

Horticulture News

Transplanting Established Trees

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Planning and preparation are the keys to successfully transplanting established trees from one area of your property to another.

Transplanting should take place during the dormant season (December through March), if possible. To determine the required size of the root ball, measure the stem caliper (stem diameter six inches above the ground). The root ball to be transplanted should be 10 to 12 inches for each inch of stem caliper. For example, if the stem caliper is 3 inches, then the root ball should be 30 to 36 inches in diameter.

To prepare the tree for transplanting, insert a sharp spade to prune the roots around the root ball of the plant to be moved. Prune 8 to 12 inches deep, three to six months before transplanting. New roots will form from the severed roots. When it is time to transplant, dig 4 to 6 inches outside the original root pruning cut to capture the maximum number of new roots.

If soil moisture is low, water the plant a few days prior to transplanting to keep the soil in the root ball from crumbling. The root ball should be about 1/2 to 2/3 as deep as the diameter. Dig carefully and completely around the root ball to keep the root ball intact. Place a large piece of burlap on the ground and gently roll the ball onto the burlap. The burlap should cover the entire root ball.

Firmly wrap the burlap and tie it around the root ball. Keep the soil and roots together as much as possible to minimize damage to the root system during the move. Root balls on larger plants could weigh several hundred pounds. In extreme cases, a tree dolly or heavy machinery may be required. Never lift the plant by the stem. Always lift from under the root ball.

Transplant the tree or shrub into a new hole using established planting recommendations. Do not plant too deep. The top of

the root ball should be at or slightly aboveground level. Refill the hole with original soil. Firm the soil and water thoroughly.

Mulch with 2 to 3 inches of organic material. Do not use fast-release or high-nitrogen fertilizer at time of planting.

Adequate soil moisture is critical for several months after transplanting. Water when necessary, but do not over water. Water slowly to allow water to infiltrate and soak the ground thoroughly. Water once a week during drought periods, enough to have the soil damp to a depth of two feet. Soil moisture can easily be checked by using a spade to open the ground for inspection.

Watch for signs of stress, such as wilting leaves, leaf scorch, discoloration of foliage and stunted growth.

Transplant existing plants only to similar environments. Homeowners often are disappointed when transplanting native plants from the woods be-

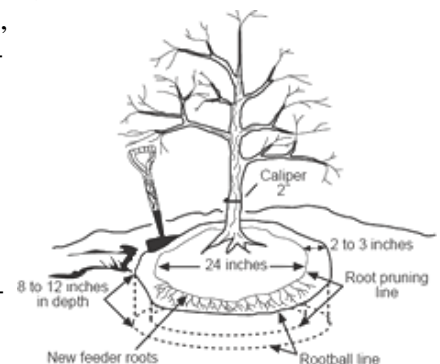
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cause the plants perform poorly or die. Make sure that environmental factors such as light, soil moisture and soil type are similar between the two sites.

Plants that are growing in the shade usually have a difficult time adjusting to full sunlight.

Be patient with your transplanted tree or shrub. Often, you will not see vigorous growth within the first 12 months after transplanting. Usually it takes a few years for trees to become established in your landscape.





Program Announcements

Neighborhood Stormwater/ Landscape Program

Provide your neighborhood with information about proper landscape and pond maintenance practices that will protect Florida's natural waterways.

St. John's River Water Management/WAVE Representative Paula Staples and Rebecca L. Jordi, University of Florida/IFAS Horticulture Extension Agent will come for a free consultation.

This program must have a minimum of ten (10) participants.

Troubleshooting Florida Landscapes

Do you and your neighbors need a personal consultation on how to solve landscape problems? Are you concerned about your trees, shrubs, or lawn-grass thriving?

Rebecca L. Jordi, University of Florida/IFAS Horticulture Extension Agent and Nassau County Master Gardener Volunteers will come for a free group consultation.

This program must have a minimum of ten (10) participants.

Landscape Matters

January 18th, 2006
Wednesday 10 - 11AM

Citrus
Free Citrus Fertilizer!
Rebecca Jordi
Horticulture Agent II

February 15, 2006
Wednesday 10 - 11AM

Roses
Master Gardener
Paul Gosnell

New Location!
Yulee Satellite Office
North Corridor
Conference Room A
96135 Nassau Place
Nassau County Govt.
Complex

In 1945 the Florida Legislature designated the third Friday in January as State Arbor Day. This year it will be celebrated January 20th by schools and civic organizations with tree plantings and other activities. Check your local paper for announcements.

These programs are free to the public, so please call us at **904-879-1019** or e-mail rljordi@ifas.ufl.edu if you plan to attend. If response is too small, the program will be canceled.

Walter's Viburnum / *Viburnum obovatum*

Selecting as a Florida Plant of the Year by the Florida Native Grower's Association, Walter's viburnum continues to demonstrate its adaptability and usefulness in the landscape.

Native to the wetlands of Florida, preferring moist soil and partial shade, it can readily adapt to drier

soils and full sun, where it takes on a dense and rounded shape.

Also known by the name, Florida snowball, it produces tiny clusters of white tubular flowers in the spring. These flowers are great for attracting insects which provide a feast for migrating birds and butterflies. The clusters of blue

black berries which follow in the summer are enjoyed by a variety of birds who also use the shrub for nesting.

The plant's mature size is 12-15 feet high and 6-10 feet wide. It can be trimmed as a topiary, espalier, hedge or screen. It has proven itself in parking lots, roadsides, and medians. It also provides a first rate thicket for wildlife.



Monthly “To Do” List for January

Flowers: Annuals to plant are carnations, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, delphiniums, larkspur, dianthus, and foxgloves. Be ready to move less hardy bulbs inside. Most others, like ginger and amaryllis may have their foliage damaged during severe cold, but can be left in the ground and be expected to survive. Remove any diseased bulbs. Tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils can be planted now if you refrigerated them for 8 weeks to meet their chilling requirements.

Herbs: Anise, borage, chives, chervil, coriander, fennel, garlic, lavender, marjoram, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage, sesame, sweet marjoram, and thyme can be planted now.

Lawns: This is the fertilize free month. Check the soil to determine water needs. When the grass blades fold it's time to water. As a rule, water once every 10-14 days in the winter. If mowing, keep your mower height at the highest level.

Perennials: Water when surface soil is dry to the touch, make sure you have 2-3 inches of mulch around the roots, and water during the morning hours only. Outdoor plants require less water in the winter months. Roses should be pruned once each year during December or January in north Florida.

Trees: Remove dead limbs, trim off suckers, lanky growth, and crisscrossing limbs; remove old seedpods. Don't perform major pruning on any tree this month, especially flowering trees that produce their blooms during the spring months.

Vegetables: English peas, beets, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage, celery, carrots, bunching onions, radishes, turnips, and cauliflower can be planted now.

Monthly “To Do” List for February

Flowers: Remove all dead plant portions of annuals. Baby's' breath, calendulas, carnations, dianthus, dusty miller, Marguerite daisies, pansies, petunias, and snapdragons can be planted this month. Prune out declining foliage of bulbs as needed. Examine bulbs with necks out of the ground that may have been damaged by winter freezing. If aphids are detected, use insecticide soap.

Lawns: Cut St. Augustine lawns as needed; keep the mowing height highest level for your grass variety. Cutting grass too short encourages insects damage and disease. No fertilizer this month.

Perennials: Do not be in a big rush to prune out the dead or declining portions, as some cold may linger until March. Leaving dead portions on may provide some protection in case another freeze occurs. Prune ornamental grasses. Remove all brown cut stems to 6-12 inches above ground. Feed!

Trees: Existing well-established trees and palms do not normally need special watering - the nearby irrigation of lawns, shrubs, and flower beds normally supply adequate moisture. Some exceptions may be dogwoods or red maples. Growing grass under trees is difficult, consider using shade loving plants instead.

Vegetables: This month plant collards, lettuce, endive, potatoes, and turnips. Before you start your garden, have the soil tested. The University of Florida will do a full nutrient test for only \$7. Come by the office to pick up a soil kit or call us at 904 879-1019 for more information.



Selected from *Florida Vegetable Guide* by JM Stephens, RA Dunn, G Kidder, D Short, & GW Simone, University of Florida and *Month-by-Month Gardening in Florida* by Tom MacCubbin

If you would like to receive this newsletter in color via e-mail, contact Rebecca Jordi at the above e-mail address.

We are on the web!
<http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu>

Nassau County is proud to provide you with this information. Horticulture News is a joint project with contributions by county 'agents and Master Gardener Volunteers
Sincerely,



Rebecca L. Jordi,
Horticulture Agent II



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Sage / *Salvia officinalis*

Sage is a medium sized hardy perennial herb. Blue, purple, white or red flower spikes appear in mid to late summer. Flavored sages, like pineapple sage, can stand in for regular sage in any food.

Cultivation

In Florida, sage may be started in the fall through spring (October–April) using seeds or cuttings. Young plants may be transplanted when small. The drier the picked sage, the better for cooking! This perennial plant loves lots of

sun in soil that drains well. Sage doesn't want too much water, because it begins to have mildew problems.

The plants eventually become woody and should be renewed every 3 to 4 years. You'll want to pick the leaves before or at blooming, which usually occurs in midsummer. Then cut back the stems after your sage blooms.

Culinary Uses

In America, sage is the main flavoring for breakfast sausage and traditional turkey stuffing. In England, sage is associated with pork, goose

and duck. Italians use sage to flavor polenta and pasta. Fresh sage is used whole and minced in cooking. Sage is good with apples, celery, dried beans, cheese, onions and tomatoes. Unlike most other herbs, the flavor of the sage leaves intensifies as they dry. Fresh sage will keep for 2 weeks in the refrigerator.

Other Uses

It was believed that sage stimulated the brain, therefore, increasing powers of concentration, memory and reasoning. From this, the word "sage" took on another meaning – wise person.

