

Plant Clinic and Fall Home & Garden Expo

Plant Clinic: A plant clinic will be held Wednesday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. in Fort Walton Beach at the Okaloosa County Extension Service building, 127 W. Hollywood Blvd.

The plant clinic is designed to provide a place and time 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 sample of the weed, plant, insect, etc., to the clinic. Be sure to bring a fresh sample that represents what is seen in the landscape. 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 10 to 15 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 1-inch thick by 6-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. If the soil is wet, let it air dry by spreading it out on newspaper before putting it in 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.).

2010 Fall Home & Garden Expo: This will be the inaugural fall home & garden expo brought to you by the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa & Walton Counties and the Okaloosa County Master Gardeners Association. This event will take place October 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Crestview Community Center, 1446 Commerce Drive in Crestview. Master Gardeners will provide indoor and outdoor educational booths as well as landscape seminars. I will provide a seminar titled, "Fall: Florida's Best Gardening Season." Tickets purchased in advance will be \$4 and can be purchased at all Eglin Federal Credit Union Branch Locations. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$5 per person with children 12 and under getting in free. The Home & Garden Expo will feature indoor and outdoor exhibits of products and services and educational seminars for the homeowner and gardener. There will be food vendors as well as children's activities.

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa County, September 16, 2010