It’s Showtime in the Leon County Extension Garden

Photos by David W. Marshall, Leon County Extension UF-IFAS: Two uncommon plants you will see on the garden tours are Caesalpinia pulcherrima and Euphorbia cotinifolia.

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This Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, Leon County Master Gardener volunteers, along with the staff of UF-IFAS Leon County Extension, will showcase the demonstration gardens at 615 Paul Russell Road. The entrance for parking will be off Zillah Street, which runs south off Paul Russell Road, just east of the Jack McLean Park entrance.

The garden features a variety of flowering plants, vines, groundcovers, shrubs, and trees. The purpose of the garden is to show plants that can be used in our local landscapes and how to use these plants. Fall is the best time to plant shrubs, trees, perennials and bulbs. So, if you are looking for ideas to enhance your yard, this is a place you must visit.

The event gives one the opportunity to participate in one of several guided tours, starting at 9:15 and running at regular intervals until 11:30. Afterwards, you are encouraged to wander around the garden and look on your own. Master Gardeners will be stationed at each bed to help answer your questions.

There will also be 4-H activities for the youth and an opportunity to register them in 4-H. Family & Consumer Sciences staff will have an exhibit on how to tailgate safely at football games, in terms of food safety. The forestry agent will give a presentation on evaluating trees in your landscape for potential safety hazards. And one of our volunteers will tell you how you can have a more environmentally friendly landscape.
This Fall Open House offers the unique opportunity to highlight the services and programs of Cooperative Extension Service in Leon County. Our many programs target the most basic concerns in our community: Nature (for its important role in our quality of life), the environment, youth, poverty and health. Extension leverages the investment of county dollars, using money and resources from UF-IFAS. In addition, the time and talent of volunteers, such as Master Gardeners, extends the reach of the educational services.

So, it really is Showtime…a chance for you to see our Demonstration Garden up-close. We also will be providing important information on the Florida Yards & Neighborhood (FYN) program. To be “Florida Friendly”, follow the nine principles of FYN – Right plant, right place; Water efficiently; Fertilize appropriately; Mulch; Attract wildlife; Manage yard pests responsibly; Recycle yard waste; Reduce stormwater runoff; and Protect our waterways. Come out and learn – we even have a papaya plant in the sun garden that might surprise you.  ###