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## Letter from the Editor

By Lisa Krinsky, Sea Grant Agent

Fall is upon us and so are many seasonal opportunities that come with it. Though we're still battling with the long-lasting effects of the drought, we are in the midst of the five month rainy season. This means there is still time to take advantage of the weather. Get out in your garden and install some new plants, re-design your landscape, or conserve water and install a rain barrel.

If food is more up your alley, enjoy Florida stone crabs and spiny lobsters, some of the local, sea-sonal delicacies that become available in the Fall. By practicing simple steps in the kitchen, you can also take part in National Food Safety Month and help prevent foodborne illnesses. Or join the Extension office at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center in downtown Miami, on October 18th in celebrating Food Day with food

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demo's & tasting, hands-on activities, and information booths. Check out our calendar for more information on this and other Fall events.

This Fall also represents the one year anniversary of the Extension Connexion newsletter. This newsletter is designed for you, our clientele, and we'd love to hear how we're doing. Send comments to [lkrimsky@ufl.edu](mailto:lkrimsky@ufl.edu) with recommendations on how we can make it better. We want to make sure we are serving you the best we can. *Lisa*



## Program Spotlight

### What is a Florida-Friendly Landscape?

By Laura Vasquez, FYN Coordinator

Florida is covered with water. The state has over 10,000 miles of rivers and streams, about 7,800 lakes and more than 700 freshwater springs, and the second-longest coastline in the United States. Even if you do not live on the waterfront, the land you live on is directly connected to a nearby water body. Though you might think it's not possible your landscape practices have an impact on our water quality. When it rains, water

flows down our streets, sidewalks and driveways. Everything on the pavement, like grass clippings, fertilizer, pesticides all get washed into our storm

drains. Most storm drains empty directly into the closest body of water and the water is not filtered. As a result of that, in 2000 the University of Florida / Miami-Dade County Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program was created to help protect our unique natural



# What's New

## The Florida Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic at TREC

By Aaron Palmateer

Associate Professor and Extension Specialist

Anyone who drives around the Redlands will quickly discover that ornamental plant production in Miami-Dade County is a big business. There are numerous nurseries producing a vast diversity of plants in all shapes, sizes, and colors. The majority of ornamental plants are produced in pots located either in full sun or under shade cloth. Our warm and humid subtropical climate makes it possible for growers to produce ornamental plants outside year round. At the same time, these subtropical conditions are highly favorable for many plant pathogens to persist in the environment. The large amount of propagative plant material being imported from other countries, combined with a very

popular tourism industry and the occasional tropical storm or hurricane all contribute to the potential for exotic pathogen introductions in Florida.

This is why we experience and read about new and economically important plant pathogens being introduced into Florida on a fairly regular basis. In fact, reports indicate that Florida receives on average about 4-5 new pathogens each year. These new pathogen introductions make commercial plant production and maintaining a vibrant and healthy landscape very challenging. Because of the large diversity of plants produced or growing in the landscape, it's highly likely when an exotic pathogen arrives that

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## 4-H'ers Have Summer of Fun While Learning

By Kathie Roberts and Cassandra Weston, 4-H Agents

This has been an extremely busy summer for Miami-Dade County 4-H!

### State Legislature

Our youth started the summer off by participating in the 2011 Florida 4-H Legislature. Eleven Miami-Dade County 4-H'ers participated in the week-long State Mock Legislature ("LEG") session in Tallahassee from June 20-24. This program provides a week of hands-on learning as 4-H'ers serve in the roles of lobbyists, representatives, and senators and learn about our legislative process through research, debate, and passing bills. A total of 162 students attended from around the state and had the privilege of working in House and Senate Committee Rooms and Chambers. Miami-Dade 1<sup>st</sup> year member, Emily Freeman, won the highest award given at congress, the Chris

Allen Award for outstanding lobbyist. Daniel Ledon was also a Chris Allen Award nominee.



4-H'ers stormed the Florida state capital at the annual 4-H Day as they toured and spoke with state officials.

### Summer Camps

Miami-Dade County Youth were provided the opportunity of attending one of three Fishing Clinic Camps held in at Biscayne National Park in

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resources by promoting and teaching to create Florida-Friendly landscapes. Any landscape can be Florida-Friendly if it's designed and maintained to follow the nine Florida-friendly principles.

Nine Florida-friendly Landscaping Principles:

- Right Plant, Right Place
- Water Efficiently
- Fertilize Appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract Wildlife
- Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
- Recycle
- Reduce Storm Water Runoff
- Protect the Waterfront

A Florida-Friendly landscape requires less fertilizers, pesticides and water. The program also honors homeowners' efforts by recognizing specific landscapes as 'Florida-Friendly'. As of today there are 72 properties in Miami-Dade County that are recognized by the program.



Maria Varela's Florida-Friendly Landscape (top); Maria and her gardener show off her Florida-Friendly recognized yard (bottom).  
Photos: L. Vasquez

Each property is evaluated in accordance with the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program's nine principles, including design and maintenance practices. There are

two levels of recognition: the standard, requiring at least 50 points; and the Gold, which requires at least 75 points. Use the [checklist](#) to determine whether your yard qualifies or Call Laura Vasquez at 305.248.3311, ext. 239 or email her at [lavasquez@ufl.edu](mailto:lavasquez@ufl.edu). For information on Florida friendly landscaping, visit the *Florida Yards & Neighborhoods* website at [www.greenyardsmiami.blogspot.com](http://www.greenyardsmiami.blogspot.com).

## Florida Master Naturalist Program in Miami-Dade County

By Lisa Krimsky, Sea Grant Agent

The [Florida Master Naturalist Program](#) (FMNP) is an adult education program developed by the University of Florida (UF) and provided by participating organizations. The mission of the FMNP is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors.

FMNP training will benefit persons interested in learning more about Florida's environment, seeking educational contact hours, or wishing to increase their knowledge for use in education programs as volunteers, employees, and ecotourism guides. The program includes three core modules - Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems and Upland Habitats, as well as four special topic courses in Conservation Science, Environmental Interpretation, Wildlife

Monitoring, and Habitat Evaluation.

Each module is 40 contact hours of classroom learning, field trips, and practical experience. Each module is a stand alone program and graduates are recognized (certificates of achievement, pins) as Coastal, Wetlands, or Upland naturalists. Special recognition for completion of all three programs will include a special Florida Master Naturalist certificate and pin.

Courses in Miami-Dade County are offered at least once a year by a group of trained instructors and guest lecturers. To get on our local email list, please contact [lkrimsky@ufl.edu](mailto:lkrimsky@ufl.edu) for more information.



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it will find a suitable plant host to infect and subsequently cause disease.



Dieback of Eugenia (*Syzygium paniculatum*) at a nursery.  
(left) Photo: Ian Maguire. Bacterial disease on Ficus sp.  
(rubber tree) (right) Photo: E. Vanessa Campoverde

At the same time it's important to note that Miami-Dade County is located in a subtropical climate and many plants grown here originated in tropical climates with different growing conditions (i.e. soil type). This means that these newly introduced plants may be exposed to unfavorable weather conditions such as cold temperatures and unsuitable soil type in the landscape that cause stress. Just like humans, when plants undergo stress, they are predisposed to infection by disease causing organisms. Thus, good horticultural practices and informed decision-making will help to minimize plant diseases and disorders.

From time to time, even the most experienced commercial plant producer and landscaper will be challenged with a disease outbreak or disorder. This is why the [Florida Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic](#) (FEPDC) is an important resource for the agricultural community. The FEPDC, located at the University of Florida's [Tropical Research and Education Center](#), is affiliated with the [Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#) and works closely with County Extension faculty. Our services include analysis of plant material for bacterial, fungal, viral, and nematode pathogens as well as the identification of insect pests. All diagnoses include appropriate control measures when available.

The FEPDC is a member of the [Florida Plant Diagnostic Network](#) (FPDN). This alliance allows the clinic to maintain a strong connection with the other three diagnostic clinics located throughout the state and leading researchers in the field of Plant Pathology. The FEPDC provides accurate plant diagnosis, prompt turn around time, professional services, and up-to-date management recommendations. The Clinic promotes a "Test, Don't Guess" attitude. Knowing the causal agent prior to taking action allows for more efficient use and selection of control methods. Be certain to remember when it comes to chemical control recommendations always read and follow the manufacturer's label.



Dr. Palmateer (right) and Ian Maguire (left) look over a Kentia plant delivered by a local grower.

Photo: Ian Maguire; Adapted by: L. Krimsky

For more information about research that is being conducted on plant diseases and disorders affecting ornamentals in South Florida, be sure to visit [ornamental plant pathology](#). From this website, one can access other extension materials including EDIS publications, disease management recommendations, and our diagnostic clinic [blog](#) that focuses on new diseases affecting the agricultural industry.

*Aaron J. Palmateer, PhD  
Associate Professor and Extension Specialist  
Ornamental Plant Pathology  
Tropical Research & Education Center  
Florida Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic  
University of Florida, IFAS*

# Extension Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2011

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	REGISTRATION
September 17	10:00 AM–1:00 PM	Redesigning Your Landscape	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	<a href="mailto:lavasquez@ufl.edu">lavasquez@ufl.edu</a> or 305-248-3311 ext. 239
September 19	1:30–5:00 PM	Growing and Selling Produce Locally	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	<a href="#">YES</a> \$10 per person
September 21	10:00 AM–Noon	Laurel Wilt Update	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 225
September 21	12:15–12:45 PM	<a href="#">Florida Stone Crab-webinar</a>	Online	Email: <a href="mailto:Fluech@ufl.edu">Fluech@ufl.edu</a>

## OCTOBER 2011

October 4	12:30–5:00 PM	2011 Fall Fumigant Workshop for Vegetable Growers	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 242
October 8	10:00 AM–Noon	Florida-Friendly Plant Selection and Water Conservation	<a href="#">North Dade Regional Library</a>	<a href="mailto:mlshedd@ufl.edu">mlshedd@ufl.edu</a> or 305-248-3311 ext 230
October 9	9:00 AM	Nutrition information at the <a href="#">Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk</a>	<a href="#">Shops at Midtown</a>	No
October 15	10:00 AM–Noon	Rain Barrel & Composting Workshop	<a href="#">North Dade Regional Library</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 242 Deadline: Oct. 13
October 18	9:00 AM–2:30 PM	Food Day in Miami-Dade County	<a href="#">Stephen P. Clark Government Center</a>	No

## NOVEMBER 2011

November 5	10:00 AM–Noon	Rain Barrel & Composting Workshop	<a href="#">Miami Beach Botanical Gardens</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 242 Deadline: Nov. 3
November 9	12:15–12:45 PM	<a href="#">Florida Oysters- webinar</a>	Online	Email: <a href="mailto:Fluech@ufl.edu">Fluech@ufl.edu</a>
November 13	All Day	Nutrition and food demo at the <a href="#">Jamaican Jerk Festival</a>	<a href="#">Markham Park</a>	Ticket Entry \$11 per person

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NOVEMBER 2011				
November 16	8:30 AM–4:00 PM	General Standards/Core Training & Exam	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 242
November 19	10:00 AM–Noon	Redesigning you landscape	<a href="#">South Dade Regional Library</a>	<a href="mailto:lavasquez@ufl.edu">lavasquez@ufl.edu</a> or 305-248-3311 ext 239
DECEMBER 2011				
December 1	8:30 AM–5:00 PM	Ornamental & Turf Training & Exam	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 242
December 6	8:30 AM–5:00 PM	Private Applicator Training & Exam	<a href="#">Homestead Extension Office</a>	305-248-3311 ext. 242

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partnership with the Sea Grant Extension Agent. These camps provided a great afternoon of educational and fishing fun, in a beautiful location. Participants studied marine habitats, knot tying, rigging poles, fishing regulations, tasting seafood and learning about good nutrition.



Youth participating in 4-H summer camps



Entomology and Botany became common place words for many who attended the summer 4-H Plant and Bug day camps. Students were provided experiences in the use of microscopes and got to see plant pollen and bugs, up-close and personal! The attendees visited a bee farm in Homestead where they also saw honey extracted and had the fun of tasting it fresh from the honey comb.

**Congress**

Over 350 Florida 4-H teens arrived in Gainesville July 25–29, for “Lights, Camera, 4-H”: this year’s

theme for Florida 4-H Congress. The 5 day event known as Congress is a culmination of events for Florida’s 4-H youth. Held on the campus of the University of Florida, Congress publicly recognizes the work of 4-H’ers who have been making an impact in their local clubs and communities. Miami-Dade County was well represented with nine participants in this year’s Congress.

**Green is Cool for School**

A back-to school event was hosted on August 13 at the Miami International Mall. During the event, extension staff, volunteers and partners hosted more than 20 interactive demonstrations, displays, and activities. Kids were able to partake in hands-on crafts including butterfly magnets, seed necklaces, and pinwheels and activities such as a puppet show for children that demonstrated the value of seatbelts and hand washing.



4-H’ers participate in healthy nutrition skit.

Photo: Lynette Herbert

We are so proud of all the hard work that our members and volunteers did this summer and we are looking forward to new and exciting years to come!!

**ADMINISTRATION:**

[Teresa Olczyk, M.S.](#)

County Extension Director

**HORTICULTURE:**

[Adrian Hunsberger, M.S.](#)

Urban Horticulture

[Dr. John McLaughlin](#)

Urban Horticulture Program Assistant

**COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE & LANDSCAPES:**

[Dr. Mary Lamberts](#)

Commercial Vegetable & Pesticide Trainer

[Henrique Mayer, M.S.](#)

Commercial Urban Horticulture

[E. Vanessa Campoverde, M.S.](#)

Commercial Ag/Ornamentals

**FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS (FYN):**

[Jesus Lomeli](#)

Urban Conservation Unit Program Assistant

[Barbara McAdam](#)

FYN Program Assistant

[Mary McCready, M.S.](#)

FYN- Urban Conservation Unit

[Laura Vasquez](#)

FYN Coordinator

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FCS), FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAMS (FNP) AND EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAM (EFNEP):**

[Sandra Canales, M.S.](#)

EFNEP

[Monica Dawkins, M.S.](#)

EFNEP/FNP

[Jacquelyn Gibson, M.S.](#)

FCS- Food, Nutrition & Family Finance

**4-H:**

[Kathie Roberts, M.S.](#)

Youth Development

[Cassandra Weston](#)

Youth Development

**SEA GRANT:**

[Dr. Lisa Krinsky](#)

Sea Grant/Marine

## What is Cooperative Extension?

The **County Extension Service** is the liaison between research conducted at the University of Florida and other universities and end users in Miami-Dade County. Our clientele includes growers (agricultural and horticultural), homeowners, youth, people interested in family issues or food and nutrition, and marine industries.

The **University of Florida / Miami-Dade County Extension** receives direct funding from the [University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(IFAS\)](#) and [Miami-Dade County's Consumer Services Department](#). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the third partner in this cooperative agreement. The Miami-Dade County offices are part of a nationwide system of information, outreach, and education offered by county governments and land-grant educational institutions in each state.

## Contact Us:

**ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE ,  
HORTICULTURE, AND FYN**

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Homestead, FL 33030

Phone: 305-248-3311, Fax: 305-246-2932

**FCS, FNP & EFNEP**

300 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 113

Hialeah, FL 33010

Phone: 305-888-5010, Fax: 305-887-0411

**4-H**

Miami International Mall

1445 NW 107 Ave, Suite 906

Miami, FL 33172

Phone: 305-592-8044, Fax: 305-592-8315

**SEA GRANT**

4600 Rickenbacker Causeway

Miami, FL 33149

Phone: 305-421-4017, Fax: 305-421-4674

**Visit Us:** <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu>