

Master Gardener plant sale and plant clinic

The Okaloosa County Master Gardeners will hold their Plant Sale Saturday, April 18 from 8:00 am to noon at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds in Fort Walton Beach.

They will have annuals, perennials, houseplants, native plants, trees, wildflowers, tropical plants, bulbs, herbs and more.

Okaloosa County Master Gardeners will use the proceeds from this sale to develop and carryout educational programs and activities as part of their efforts to provide University of Florida research based information to the citizens of Okaloosa County in the area of environmental horticulture.

Parking is good. The sale will happen rain or shine because it will be inside. The Master Gardeners will help answer your gardening questions and will even load your vehicle with all the plants you buy. You can't beat that. So mark your calendar for April 18, come to the plant sale, support the Master Gardeners and buy some new plants for your landscape.

The Northwest Florida Fairgrounds is located at 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard in Fort Walton Beach.

April Plant Clinic

The April plant clinic will be held Wednesday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fort Walton Beach at the Okaloosa County Extension building, 127 W. Hollywood Blvd.

The plant clinic is an event for people to bring in samples of plants for diagnosis, including weeds for identification. If you have a plant problem that you would like diagnosed, bring a fresh sample of the weed, plant, insect, etc., to the clinic. This may include a plant stem with several leaves, a 4-inch square of grass with roots attached, etc. You may also bring a sample of your soil for pH testing.

Here's how to collect the sample.

Collect a composite soil sample by removing subsamples from ten to fifteen small holes dug throughout the sample area (e.g. the front yard). To obtain the subsamples, carefully pull back mulch, grass or ground covers to expose bare soil. With a hand trowel or shovel, dig small holes 6 inches deep and then remove a one inch thick by six inch deep slice of soil. Combine and mix the subsamples in a clean plastic bucket. Place about two cups of this mixture in a plastic bag or small throwaway plastic container. Close the container. Make sure to attach a slip of paper with your name, phone number and where the sample was taken (e.g. lawn, vegetable garden, flowerbed, etc.).

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, April 8, 2009

