, to develop a strong root system. Use a good quality camellia/azealea organic balanced (6-6-6 or similar) slow release fertilizer. Micromax is a good choice. It lasts a year and does not burn. Fertilize, as the growth spurts begin, at the drip line. Notice the growth buds (round) as distinct from the flower buds (pointed) as signals to fertilize. Pruning should be done annually immediately after the camellias finish blooming (mid-February for non-blooming limbs).

Flowers: Gardeners use techniques to improve the size and appearance of camellia blooms. Gibberellic acid (gibbing) is sometimes used to accelerate growth and generate larger flowers. Disbudding improves flower quality. This is the process of removing all but one terminal flower bud on each stem.

Propagation: Camellias can be grown from cut-
Stonecreek Community Workshop

Our MG/FYN training session

A Florida-Friendly Landscape
Extension Awareness

Martin

St. Johns
Martin
Master gardeners spread beauty

Shameeka Dixon and Marian Hansbrough work in the beautiful garden of the newly constructed Women Build project of Habitat for Humanity.

The Martin County Master Gardeners participated in the landscaping of a Women Build Habitat for Humanity House in Hobe Sound, being built for Shameeka Dixon and her 5-year-old twins. Marian Hansbrough, a Martin County Master Gardener, was team coordinator for the project.

Doug McCue’s Landscape Design Inc. contributed the design plan. The plants were installed on April 19.

Palm City Palms, Pinders Nursery, Steve Adams, Classic Growers, Sunshine Farms, Blue Water Landscape, Earthwise Landscape Products, Lowes and Home Depot in Jensen Beach contributed a variety of items.

UF/IFAS Martin County Master Gardeners are volunteers. Call them at (772) 288-5654.

What do you want to know?

- Ideas for a butterfly garden
- Information about summer camps
- The latest on citrus pests
- Innovative Gardening Techniques
- Tips for eating well
- Ways to save water and energy
- How to prepare for a hurricane
- Florida Friendly Landscaping

For more information, visit http://martin.ifas.ufl.edu or call (772) 288-5654.
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<th>General Achievement</th>
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Greenhouse Dedication

The Educational Greenhouse was dedicated on Nov. 4, 2010 at a festive ribbon cutting ceremony. SRCMGA President, Norene G. welcomed everyone and introduced Mike Donahoe, Extension Director. Distinguished guests, Dr. Pete Vergot, District Extension Director and County Commissioner Don Salter congratulated the Master Gardeners and spoke in program. It was a beautiful day, with food and color. A delicious lunch and served by Steven’s Market Deli. Everyone went home with a small favor as a memento. See page 4 for photos of the day!
Mass Communication

Duval - Miami-Dade

Marion - Hillsborough
Duval
GARDENING

Select right plant for your garden

Garden centers and plant nurseries in our area are becoming favorite destinations for gardeners of many skill levels who gather on these bright sunny weekends to select new plantings for this season's garden.

There are a few simple things to consider that will make a dramatic difference in the success of this year's garden.

Before you begin, check the pH of your soil and prepare the soil to accept new plantings that are suitable for specific plant selections. Soil amendments through regular applications of mulch and good organic matter are critical to successful gardening in the beach areas.

Appropriate applications of fertilizers will also be necessary during the growing season.

It is easy to be swept up in the moment at the garden center; exotic, bright plantings may or may not be suitable to our region. How often have you come home with a beautiful spring plant, bursting with blooms and color, only to watch it fade within days of planting in your garden or outdoor container?

Many commercial plants have been forced, acclimatized in greenhouses, and may be blooming out of season for our region.

You can maximize your purchase dollars by planning your garden in advance. You have heard before, plan well or plan to fail. Here are a few simple rules in selecting new plant materials for your spring garden.

1. Read the cultivar name of the plant on the container; if it is not named, it may not be suitable for our area. Most labels have recommendations on light and soil requirements. Will this particular plant fit the area you are placing the plant?


3. Gently pull the plant up so that you can see the roots. Is the container packed with roots and do they look healthy? Is the general appearance of the plant indicative that the plant is putting out new growth and free of disease? Purchase, even on sale, of a plant that is diseased and beginning to show problems may add more headaches to your garden than health.

4. However, you should not be overly concerned with plants that may have some leaf bruising or damage from shipment, especially in annuals that will quickly recover in your garden. If you see signs of pest damage, fungus, or other disease issues, select another plant.

5. When selecting seeds, read carefully the germination times and projected number of days until harvest.

6. Plantings that take longer to reach bloom or production may peak at a time not suitable if they are not tolerant of our heat cycles.

7. Determinant tomatoes have performed better for some of us than indeterminate varieties and there are new cultivars which are better suited to our regional climate. Gardeners in our area are experimenting with several of these varieties.

8. Seeds requiring shorter time to maturity and production will allow you to harvest sooner before the hotter, drier periods of the summer. Plant only those plants that work in this planting cycle. Some vegetables such as tomatoes should be planted by seed while others can be transplanted from containers, giving you a head start to harvest.

4. Do not leave the plants you purchase in a hot vehicle; but, if for some reason they have been left in overheated areas, check their moisture when you arrive home and re-water at once if you do not plan to plant them immediately.

Are there obviously slow-release fertilizer pellets in the container and soil of the plant? Adding fertilizer to transplant or new plants can retard or burn the plant.

8. Stick with your plan and avoid impulsive purchases which you are not familiar before you purchase any plant or gardening material.

Following these simple steps can insure a happier gardener and a more successful garden result.

Lee McDonald is a master gardener with the Duval County Extension Service and the University of Florida/IFAS.
Outstanding Master Gardener

Alachua
Highlands
Marion
Nature Coast
Personal Communications

Charlotte

Okaloosa
Charles Reuter

Okaloosa

Charles Reuter
Service to 4-H and Other Youth

Brevard
Palm Beach
Bradford
Marion
Santa Rosa
Palm Beach
Special Audiences

Charlotte  Alachua

Miami-Dade  Okaloosa
Okaloosa
Master Gardener Service Awards
10 Year Service Recognition

Ina Crawford – Bay
Barbara Hall-Elmore- Duval
Carol Phillips – Duval
Virginia Overstreet – Hillsborough
Helen Reagin – Lake
Marie Martin – Orange
10 Year Service Recognition

Dolly Tomalinas -- Charlotte
Debbie Phillips – Polk
Neta Villalobos-Bell -- Seminole
Rudy White -- Seminole
15 Year Service Recognition

Laura Fellows -- Hillsborough
Clifford Dyke – Lake
Shirley Meehan – Lake
Richard Pase – Palm Beach
Carole Williams – St. Lucie
20 Year Service Recognition

Mae Singletary – Orange
Norm Singletary -- Orange
25 Year Service Recognition

Jean House -- Osceola
30 Year Service Recognition

Marie Eastberg -- Osceola
4-H Plant ID and Judging
Top Team Score
Lake County
1985 (2700 Possible)

Individual Scores
Katherine LaRosa – 693 (900 possible)
Auction Results

$4,717

These proceeds go directly to support the awards of excellence and service awards presented to MGs each year.
2011 Master Gardener
Awards of Excellence & Recognition
Deceased Master Gardeners

- Marvel Burkett – Bay
- Marshall Palmer – Bradford
- Dan Weible - Brevard
- Nap DuFault – Charlotte
- Tom Yaun- Clay
- Chuck Ray – Collier
- Roy Reid – Duval
- Kay Pacecca – Hernando County
- Les Lowe – Highlands
- Lucy Hope -- Indian River
- Carol Houck -- Indian River
- Mary Galagher – Jackson
- Jerry Jovanovich - Lee
- Ron Gestwicki - Lee
- Billie Jean (BJ) Nuckolls - Lee
- Faye Granberry - Lee
- Joan Futch – Leon
- Jim King – Leon
- Jerry Hassell – Marion
- Larry Steele – Marion
- Joan Temple – Monroe
- Barbara Churchill – Pasco
- Wilma Coffey – Pinellas
- Irene Costello – Pinellas
- Vicki Gruber – Pinellas
- Jerry Ross – Putnam
- Dorothy Klein – Seminole
- Darleen Nordine – Seminole
- Ramona Wood - Seminole
- Gene Cotter – Sarasota
- Kevin Walker – Sarasota
- Richard Cloutier—St. Johns
- Les Long – St. Lucie
- Vera Bassett – Sumter
- Carl Loth – Volusia
2011 Master Gardener
Awards of Excellence & Recognition