

# The SEASIDE Gardener

VOL. 2 NO. 1 JANUARY 2023 BY JENIFER MARX



## —WHAT TO PLANT NOW—

**ANNUALS/BEDDING plants:** Plants to add to the garden during the coolest months include alyssum, dianthus, begonia, calendula, pansy, petunia, viola, lobelia, dusty miller, and snapdragon.

[See Annuals](#)

**BULBS:** Plant Amaryllis (leaving tops of “shoulders” out of the soil), crinum lilies, agapanthus, clivia, crocosmia, gloriosa lily, society garlic, spider lilies, rain lilies, day lilies, African iris, bulbine and gladiola bulbs. Provide a layer of mulch for protection from cold temperatures.

[See Bulbs for Florida](#)

**HERBS:** Herbs thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including arugula, catnip, garlic chives, chives, lemon grass (plant this aggressive grower in a large pot), parsley, dill, sage, rosemary, Mexican tarragon, fennel, all of the mints, thyme, lemon balm, Greek oregano, salad burnet, chervil and lavenders.

[See Herbs](#)

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetables that can be planted in January include beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupe, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, cucumbers, endive/escarole, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, carrots, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, mustard, English or snow peas, Irish potatoes, radishes, celery, kale, kohlrabi, spinach, squash, sweet corn, Swiss chard, and turnips.

[See Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)



**Sow** the following for transplanting in February: arugula, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cantaloupe, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, eggplant, kale, peppers, squash, watermelon,

kohlrabi, endive/escarole, beets, collards, lettuce, mustard, English or snow peas, spinach, Swiss chard, tomatoes and turnip seeds.



**TIPS:** Keep tomato and pepper plants separate because they are susceptible to many of the same diseases. Don't plant hot peppers close to sweet peppers because they will hybridize and you will have a not-so-sweet sweet pepper and a not-so-hot hot pepper.



To save space when seeding carrots and radishes, sow them in the same row because carrots are slower to germinate. The radishes will be harvested before the carrots need the space. Also, cover the seeds with some vermiculite to help mark the row.

### —WHAT TO DO—

**ADD TO THE LANDSCAPE:** It is a good time to plant woody

shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start.

See [The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#) and [Shrubs](#)

#### DECIDUOUS FRUIT

Plant fruit trees that lose their leaves in winter this month or next to give their roots time to develop before the warm, dry spring months. Prune and fertilize existing trees.

See [Temperate Fruit for the Home Landscape](#)

#### EDIBLES

Don't forget to spray a fine mist of liquid seaweed solution on both sides of the leaves on vegetable plants, citrus and avocado trees weekly. For other fruit-producing trees, shrubs and vines aim for every other week.

#### CITRUS TREE CARE

Spray both sides of leaves avoiding peak daily temperature:

1. Spray citrus trees with Epsoma Citrus Tone or Sunniland Citrus
2. Before trees blossom, spray with a citrus nutritional spray, which has micronutrients.
3. Spray at least once a month with fish emulsion or Maxicrop, the liquid seaweed emulsion available at most Ace hardware stores and HTG Supply on 192 in Melbourne.
4. To avoid disease spray with liquid Copper Fungicide

#### SHRUBS AND TREES

Apply an organic fertilizer like Epsoma plant tone or Holly Tone (for acidic plants).

Prune non-spring-flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form.

See [Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs](#)

#### CRAPEMYRTLE

Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant, if desired. Hard pruning is not required.

See [Crapemyrtle](#)

#### IRRIGATION

Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce.

See [Landscape Irrigation](#)

#### PESTS

Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom.

See [Landscape Pest Management](#)

#### ORCHIDS

During the fall and winter months, orchid growth slows down and, in some cases, stops entirely until spring. Cut back watering and fertilizing. During fall and winter use a blossom boosting fertilizer, to encourage blooming. During warmer months use a fertilizer with more nitrogen to encourage vegetative growth.





most damage from cold and wet ground holds more heat than dry soil. Then turn off the sprinklers for the duration of the freeze.

Identify your most cold-sensitive plants; cover them with cloth coverings which extend to the ground. This will trap heat from the ground. Frost cloth is a lightweight, porous material that helps slow the loss of heat during the night. Sold as *plant cover*, it is widely available in rolls or bags. *Plastic covering is not recommended* as it can damage the parts of the plant which it touches.

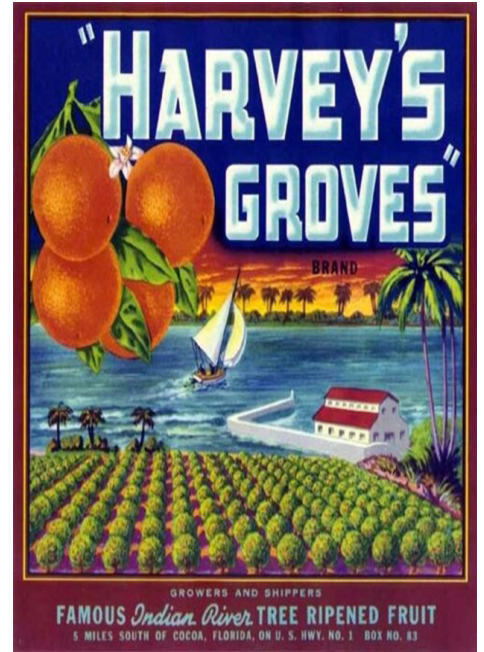
Orchid plants need less water during fall/winter months. Keep an eye on them as it may take longer for them to dry out. The best thing to do is to evaluate and change your orchid care as the seasons change. Be aware of the plant growth and moisture content. Don't get caught up in too much of a "routine" of caring for your orchids. Learn to study the plant and decide on its specific needs for that week, month and season.

[Prepare for Frost or Freeze](#)

Frost is likely and a freeze possible this month and next. When the temperature is expected to plunge, water plants thoroughly before the predicted cold night. This is a valuable step to take because overly dry plants suffer the

Frost can be as problematic to your plants as a freeze. Frost occurs when ice forms on the ground, roofs, surface of plants and objects. It can happen when temperatures are in the high 30s and can form with air temperatures are below 38 degrees. On a still night, frost starts to form at about 37 degrees Fahrenheit.

Wind or even a light breeze, as well as cloud cover, acts to stave off a frost. Wind works by mixing the colder low-ground air and the warmer upper air to keep the cold from settling in. Clouds work much like the frost cloth or shade from overhangs and tree canopies by reflecting the heat radiating from the ground back down.



The Big Orange on US-1 in Eau Gallie offered orange juice to 1960s tourists.

### REQUIEM FOR BREVARD'S CITRUS INDUSTRY

Last month's demolition of Harvey's Grove's packing house and its large retail store across Route 1 in Rockledge marked the end of an era in Brevard. Commercial citrus production has a long history in the county.

It began with Douglass Dummitt, an Englishman from Barbadoes, who established commercial orange groves on Merritt Island in the early 1800s. Parrish, Porcher, Sullivan and Harvey are some of the county families associated with the world-famous Indian River citrus fruit that was synonymous with Florida.

In 1926 Roy and Blanche Harvey bought a seven-acre citrus grove in Rockledge and opened a roadside fruit stand on Dixie Highway (US-1), selling hand-squeezed orange juice for five cents a glass. The couple later added groves on Merritt

Island. Successive generations led Harvey's Groves to more than 200 First Place awards in Florida Department of Citrus fruit competitions. The family expanded their business shipping premium fruit all over the country.

Harvey's specialized in navel oranges, tangerines, Minneola tangelos, and temples. They also grew an unusual red grapefruit with a flattened form and remarkably delicious flavor.

Unlike most Florida groves, the Harvey's' Merritt Island acreage didn't require irrigation lines. The water table flowing close to the soil surface provided adequate moisture in most years. Warm air from the ocean and nearby inland waters protected the island groves from all but the most severe freezes.

Today Florida's iconic citrus industry is on its knees after hurricane Ian affected an already abysmal forecast for the 2022 crop. Overall citrus production, which throughout the 1990s and early 2000s annually topped 200 million 90-pound boxes, is expected to be the lowest since the 1929-1930 season that produced 18 million boxes. The industry has been on a downward trend for two decades owing to residential and commercial development, foreign imports and the incurable bacterial disease known as **citrus greening**. Dooryard citrus has also all but disappeared. Growers and researchers are hopeful that they can meet the challenges that have plagued citrus growing in Florida. It would be wonderful to once again enjoy the beauty and fragrance of flourishing orange trees in the landscape.

### FLORIDA'S NATIVE BEES



The Sweat Bee

Of the 4,000 bee species that occur in North America, more than 300 are native to Florida, including 29 endemic species. They range in size from smaller than a grain of rice to the width of a quarter coin; from smooth to fuzzy, streamlined to rotund and display colors from dull and dark to iridescently brilliant. Because Florida has a relatively mild and short winter, native bees can be observed even in the chilliest months throughout much of the state. Florida Wildflowers hosted a webinar with Laura Langlois Zurro, founder of the Florida Native Bees Facebook group. It takes you on a photographic journey of some of the bees that can be observed in Florida between November and March, as well as the plants they need to survive. You'll also learn how to make your garden bee-friendly for both winter and early spring bees.

### [WEBINAR](#)

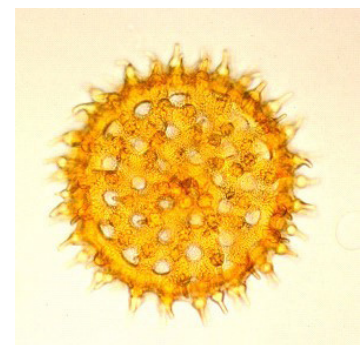


### THE BEST SEED CATALOGUES

[Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#)  
[High Mowing Organic Seeds](#)  
[Sow True Seeds](#)

[Johnny's Selected Seeds](#)

Other outstanding catalogs include Botanical Interests, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Seed Savers Exchange, Fedco Seeds, The Cook's Garden and Pine Garden Seeds [Florida Garden Seeds](#) is a Jacksonville family-owned heirloom seed company.



[Growin' Crazy Acres Heirloom Seeds](#) is a woman-owned business in Brooksville, FL.

### UF RESOURCES FOR GARDENERS

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
FruitScapes <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/fruitscapes>  
Gardening Solutions: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>



**Palynology:** Palynology is the study of plant pollen, spores and certain microscopic plankton organisms (collectively termed palynomorphs) in both living and fossil form. Botanists use living pollen and spores (actuopalynology) in the study of plant relationships and evolution, while geologists (palynologists) and archaeologists may use fossil pollen and spores (paleopalynology) to study past environments, stratigraphy (the analysis of strata or layered rock) historical geology and paleontology.

### [The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design](#)

**Plant Real Florida:** A treasure trove of information on native Florida plants and where to find them.

**RADIO GARDEN.** Pick anyplace in the world and tune in.

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### FLA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING CLASS 8-WEEK SERIES (\$75)

[Register online at Eventbrite](#)  
Register by phone by calling the  
Extension Office (321) 633-1702

#### **Apr 4-May 23 Tues 9am-Noon**

Learn how to grow healthy plants & nutritious food while protecting the water quality of the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Johns River.

#### **Class Schedule**

Apr 4: All About Botany & bringing our Florida dirt to life  
Apr 11: FFL principles + Plant Nutrition & Lawn Care  
Apr 18: Hands-on Gardening (how to start seeds, transplant seedlings, start plants from cuttings and how to divide plants) and Introduction to Landscape Design  
Apr 25: All About Trees & Native Plant Walk  
May 2: Edible Gardening (Vegetables, Herbs & Fruit crops) & Attracting Wildlife  
May 9: All about Palms & Palm Nutrition and Growth  
May 16: Plant Diseases & IPM (Integrated Pest Management)  
May 23: Pesticide Safety & Synthesis (putting it all together)

Attend class in person or Zoom. If attending by Zoom, pick up a class notebook after March 22 at the Brevard/UF Extension Office at 3695, Lake Drive, Cocoa. Mon-Fri. 8 am and 5 pm.



#### **FLORIDA ARBOR DAY JAN 21!**

National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April. However, the 1945 Florida State Legislature designated the third Friday in January as Florida Arbor Day. The state's winter climate sends trees into a state of dormancy, which means transplanting is less stressful for the trees and increases the chance of survival.

### *Plant a tree!*

Tree planting tips from UF/IFAS Extension experts to keep in mind.

- Select a Florida-Friendly tree best suited for your region.
- Once ready to plant, dig the hole 1.5 times the width of the tree's root ball or container.
- Find the topmost root. This must be planted at, or an inch or two above, ground level.
- Fill the soil around the root ball, but do not cover it.
- Place a layer of mulch 3 inches thick around the tree, leaving a mulch-free donut shaped ring around the trunk and root ball. Never pile mulch touching a tree's trunk.
- Water within the *donut hole*.