



FYN Garden Q & A Series

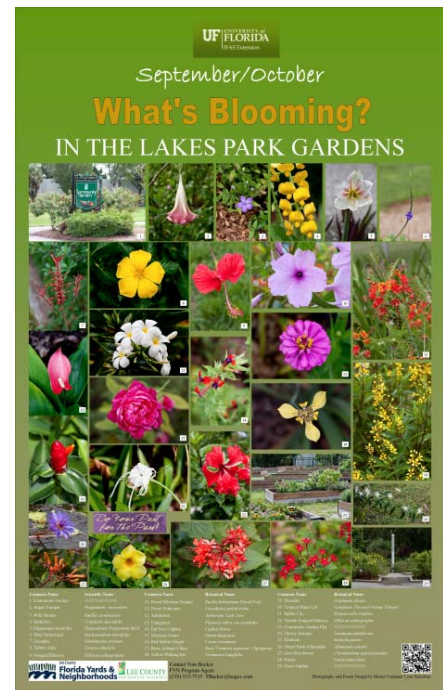
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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Question: A friend suggested I apply to become a Master Gardener volunteer. Despite my gardening experience, there are still flowering plants in SWFL I can't identify. What resources can help me identify plants? Shirley W., Ft Myers

Answer: During 14 weeks of intensive classroom training and guided tours, Master Gardener trainees learn how to identify over 100 commonly used landscape plants. The fourteen weeks of training consists of both subject matter (botany, plant propagation, etc.) in a classroom as well as weekly hands-on plant and pest identification exercises. For those interested, training will start Friday, January 11, 2013 and continues each Friday through the end of April. Classes are from 9am-3:30pm at either Terry Park or Rutenberg Park. Apply by using a form online at: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNElectronicForm/MGApplication.pdf> . After completing the mandatory classes and tours, each trainee completes 75 volunteer hours by speaking and/or working in public demonstration gardens. Another way they learn Southwest Florida plant identification is by visiting local demonstration gardens when Master Gardeners are present. Each garden schedules regular guided tours for the public. Another way of becoming familiar with Florida flora is by using the new, "What's Blooming?" posters and charts on-line at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/What'sBlooming.shtml>. A series of 18 posters show 20 or more photos of flowering plants taken over the year at Rutenberg, Terry or Lakes Parks. A companion descriptive chart for Identifies plants on each poster.



Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>

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

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

<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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

