

## **Horticulture Extravaganza Shows You How to Have a Florida-Friendly Yard**



*Thunbergia grandiflora*, a perennial vine in flower now, is one of the plants you will see at the Horticulture Extravaganza on Saturday, October 18. Photo by David W. Marshall.

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October 12, 2003

Would you like to have a Florida-Friendly landscape? A yard that is colorful and attractive yet that does not require a lot of pesticides and fertilizers and that helps slow stormwater runoff and erosion? A garden that uses an efficient irrigation system? If so, then one event you won't want to miss on **Saturday, October 18** is the Horticulture Extravaganza co-sponsored by the UF-IFAS Leon County Extension and the Tallahassee Garden Clubs. The extravaganza will feature garden tours, slide presentations, demonstrations, vendors, and individual gardening consultations by Master Gardeners.

The event centers around the demonstration garden that is maintained by the Master Gardener volunteers with the UF-IFAS Leon County Extension. The purpose of the demonstration garden is to show you how you can have a Florida-Friendly yard using attractive plants that don't require undue amounts of maintenance.



*Sun coleus* are very easy to grow and provide spectacular color.

**The event starts at 10:00 at the Leon County Agriculture Center at 615 Paul Russell Road, just east of the fairgrounds and Capitol Stadium.** At 10:30, I will talk and show slides of featured plants that you will want to see later that morning in the tours of the demonstration garden on the grounds.

At 11:00, Master Gardeners Joan Hendrix and Katherine Hamilton will do a children's program in the garden

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about enjoying the sights of fall. At 11:30 Extension Forester, Stan Rosenthal will lead a tour of the new arboretum being planted on the grounds, with an explanation of the longleaf restoration that is a part of the arboretum. In addition, at 11:30 will be a demonstration of how to prune trees and shrubs, by local arborist Pam Houmère of Armstrong's Tree Service.

At 12:00 noon, Stan Rosenthal will lead a tree identification tour. Also at noon, in the auditorium, there will be a demonstration of floral design.

At 1:00, Pam Houmère's pruning demonstration will be repeated. Then at 2:00, don't miss the colorful slide presentation by professional horticulturist Dave MacManus of Esposito's on selecting landscape plants for the shaded garden. This will be a must-see if you need planting ideas for shaded spots in your landscape.

Many activities will be continuing throughout the day. There will be guided tours of the demonstration garden, which features flowering perennials and annuals, shade gardens, ornamental grasses, and groundcovers. Taking one of these tours will be a great way to get landscape ideas and learn about plants for our area.

Brandy Cowley-Gilbert and Ted Gilbert of Just Fruits and Exotics Nursery will be showing gardeners how to install a micro-irrigation system. You can learn to easily install a relatively inexpensive watering system that makes watering flowers, shrubs, and trees easy and efficient.

Master Gardener volunteers from the UF-IFAS Leon County Extension will be on hand in the office to answer your gardening questions and provide requested publications. There will be a soil sample information table set up to provide you with mailing kits for testing your garden soil for nutrient levels. Master Wildlife Conservationist volunteers will be showing videos that teach you how to landscape for wildlife.

While there, don't forget to fill out an evaluation card and drop it in the box to be eligible for the door prize drawing at the end of the day. You don't have to be present for the drawing. There will also be vendors on hand, selling plants, refreshments, and garden crafts. It should be a fun day of activities. Plan on dropping by.

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