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Preparing for the Season

**By Brynn Morey,
UF/IFAS Extension Coordinator**

June 1st marks the first day of hurricane season. It is that time of year when we all start preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. As much as we do not want to think about it, the Florida Keys is an extremely vulnerable location when it comes to hurricanes. As we learned with Irma in 2017, you can never be too prepared. Here are some lists and helpful information to get you ready for the season.

Monthly Events



Online Plant Clinics!!

EVERY TUESDAY & 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH via ZOOM 10AM-11AM Meeting ID: 154 161 568

June 1st:

Pesticide Exams Resume
Call (305)292-4501 to schedule an Exam



June 5th:

World Environment Day!

June 8th:



June 24th:

2pm Florida Friendly Landscape Webinar: Managing Yard Pests Responsibly

Register in Advance:

https://ufl.zoom.us/j/71Upcu2vpjwvE9Sj7_rXvCf6uqO1fzo6vBT

June 21st:

Father's Day!



SUPPLIES

Now is a great time to dig out your hurricane supply kit and review its contents. If you don't have a hurricane supply kit it's the perfect time to create one! A basic hurricane supply kit should include the following items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Water (one gallon per person per day) •Non-perishable food in cans or sealed containers •Manual can opener and other cooking supplies •Plates, utensils and other feeding supplies •First-Aid kit and instructions •Prescription medicines (have a 2-week supply) •Copies of important documents and cell numbers •Emergency cash in small denominations •Bug spray and sunscreen •Ax | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fire Extinguisher •Personal hygiene items •Plastic sheeting, duct tape, utility knife (window cover) •Tools & heavy duty plastic bags •Blanket or sleeping bag •Battery operated radio •Pet supplies •Generator and gas •Cellphone & portable charger •Tent |
|---|---|

DIGITAL TOOLS

Here are some great apps to download to help you better prepare for the season.

Forecast Apps: Max Mayfield Hurricane Tracker, American Red Cross-Hurricane, Weather Underground

Evacuation Apps: FEMA, Expedia, AirBnB, Hotels.com, Harmany

Travel Apps: GasBuddy, Waze

People/Pet Care Apps: Teledoc, RedCross, Televet

Communication Apps: FireChat, Zello, Nextdoor, WhatsApp

Document Storage Apps: DropBox, Google Drive

Getting Help App: Crowdsourc Rescue



Your smartphone is a helpful preparation tool, just make sure its always charged!

Sea Grant News



Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelly is on the management committee for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program and was invited to determine steering committee priorities for the next 5 years.



- Shelly presented at the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response Technical Workshop, which was held virtually over 5 days and worked with the communication team to set strategic planning and outcomes.



- Shelly co-presented to 89 attendees for the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response Technical Communication Workshop



- Worked with federal, state, and local resource managers to pick 10+ nearshore sites in Monroe County for water quality monitoring of estrogen and androgen-mimicking chemicals.



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



CALL OUR OFFICE:

We have many different ways we can assist!

ZOOM PLANT CLINICS:
Every Tuesday & 3rd Saturday of the month!!
10AM - 11AM. Via ZOOM!
MEETING ID: 154 161 568
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/154161568>

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

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

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:

- Our online programming continued for May with 5 online plant clinics via zoom, helping residents with their plant and garden questions. Additionally, Master Gardener volunteers are still able to assist residents throughout the month by emailing your gardening questions to:

mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov



- Planting of the Gato wildflower garden was able to resume this month. To date, we have added over 200 native plants of over 35 species, including 10 plant species that are either threatened or endangered. We will look to complete the garden over the summer, continuing to add more native wildflowers, finish a walking path and install educational signs. Special thanks to Key West Botanical Garden & Tropical Forest and Key West Garden Club for their generous plant donations. Funding for the garden is through the Viva Florida Grants, with the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

- Join us Wednesday, June 24th at 2pm via zoom for our Florida Friendly Landscape program: Managing Yard Pest Responsibly. Learn about safe alternatives to pesticides, how to attract beneficial insects to your yard, and more. Registration is required.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpcu2vpjwvE9Sj7_rXvCf6uqOj1fzo6yBT



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 held 6 trainings for 172 Extension professionals called "Chew on This" where we covered program assessment, burnout, engaging audiences online and virtual instruction tools.



- Alicia held a virtual training on rapid program assessment for Monroe County non-profit and community organization managers.



- Alicia collaborated with Extension agents to develop a one week virtual 4-H camp on climate change as part of a 4-week program called Touring Florida that will be available state-wide in July. The topics covered will be; Climate Change Basics, Blue Carbon, Greenhouse Gasses, A Changing Ecosystem and Taking Action.

- Alicia worked with a team to develop a Needs Assessment Survey collecting information on municipal and county governments climate policy knowledge and actions. This survey will give us a good basis for the topics and content that would be useful and relevant for local governments. Currently, our team is producing a handbook on climate policy for local governments in Florida.



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PETS

Your pets need your help getting them ready for a storm and possible evacuation. Here is a list of things to gather while preparing your fur baby:

- 2 week supply of pet meds & vet/vaccine records
- 7+days supply of water for each pet
- 2 week supply of food (non-perishable) & extra bowls
- Pet collars & leashes with ID tags
- Extra litter, litter pans & indoor potty pads
- Hard kennel for transportation & extra blankets
- Comfort items such as beds, toys & treats
- Photos of your pets
- List of pet friendly shelters & hotels on your evacuation route
- Consider microchipping your pet

LANDSCAPE

Here are some landscape hazards you should address now, before the season starts becoming active:

- Remove dead or broken branches, they can become projectiles
- Leaning trees should be braced or removed
- Thin out any dense canopy
- Hire a professional when pruning large, mature trees
- Do not remove green fronds from the crown of the palm tree, it can make it more susceptible to damage during a storm
- If you have mangroves that need trimming or dead mangroves that need to be removed you will need to get a permit from DEP
- Clean out your gutters

BOATS

Preparing your boat for a storm helps prevent major damage or loss. Here are some boat preparation tips:

- Understand your insurance policy and marina contract
- Choose a storm worthy location, whether in your yard, at a marina, warehouse or trailering it out of town, research the safest method in your boat
- Strap down boats stored ashore
- If mooring your boat use long lines & set multiple anchors
- Replace old dock lines
- Reduce windage by removing all canvas; sails, biminis and covers

Resource Links

Monroe County Hurricane Information Page:
<https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/903/Hurricane>

Get A Digital Hurricane Kit Blog:
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/monroeco/2020/05/20/get-a-digital-hurricane-kit/>

Pet Hurricane Evacuation:

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ei5bKSHWyCf375T3TMkptrMzvljgucD8/view>
- <https://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/helpful-tips/prep-your-pets/>

Landscape links:

- <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/monroeco/2018/05/24/landscape-hurricane-preparedness/>
- <https://floridadep.gov/water/submerged-lands-environmental-resources-coordination/content/mangroves>

Preparing your Boat:

<https://www.boatus.com/hurricanes/boaterprep.asp>

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



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 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>



University of Florida (UF)
<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>
<http://ufl.edu>
 Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>



UF/IFAS Extension is
 Putting Florida First

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



Where Can I Buy Native Plants for My Yard?

Planting native wildflowers in your garden, not only welcomes a beautiful array of color, they also attract insects and pollinators, including stunning butterflies.

Key West Botanical Society Native Plant Nursery



Native Plant Sale
 Every 3rd Saturday of the Month
 9:00 AM to Noon
 5210 College Rd.
 Stock Island



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.

Our Master Gardner Volunteers are happy to be back working in our Wildflower Garden located at the Key West Gato Building!



Narrowleaf yellowtops in bloom



Monarch butterfly nectaring on Keys Ageratum



Spurred butterfly-pea

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Mar	April	May	Totals
Phone calls	70	73	54	197
Office visitors	8	0	0	8
Visits to clients	12	0	150	162
			Email Consults	
Learning events	39	48	69	156
Participants	719	736	1150	2605
Media submissions	9	17	13	39
Publications distributed	151	162	243	556
TOTAL contacts	1008	1036	1679	3723