September Gardening Guide 2010
By Patricia Porchey

Q: The summer rains have made everything in my yard “grow like weeds” and the weeds are everywhere – in my beds and lawn. What can I do to stop the weeds?
A: There are selective and non-selective herbicides to kill weeds. The selective product will control those weeds listed on the label as well as some not listed. These products can safely be used only in those areas listed on the label. Products listed for weed control in Bahia grass are not always listed for use on St. Augustine grass and vice versa. A weed such as Bermuda grass in a St. Augustine bed is not really a “weed,” but another type of turf grass. Therefore, there is no selective herbicide that kills one turf grass without harming the other.

For weeds in beds, there are some selective herbicides that are tolerated by ornamentals and can be used without causing harm to some shrubs and groundcovers. Read the label for a list of tolerant plants. Sometimes there is a cautionary warning on the label for a maximum temperature when the product can be applied; oftentimes, this is eighty-five degrees.

Non-selective herbicides kill or damage whatever plants they touch so must be used with care. These products can unintentionally harm plants when used when wind causes them to drift. Also, they should not be used when rain is in the immediate forecast. One should always read the label thoroughly before applying any herbicide.

Q: I’ve just moved here and I want to plant a vegetable garden; however, there’s no soil, just sand. What can I do besides grow vegetables in containers?
A. Our native soil is predominantly sand, but oftentimes, clay fill soil has been brought into new developments. The sandy soil is good for drainage, but it doesn’t hold moisture and nutrients. For best results, organic amendments such as composted manure, humus, peat or cover crops are commonly added to improve the soil texture.

Making your own compost is a great way to recycle your kitchen scraps and clippings and reduce trash going to the landfill. This is an excellent source of organic materials to improve your sandy soil. To learn how you can do this yourself, attend one of the organic classes at the community gardens listed below. Information is also available from Florida’s On-line Composting Center [http://www.compostinfo.com/].

Timely reminder: The Master Gardener plant sale is at Bee Ridge Park, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on October 9.

PLANTING GUIDE
Vegetables & Herbs: Basil, beans, Borage, broccoli, cabbage, celery, chervil, collards, coriander, corn, cucumber, cumin, eggplant, fennel, leek, lettuce, marjoram, mint, mustard, onions, peas, pepper, radish, rosemary, sage, squash (summer & winter), thyme, tomato, and watermelon.
**Annuals:** Ageratum, Alyssum, Begonia, calendula, Celosia, Coleus, Cosmos, dusty miller, marigold, Melampodium, periwinkle, Portulaca, Salvia, and Zinnia.

**Perennials:** African iris, Amaryllis, beach buttercup, blue daze, bush daisy, calla lily, cigar plant, Coreopsis, elephant ears, Gaillardia, Gerbera daisy, gloriosa lily, goldenrod, iris, Kalanchoe, Liatris, Mexican petunia, milkweed, Pentas, Salvia, society garlic, Verbena, whirling butterflies.

**Fruits in Season:** Atemoya, avocado, banana, carambola, citrus (calamondin, lemon, and lime), fig, guava, kumquat, monstera, muscadine grape, papaya, pomegranate, sea grape, and sugar apple.

**Blooming plants:** Allamanda, bird-of-paradise, bottlebrush, Cassia, Cordia, crape myrtle, dwarf Poinciana, false dragonhead, firespike, golden raintree, Lantana, marlberry, red and yellow shrimp plants, rouge plant, Plumbago, rose, Salvia, thryallis and Tibouchina.

**Upcoming educational classes:**
Call 861-9900 to register for the following classes.
- Rodent & Mole Management, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. September 7
- Trees & Shrubs for Sarasota, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. September 8
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Creating Your Florida Yard, Longwood Park, 10:30 a.m. September 11
- Household Pests, Shamrock Park, 2:00 p.m. September 16
- Rain Barrel Workshop, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. September 18
- Organic Vegetable Gardening, Laurel Park Community Garden, 10:30 a.m. September 18
- Growing Citrus in the Home Landscape, Twin Lakes Park, 10:00 a.m. September 22
- Insect Pests of Woody Plants, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. September 22
- Florida Yards & Neighborhoods: Creating Your Florida Yard, Twin Lakes Park, 4:00 p.m. September 22
- The Bed Bug Menace, Twin Lakes Park, 1:00 p.m. September 29
- Organic Vegetable Gardening, Orange Blossom Community Garden, 18th & Orange, 1:00 p.m. October 2

**For information**
The **Master Gardener Help Desk** now has an email address: mghelpdesk@scgov.net to answer questions. It is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. You can call (941-861-9807) or visit our office at Twin Lakes Park on Clark Road east of I-75 with landscape questions. We also have weekly satellite help desks at the four south county libraries and every Monday at Gulf Gate Library.

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