



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

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### FYN Topic: Seasonal Color

**Question:** Are there seasonal color changes in Southwest Florida landscapes? Do you recommend adding seasonal color this time of year?  
—From Floridayards website

**Answer:** Yes and Yes! Fall to winter and spring to summer landscape color changes are the most pronounced. But, in late spring, expect to see more vivid flower and fruit colors. Recent rainfall has prompted a flush of flower color like the bright orange flowers on the Geiger tree and the lavender, trumpet-shaped flowers on the jacaranda tree. Frangipani, Shell-ginger and Jatropha are a few other plants with bright flower colors. When designing with strong flower or foliage color, plant in groupings or in brightly colored borders. Examples: combine the reddish-toned, variegated copperleaf with the silver-leafed, buttonwood trees or the bright red flower spikes of red Canna lilies growing next to Duranta 'Gold Mound' shrubs surrounded by the groundcover beach sunflower. Or, use bright colors to bring harmony to the landscape. If done right, bright colors in the landscape should appear natural like on a vista or as a field of wildflowers. Designing a landscape with continuous color all year round is easier said than done. Changing seasonal conditions can produce unexpected results each year and each season. Flower color might be short lived, delayed or revealed earlier than expected. Watch for color changes when leaf buds break or flower buds begin to open. Rare foliage color these days in landscape beds seems to be pure green. Consider using these natives with pure green foliage: Coontie or Florida privet. White is often the unifying factor. Plants having silver-colored foliage yield similar results as white flowers.



Jatropha



Buttonwood



Dune Sunflower



Geiger Tree Flowers



Frangipani



Duranta 'Gold Mound'

### 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>

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](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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