



Newsletter
July 2023



Dates and Events --

Nassau County Extension events – in person or online -- register at <https://bit.ly/NassauHorticulture> :

Weds. July 12, 10-11 am – “Slugs, Bugs, and other Thugs”. 85831 Miner Rd., Yulee or online.

Weds. July 26, 3:30-5 pm – Florida Friendly Landscape Crash Course – Myths. 85831 Miner Rd. or online.

Camden County Extension events – register on Camden County Extension Website:

July 10-13, 8am-5pm. *Pollinator Steward Program*. \$80 for 4 day course. Glynn County Extension office, 325 Old Jesup Rd., Brunswick.

Thurs. August 10, 12-1pm. Fall Gardening Lunch and Learn. Online.

Thurs. Sept. 7, 12-1pm. True Value of Oaks Lunch and Learn. Online.

Aug. 1-Aug. 15. Coastal Wildscapes field trip ***“Kite Feeding Aggregation”*** lots of driving and watching birds from road shoulders. Register on Coastal Wildscapes website. \$10 non member.

Announcements

Bring your Christmas in July donations to Camden House and the food bank to the July meeting.

Garden to-dos for July

Keep flowers watered, deadheaded, and clipped back or pinched back when they need it. If you can reach them, clip off the seed heads on your crape myrtles to encourage bloom through September. Make sure your plants are mulched to keep the soil temperature cooler. Water containers every day if there is no rain.

Plant annuals such as celosia, coleus, crossandra, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental peppers, portulaca, torenia, salvia. Also plant lima beans, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, peppers, and watermelon.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I have some summer blooming bushes and would like to know about deadheading and if it will help them increase their bloom. I have hydrangea, Esperanza, and duranta.

Bloom Fan

Dear Bloom Fan

Cut the seed pods off the Esperanza to get more bloom. You can snip the duranta flowers at the base before they set seed, but don’t deadhead them if you want the golden berries in the fall (they are poisonous, but are pretty and the birds eat them.) You can remove the faded and wilted flowers from hydrangeas. Cut them back just above the first set of healthy leaves. In August and afterwards, make sure you cut above any buds. Stop deadheading in mid fall.

Some plants are self-cleaning and don’t need deadheading – vincas, New Guinea impatiens, begonias, Angelonia, nemesia. Don’t deadhead if the plant produces attractive pods or seedheads or if you want the plants to reseed themselves. Some plants attract birds with their seed heads (coneflowers and black eyed susan), so deadheading will deprive the birds of some free birdseed.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Esperanza, duranta, passionflowers and almost everything else is blooming.