

Useful Websites!

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site has information on the Brevard County Extension office. All program areas have information posted along with a calendar of classes, and other info.

<http://search.ufl.edu/web?site=edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site has all of the bulletins written by specialists from the University of Florida. Just type in a keyword or topic in the search window and then just click the search button.

<http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site is the Entomology and Nematology Departments site so this has information on insects, spiders, etc. Pictures are included.

<http://www.gardensalive.com/> This is The Gardens-Alive site. They sell natural products for the lawn, vegetable garden and pets!

<http://www.groworganic.com/>

This is the site for Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply. They sell organic gardening supplies, seeds, etc. This site has great info. on cover crops and they sell the seeds.

<http://www.centrsan.org/education/ipm/hgonlineguide.html>

A California based organization. This is a very user-friendly website that is light on the scientific jargon and heavy on practicality.

Brevard County Master Gardener Clinics

(held throughout the county throughout most of the year but many close down during the summer months and around Christmas – please call to confirm.)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Central Brev. Libr (633-1792)	Sunday	1-3 pm
Merritt Isl. Libr. (455-1369)	Tues.	1-3 pm
North Brev. Libr. (264-5026)	Tues.	10 – Noon
Palm Bay Ext. (952-4536)	Tues. Thurs.	9 am-Noon 1-3 pm
Satellite Bch Libr. (779-4004)	Wed.	10 am-Noon
Front. Str. C.C. (674-5722)	Thurs.	10 am-Noon
Patrick AFB BX lobby (799-1300 ext. 124)	Friday	10 am-Noon
Eau Gallie Libr. (255-4304)	Friday	2-4 pm



University of Florida/ Brevard County Extension



Organic Vegetable Gardening Tips For Florida

Two Office Locations:

3695 Lake Drive 1455 Treeland Blvd. SE
Cocoa, FL 32926 Palm Bay, FL 32909
(321) 633-1702 (321) 952-4536

FS 6105 HORT

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Remember - It's

Different Here!

- * Before planting vegetable plants amend the soil. Add organic matter like compost, manures, coffee grounds etc. to the sandy soil. Continue to do this once or twice a year.
- * Healthy soil=Healthy plants=Healthy people

General Tips!

When planting vegetable plants remember:

- Vegetables that produce a fruit like tomato, cucumber, green pepper, etc. need a location that receives full sun (a min. of 6 hrs of direct sunlight a day.) Plants that produce leaves like lettuce can handle partial sun/shade which is morning or afternoon sun that does not reach 6 hours total per day.
- Plant the vegetable plants or seeds during the correct time of the year . Refer to the Florida Veg. Gardening for this information.

Watering

- Water deeply but infrequently!
- It is best to water early in the morning so the leaves dry off quickly.

Fertilizing

- Organic fertilizers are plant, animal or mineral based. They are also generally slow release and can't burn the plants.
- BROADCAST the fertilizer over the ground at the base of plants (but not too close to the stem.)

- When growing vegetables that produce a fruit like tomatoes, green peppers and cucumber use a fertilizer that is NOT high in **nitrogen** which is the first number in the analysis. (Ex. 4-8-8) The first number should be lower than the second number.
- Vegetables like lettuce, corn and spinach can be fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer.
- Liquid seaweed (ex. Maxicrop) makes a great foliar spray for plants that produce food or are under stress like drought, flood or cold. Spray both sides of the leaves until they drip weekly for vegetable plants and monthly for fruit bearing trees, etc.

Insect Control

- Insecticidal soap. (Before spraying either the soap or oil make sure that the plant has been watered well.)
- Ultra-fine Horticultural Oil.
- To control caterpillars use Bt. Spray Thuricide late in the day because Bt is broken down by sunlight & heat.
- Mechanical Controls such as Agrofabric row covers, staking or caging plants & sticky traps.

Disease Control

- Mulch!
- Milk can help fight fungi such as powdery mildew. A 10% mixture

(or higher of milk in water) applied twice a week, controlled powdery mildew on zucchini squash as effectively as conventional fungicides

- Use aspirin to fight fungus too! Dissolve $\frac{3}{4}$ of an aspirin in a gallon of water, and spray every two to three weeks. The aspirin will boost the plants defense mechanism.
- Sanitation. Clean up diseased plant parts and throw them away.

Weed Control

- Mulch, mulch, mulch!
- Corn gluten is not only a natural pre-emergent herbicide but it is also a great source of organic Nitrogen..
- Vinegar has been found to kill annual weeds!

Vegetable Gardening

- Continually add organic matter (OM) to the soil to keep it healthy! Add the OM on top of the soil and disturb the soil as little as possible.
- Grow heirloom vegetables for more flavor and nutrition.
- Use foliar applications of liquid seaweed weekly once the vegetable plants have begun to bloom and produce fruit or even before that!
- Use **cover crops** to increase the OM and add nutrients to the soil.
- When planting sweet corn, plant in a block instead of in a long row for better pollination and therefore more kernel production.