

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with Alicia Betancourt, Shelly Krueger, and Michelle Leonard-Mularz

Volume 21 Issue 8

University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Monroe County

August 2021

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August HAPPENINGS



National Water Quality Month!

Every Monday

Key West Garden Club

Ornamental and native shrubs & trees for sale! 1100 Atlantic Blvd. 9:30am-11:30AM



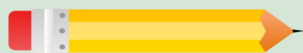
August 3rd

National Watermelon Day!



August 7th

School Sales Tax Holiday



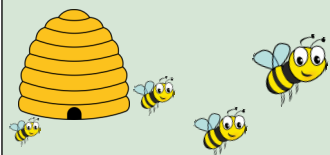
August 12th-15th

25th Annual Lobster Fest! Key West



August 21st

National Honey Bee Day!



Monroe County Passes Fertilizer Ordinance

By Michelle Leonard-Mularz,
Environmental Horticulture Agent

Monroe County Board of County Commissioners recently passed a fertilizer ordinance with the intent of limiting nutrient applications to turf and landscape plants, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, since those nutrients have the potential to contribute to water pollution through surface water runoff. The ordinance titled, Monroe County Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes, is contained within Chapter 12, Article 2 of the Code of Ordinances, and spells out certain restrictions, requires the use of best management practices, and requires proper training by commercial applicators and landscape maintenance companies.

The new fertilizer rule would only affect unincorporated areas of Monroe County and would not apply to the City of Key West, Village of Islamorada, City of Marathon, City of Key Colony Beach, and City of Layton. However, the Village of Islamorada is currently reviewing their local fertilizer ordinance to adopt the language contained within the county ordinance. Additionally, it should be noted, section 12-27 states, ".....to the extent of any conflict within sections within this Article, the more restrictive is deemed to be controlling."

Restrictions. No landscape or turf fertilizers are to be applied May 15th through October 31st. This coincides with our rainy season, where the potential for nutrients, from surface water runoff, being deposited into our waterways could be increased. Additionally, no fertilizers are to be applied during a flood watch, flood

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Plant Clinics

Monday, August 2nd

Plant Clinic

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Key West Garden Club

1100 Atlantic Blvd.

Key West

Tuesday, August 10th

Virtual Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Two Common Pests: Geiger Beetle & Sri Lanka Weevil

Call to Register (305) 292-4501

Wednesday, August 18th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Garden Club of Upper Keys

94040 O/S Hwy.

Tavernier

Saturday, August 21st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

KW Botanical Garden Nursery

5210 College Rd.
Stock Island

Saturday, August 21st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Marathon Home Depot

4555 O/S Hwy,

Marathon

Wednesday, August 25th

Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Island Home Nursery

88720 O/S Hwy,

Islamorada

Friday, August 27th

Florida Friendly Friday

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Call to Register
(305)292-4501

Sea Grant News



Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelling with Shelly, a module within the new Florida Friendly Visitors Guide is ready for final edits and Shelly wrote a blog about seahorses, available at <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/monroeco/2021/07/07/seahorses-marine-biology/>.



- Shelly and Michelle continue to work on composting sargassum and were invited to collaborate with University of Miami scientist Dr. Helena Solo-Gabriele on their technical awareness group and the Monroe County Sargassum Management working group.



- Shelly and Mimi Stafford hosted a group of international sponge scientists to collect samples for an EPA-funded project for sponge restoration aquaculture.



- Shelly is secretary of the FKNMS Ecosystem Connectivity Working group, which provides recommendations to the FKNMS Advisory Council. They passed a unanimous resolution regarding the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) to increase freshwater flows to Florida Bay as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.



The Environmental Horticulture Program and Master Gardener Volunteers remain dedicated to helping you with your plant related questions.



CALL OUR OFFICE:
(305)292-4501

We have many different ways we can assist!

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov

Please include a detailed description of the problem and photos if available

VISIT OUR OFFICE:

Email Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or
Call (305)292-4501 to schedule an appointment

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Visit our Facebook page for updates, requests, information and so much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension>

Horticulture News



Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

Michelle recently accomplished the following activities:

- Michelle and Shelly continue to work on composting sargassum and were invited to be a part of the Monroe County Sargassum Management working group.
- Michelle submitted three abstracts to the Florida State Horticultural Society for their annual conference that will be held in Daytona Beach this September.



- The educational signs for the demonstration garden in Key West were installed. These signs will help inform residents about the benefits of insects, the threatened and endangered plants in the Florida Keys and components of a butterfly garden. This content is part of a larger educational component and directs residents to our website for additional resources.

- Michelle wrote a letter of support for the Key West Botanical Garden Society application to the Endangered and Threatened Plant Conservation Grants Program. Our horticulture program has partnered with KWBGS to inform and engage residents about the rare plants in the Keys and their role in the environment. As part of this collaboration, KWBGS donated plants to include in our demonstration garden in Key West; we have developed several fact sheets, and created signage highlighting these plants in the garden.

Be sure to "Like" us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!

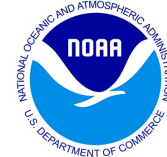
Extension Director's News

Alicia Betancourt

UF/IFAS Family and Community Development Agent and
Monroe County Extension Director

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Alicia taught the Fraud Protection Program both in person at the Big Pine Key Library and online. Participant were very surprised at the variety and volume of fraud techniques.
- Alicia co-taught the Lunch Bites program to 22 Extension professionals. This program uses community development concepts, participation and discussion to guide capacity building within Extension.
- Alicia developed a 15-page 5-part evaluation tool to examine short- and long-term changes in knowledge, behaviors and impacts of a new national Extension leadership training program.
- Alicia mentored two new community development faculty members. Helping them to develop needs assessments, programming and evaluation in their communities.
- Alicia is part of a national team of climate stakeholders including Extension Foundation, USDA Climate Hubs, NOAA and NIFA who have been organizing a plan to apply for support for the new NOAA Climate Smart Communities grant.
- Alicia spoke on the radio about the importance of having a digital hurricane kit, info can be found at www.blogs.ifas.ufl.edu.



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warning, tropical storm watch or warning, or hurricane watch or warning, regardless of the time of year.

“Fertilizer-free zones” are to be established and no fertilizer applications are allowed within twenty (20) feet of any waterway, including any surface water, shoreline, canal, or wetland; this includes any seawall, breakwater, bulkhead, dock, or rip-rap. There is an allowance to apply fertilizers in this zone to newly planted turf and landscape plants for a period of sixty (60) days which would begin after the initial thirty (30) days after planting, a period when plant roots are just starting to extend into the surrounding soil.

Liquid fertilizers containing nitrogen, those fertilizer materials suspended in a liquid, which includes those intended for foliar application, are prohibited. Fertilizers containing phosphorus are also prohibited, unless a soil test has determined the soil is deficient in phosphorus. Granular fertilizers containing nitrogen, applied to turf and landscape plants, are required to contain at least sixty-five (65) percent slow-release or water insoluble nitrogen per the guaranteed analysis on the label. No more than two (2) pounds of nitrogen per one-thousand (1,000) square feet is to be applied in any calendar year.

Fertilizer is not to be applied to any impervious surface, such as sidewalks, driveways, and streets.

In the event of a fertilizer spill, those materials should be immediately picked up or removed and applied to the landscape or put back into the appropriate container. It is prohibited to wash, sweep, or blow fertilizer into any surface water, stormwater drain, or fertilizer-free zone.

Exceptions. Golf courses and high impact areas in public parks and public athletic fields are exempt from this fertilizer ordinance since they are already governed by a set of specific Best Management Practices guidelines that are referenced in Florida Administrative Code 5E-1.003. Fertilization of fruit trees and shrubs are not to exceed University of Florida, IFAS maximum recommendations. Organic material that is intended to improve the physical condition of the soil are exempt such as yard waste compost, mulches, and other similar material. Lastly, tree trunk injections performed by a certified arborist are exempt from this ordinance.

This ordinance also expressly states that all commercial and institutional applicators shall obtain the Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Certification as directed in Chapter 482.1562 of the Florida Statutes. To obtain the limited certification, attend the Green Industry Best Management Practices training. These classes are offered by Monroe County Extension Service, UF/IFAS, and individuals need to get certified or renew their certification can contact Monroe County Extension Services for upcoming training dates.

Be sure to “Like” us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/monroecountyextension) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/monroecountyextension) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/monroecountyextension)!

UF IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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County Extension Director: Alicia Betancourt

Newsletter Editor: Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator

This newsletter can be accessed online at:

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

We're on the Web at: <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>



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University of Florida (UF)

<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

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Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS)

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

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Putting Florida First

Scan this code to go directly to our UF/IFAS Website for more information!



An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

<https://ics.ifas.ufl.edu/ufifas-diversity-and-legaleeo-statements/>

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	May	June	July	Totals
Phone calls	66	42	53	161
Office visitors	37	85	27	149
Email Consultations	134	114	119	367
Learning events	45	33	20	98
Participants	683	689	426	1,798
Media submissions	14	6	8	28
Publications distributed	242	197	259	698
TOTAL contacts	1,221	1,166	912	3,299



Monroe County Environmental Horticulture Agent, Michelle Mularz and Master Gardner volunteers completed the installation of several educational signs in the wildflower demonstration garden located at the Gato Building in Key West.