Upcoming horticulture events

Gulf Coast Garden & Landscape Expo

The first Gulf Coast Garden & Landscape Expo is scheduled for March 11 at the UF/PJC Milton Campus. This event includes tours of the gardens and lectures on gardening topics. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with tours and lectures being conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tour highlights include flower and vegetable gardens, new exciting plants, lawngrasses, butterfly gardens and even a tour on hurricanes and landscape plants.

Ongoing lectures provided by University of Florida researchers and Extension Agents will include topics on home lawns, ornamentals, fruits and vegetables. Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS Turfgrass Scientist, will discuss what’s new in the area of lawngrasses for Florida. Dr. Barry Brecke, UF/IFAS Weed Scientists, will cover weed control in the landscape. Dr. Laurie Trenholm, UF/IFAS Turfgrass Scientist, will talk about lawn maintenance myths. Drs. Jamie Gibson and Mack Thetford, UF/IFAS Horticulturists, will cover new plants for the Florida landscape.

UF/IFAS Extension Agents from Northwest Florida will provide lectures on various lawn, landscape and garden topics, as well. Find out about new fruit crops that you can grow in your landscape, the fact and fiction of fertilizing your lawn and how to control those weeds you’re growing. We’ll even provide talks on how to control pests in your lawn, landscape and garden.

So whether you’re interested in lawns, landscape plants, fruit crops or vegetable gardening, come join us for the Gulf Coast Garden & Landscape Expo.

If you plan to attend, please register online at http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/center/events.htm or by calling (850) 983-5216 extension 113. The cost to attend is $10, which is payable at the Expo.

The UF/PJC Campus is located at 5988 Highway 90 on the west side of Milton.

Plant Clinic

The first plant clinic for 2006 will be held Tuesday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to noon in Fort Walton Beach at the Okaloosa County Extension building, 127 W. Hollywood Blvd.

The plant clinic is not a lecture. It 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.

For instructions on collecting the soil sample, call the Okaloosa County Extension Office at 689-5850 or 729-1400 extension 5850.

Larry Williams
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