

WEKIVA TERRACE

MARCH 2023, Volume 84



COME JOIN US FOR THE WEKIWA SPRINGS MURAL DEDICATION

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023 • Time: 9 – 10 a.m.
 Location: 347 N. Thompson Rd.
 Parking: Wekiwa Gardens • 205 N. Thompson Rd.
 (81 spaces available)

Christine Moore
 Orange County
 Commissioner District 2



All are invited to this inaugural area event!

Saturday, April 1, 2023
 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Location: Votaw "Park"
 411 N. Thompson Rd.
 Apopka, FL 32712

Parking: 1401 Votaw Rd.
 \$5 donation requested

People of Wekiwa Springs
Easter EGG HUNT

Orange County
 Commissioner
 Christine Moore
 District 2



SPRING FORWARD
 Sunday, March 12, 2023

It's time to get outside and enjoy the sun!

SPRING FORWARD INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Spring is a wonderful time to be outside and work on your landscape. It's not too hot yet, but it's warm enough that many plants will flourish through this time. Now is a great time to check your irrigation. Make sure it is in good working order for the dryer and warmer months ahead.

This time of year inspires many people to start new garden projects. If you are one of them, consider the following:

Pruning: Prune azaleas right after the plants finish blooming. This is the time to shape your azaleas. If you are pruning flowering shrubs or trees, prune after the last flowers have withered but before the new

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BRINGS TWICE A WEEK WATERING!

Watering Days

Time of year	Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses	Homes with even-numbered addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight Saving Time	Wednesday/ Saturday	Thursday/ Sunday	Tuesday/ Friday

• **Water only if necessary and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

• **Water for no more than one hour per zone.**

buds have set. This guarantees a well-shaped tree or shrub and keeps you from removing the buds for next year's blooms.

Flower beds: Remove any dying winter annuals and replace with varieties that will bloom into the warmer months. Plant bulbs like caladiums. Caladiums will grow well throughout the spring and summer. Consider planting daylilies, which come in early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties to guarantee months of blooms.

As we come into the warmer months, it is important to consider where you are planting your flowers. Remember to look for plants that will do well in the specific areas in your yard. Some plants will thrive in the sun while others will need more shade.



Now is a great time to consider adding a pollinator area to your garden. A pollinator garden helps attract pollinators such as bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Planting Florida natives is a great way to reduce the need for fertilizers and heavy watering. It also adds much needed environment for our native wildlife. Pollinator gardens are a beautiful addition to any landscape. You can find out more by visiting the [Florida Native Plant Society](#).

Vegetables and Herbs: In March and April plant warm-weather-loving vegetables such as:

- squash
- beans
- sweet corn
- cucumbers
- tomatoes
- watermelon
- peppers

You can plant seeds into the garden plot, or you can begin with transplants. Some varieties of vegetables are harder to transplant than others. Always make sure to use quality seeds and plants zoned for your area. In late April and May, you can begin introducing heat-loving plants such as okra, southern peas, and sweet potatoes.

Plant herbs that do well in the warmer temperatures such as rosemary and basil. Herbs are a great addition to your garden. Not only do they taste great when you use them at home, but they also attract butterflies. The plants themselves are also lovely and often ornamental.

Keep an eye out for signs that your vegetables and herbs need water. Mulching liberally can help keep weeds down and also keep moisture in.

Shrubs and Ornamentals: Fertilize palms, azaleas, and camellias as needed. Re-mulch after fertilizing. This locks in the fertilizer and keeps moisture better through the dry season.. Now is also the time to plant new shrubs.



Gardenias: With their dark green leaves and fragrant blossoms, gardenias are great additions to your landscape. They bloom many months out of the year and are easy to maintain if you choose the right type of gardenia. Prune for shape more than anything else.

However, this should be done lightly and after the plant has finished blooming. Fertilize gardenias in early spring and fall.

During the spring, look for yellowing of new growth. Yellowing and dropping of older growth is common in the spring. If new growth is yellow or dropping from the gardenia, it can be a sign of a pH imbalance or a nutrient deficiency. These imbalances can be harmful to the plant.

Insects and Pests: Due to the balmy weather in Florida, insects can cause problems early in the spring. You will need to look



for aphids on new plant growth, as well as thrips, mites, and scales on ornamental plants. Roses and gardenias can lose blossoms and leaves from these pests. If your lawn is showing brown spots, make sure that it is not from lack of water before applying pesticides for lawn insects.

Before using high-powered pesticides, consider using organic or natural products first. These are less harmful for the environment if they end up in groundwater or on other plants. Besides, they are less likely to harm beneficial insects and pollinators.



Tomatoes: Tomatoes are a favorite of home gardeners because they are delicious and will grow in the spring and fall. They also do well in many types of gardens—in the ground or in planters.

Tomatoes are not cold tolerant. Do not plant seedlings in the ground until after any frost or freezes have passed.

Start tomatoes in the ground or containers using seeds or transplants. You will need to thin your tomatoes if you planted them from seeds. Some varieties require staking or caging. Tomatoes need between 1 and 2 inches of water a week. In the early spring or fall, this usually means extra watering. Tomatoes do better with one heavy soaking per week rather than many short bursts of water. Properly mulched tomato plants will keep water and any fertilizer you have added better than unmulched beds.

Hurricane preparedness: Begin preparing for hurricane season now. Check trees for damaged or weakened branches, and call a certified arborist if your tree's health worries you. Call an arborist if you think your trees need pruning to prevent damage to your house or other buildings.

Source: [Landscaping in Florida: A Season by Season Guide \(millerstrecare.com\)](http://millerstrecare.com)

