



Newsletter January 2024



Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Camden Co. UGA Extension Lunch and Learn Zoom Series. To get the registration link go to uge3039@uga.edu . Thurs. Jan. 11, **“Common House Plant Problems”**, Thurs. Feb. 1, **“Building Soil Health”**. Noon-1pm.

Wild Amelia Wild Nite – Tues., Jan. 9, 7pm. **“Tree Ordinance and Heritage Tree Program”**. Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Nassau extension – Register at UF/Ifas extension website. **Weds Jan 10, 10-11am.** **“Old World Roses”**. In person at Fernandina library, 25 N. 4th St. or Zoom.

Announcements

Sat. Jan 27 (tentative date), 1pm. – **Orange Hall Cleanup.** Get the vines and weeds off the azaleas so their blooms can show up in March. Bring clippers, loppers, rakes, old sheets to carry things on, something to sit or kneel on, water, bug spray. Be there or be square!

Garden to-dos for January

Plant flowers such as carnations, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, dianthus, foxglove. Vegetables - peas, beets, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, radishes, turnips, and cauliflower can be planted, as well as fennel, garlic, borage, lavender, parsley, rosemary, and thyme. Don't fertilize flowers this month. Plants need less water in winter, but if a hard freeze is predicted watering 24-48 hours in advance will help protect your at risk plants, especially citrus. Don't do any major pruning, especially on flowering trees, but you can prune dead limbs, suckers, and crisscrossing branches. You can also transplant dormant plants, but be sure to water.

If you had a real Christmas tree, use it in the garden. Sink the trunk into the ground. The birds will enjoy using it for cover and in the spring you can use it as a support for vines such as morning glory, moonflower, and cypress vine. Or peas and cucumbers. Protect plants that are marginally hardy with mulch, sheets, or even cardboard stapled around the trunks of grafted trees to prevent dieback. Even just putting them on the porch will help. Spanish moss is a great (and free) insulator. You can use Christmas lights under a cover to help keep very delicate plants warm.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Time for those new year resolutions—

- Keep a garden notebook with ideas, plans for later in the year, info and tips from your friends, and locations of plants.
- Clean those tools and treat them right. Organize your fertilizers and supplies. Get rid of what you don't use.
- Improve your soil. Use leaves, grass clippings, newspapers, and even weeds as mulch.
- Keep a messier garden to benefit pollinators and birds and animals. Reduce lawn area.
- Carry clippers to deadhead when checking out your plants.
- Fertilize more often (unless you are already fertilizing enough).
- Add a few vegetables here and there among the flowers.
- Try something new. I am buying some miniature African violets and a trailing one.
- Plant more natives.
- Add a bee or bat house and a water feature for frogs and birds if you can.
- Build a rain barrel.
- Be more ruthless when something doesn't work out. French Foreign Legion – **“March or Die!”**
- And most important – spend more time just enjoying your garden!

Happy New Year from the Maven!

Plant Hero of the Month: Camellia time!!!