Bamboos are members of the grass family (Gramineae) and are classified into two main categories: clumping and running. Clumping varieties do not run in all directions but form a tight beautiful clump.

Originating in the Yangtze Valley of China, the Alphonse Karr bamboo is a medium-sized clumping variety, as its culms (stems) grow in a compact, symmetrical circle, because of its short, closely spaced rhizomes. The culms of the Alphonse Karr bamboo are not green, but yellow with a bright stripe of green down the middle. Young shoots emerging from the ground are tinged with pink.

Alphonse Karr bamboo is possibly the best clumping bamboo for a tall hedge or barrier planting. It responds well to pruning and at a height of 20-35 feet is suitable for many urban landscapes as either a privacy screen or feature plant. It also makes a wonderful container plant for a well lit area, and the stems are suitable as line items in floral arrangements.

Hardy to -5° and easy to grow, green stems of these bamboos may reach 25 feet in dry conditions with little feeding and where rhizomes are contained. Drought tolerant once established, it can survive almost any condition, even high winds and sea salt. With water, fertilizer and no control, the plant may reach 55 feet.

Space plants about 8 feet apart for dense coverage. Feed heavily in spring when new stems start to form. Propagate by division in May or early June, or cut the rooted base of a clump of stems and plant it in rich soil. Control fungal and bacterial leaf spots by spraying. Watch for aphids, cottony scales and bamboo borer.
Troubleshooting and Neighborhood Stormwater/Landscape Program

The Nassau County Watershed Action Volunteer Program and Nassau County Extension are teaming up to offer a free program on Florida waterwise landscaping and stormwater pond maintenance on July 13 at 6:30PM at the James S. Page Governmental Complex, Conference Room A, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee. The session will be led by Rebecca Jordi, UF/IFAS Horticulture Agent III and Paula Staples, Nassau County Watershed Action volunteer coordinator.

Landscape Matters

There are no Landscape Matters programs in July and August.

Master Gardener Applications

People interested in the Master Gardener volunteer program may pick up an application at the Yulee Extension Office (call first to be sure someone is at the office) or complete the application online. The fee for the Master Gardener training program is $85. Training is August through October, every Wednesday 9:30AM-3:30PM. Sessions alternate between Duval and Nassau counties. Applications are due by July 10. Additional information, including an application, is available at http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/mgnassau.html.

Spotlight on Nassau Gardens

June Winner - Ben Pennington

The June selection for Spotlight on Nassau Gardens is one of Ben Pennington’s lovely citrus trees. Mr. Pennington has approximately 10 citrus trees, the one pictured being a satsuma orange. He also has tangelo, ruby red grapefruit, dancy tangerine, marsh grapefruit and temple oranges.

View more photos online at http://nassau.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/spotlight/spotlight.html. To be considered for Spotlight on Nassau Gardens, send a digital photo, with a description of your garden, along with your name, address and phone number to atwoodca@bellsouth.net. For more information contact Rebecca Jordi at 548-1116.

Weed Watch - Yellow Nutsedge

Yellow nutsedge is a perennial weed with triangular stems topped by clusters of yellow-flowering spikes. Although yellow nutsedge does grow from seed, its corms or nutlets are the plant parts that reproduce most quickly. Each plant sends out underground runners which produce nutlet clusters. When the clusters are ready to grow on their own, the parent plant disconnects. When mature plants are pulled, the nutlets stay behind. This weed adores full sun, especially in wet or compacted soil. It hosts a bacteria which destroys oil borne nitrogen and therefore is damaging to crops. To control, dig in early summer before new nutlets form.
**July Checklist**

**Bulbs:** Separate bulbs and give away to friends. Bulbs planted too deeply need to be removed. Transplant bulbs if the area is receiving too much water.

**Lawns:** Add iron sulfate to green up lawn but avoid nitrogen fertilization this month. “Take-all-root-rot” will be in full force during the summer - be sure to avoid over watering and over fertilizing.

**Perennials:** Cut off old flower heads, prune off dead or insect infested areas, and pinch off tips of stems to encourage denser growth.

**Trees:** Remove crape myrtle seed heads to encourage blooming through September. Remove old flower and seed stalks. Fertilize palms and fruit trees. Fertilize palm and fruit trees if it was not done in June.

**Vegetables:** It’s too hot to be planting anything now. However, this is a good month to solarize your fall garden. Till your plot, moisten the soil, cover the ground with clear plastic. Place heavy objects around the edges to keep the plastic from blowing away. Let the sun bake your soil. It will help control fungi and nematodes. After 30 days till soil, replace the plastic and bake another few weeks. Plant your August or September garden.

**August Checklist**

**Flowers:** Plant asters, balsam, begonias, black-eyed Susan, blue daze, cats whiskers, coleus, cosmos, cockscombs, dianthus, forget-me-not, gaillardia, golden globe impatiens, marigolds, melampodium, moon vine, pentas, periwinkles, petunias, phlox, porterweed, portulaca, purslane, salvia, scabiosa, strawflowers, sunflowers, tithonias, torenia, verbena, and zinnias.

**Bulbs:** Plant African Iris, agapanthus, amaryllis, cannas, crinums, daylilies, gladioli, gloriosa lilies, society garlic, and rain lilies (Zephyranthes).

**Lawns:** There is still time for lawns to become established if seeded in the summer. However, do not wait too long as establishment and growth slow down in the fall. Select good quality seed such as Argentine Bahia, common bermudagrass or centipede. Initially the seeds to need stay moistened but once they have germinated irrigation can be reduced. These grasses do well without heavy irrigation and high nitrogen fertilizers. They turn brown earlier than St. Augustinegrass in the winter.

**Perennials:** Start salvia, violets, ruellia, lion’s ear, gerbera daisy, butterfly weed, and blanket flower from saved seeds. Let seeds dry on the plants. When pods open, dry seeds inside on screen or cheesecloth. Put into a plastic bag or a jar and label. Keep the seeds in the vegetable section of the refrigerator. Use within one year. Do not store in the freezer!

**Trees:** Cut back unwanted limbs to a branch angle or the trunk. Remove only palm fronds that are totally brown. Seed stalks can be removed prior to formation of fruit. Do not apply paints or coverings to wounds. Remove old seedheads from crape myrtle trees to encourage additional blooms.

**Vegetables:** August plantings are especially important for corn, eggplant, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, and watermelons. Beware of cutworms.
Prothonotary warblers, *Protonotaria citrea*, are also known as golden swamp warblers because of their color and preference for wooded swamps, flooded bottomland forests, and streams with dead trees.

This colorful warbler acquired its current name from 18th century Louisiana Creoles who thought the bird’s plumage resembled the golden robes of the protonotarius, a Catholic church official who advised the Pope.

These birds arrive in South Florida in April and move north to Minnesota, Michigan, and New York during the summer. Winters are spent in the mangrove forests of Central and South America.

The Prothonotary Warbler is one of only two warbler species that breed in holes. (Lucy’s Warbler is the other.)

Breeding populations are highly localized because of extreme habitat specificity, and are vulnerable to habitat destruction. They are considered an endangered species in Canada.