



**UNIVERSITY OF
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IFAS EXTENSION

Friday's Feature

By

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UF's new website offers Solutions for Your Life

The Internet is a global super-warehouse of information. More and more people use the internet when trying to find an answer to a question. With that in mind, a team from the University of Florida has recently come up with a new website to help people quickly find answers to real life problems, including lawn and garden issues.

Located at www.solutionsforyourlife.com and sponsored by UF's Extension Service, the site provides consumers and industry professionals with a one-stop source of information on family life, gardening, agriculture, the environment and other topics. Massive in size and scope, Solutions for Your Life is a gateway to extension, research and education resources from UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

In development for more than a year, Solutions for Your Life was created to meet consumer demand for better online access to extension resources. The site was designed for ease of use and visual appeal. It also complies with federal guidelines to make the content accessible to users with disabilities.

Solutions for Your Life collects hundreds of how-to publications, educational programs, fact sheets and technical reports. It also links to Web sites for state and federal agencies, land-grant universities and professional organizations.

The site includes timely feature articles, an events calendar, a database of frequently asked questions, employment opportunities, and contact information for extension offices in each of Florida's 67 counties. It will be updated continually with new publications, links and photos.

Above all, the Solutions for Your Life website is focused on getting you timely and relevant solutions for improving your life. Apart from advice and information, Solutions for Your Life includes real-life success stories showing how extension benefits the state and its residents.

One of the gardening links you will find on the Solutions for Your Life webpage is a new Florida-friendly plant list. The plants on this list are considered by UF/IFAS horticulture specialists to be well adapted to growing in Florida landscapes. When planted under appropriate soil, light, and climatic conditions, most generally require little maintenance compared with other plants. Each plant's preferred growing conditions (soil pH, soil texture, relative drought tolerance, soil drainage/moisture, light range, light optimum, and salt tolerance) are included as a guide to choosing plants for your specific site conditions. Additional information is given on growth rate, mature height and spread, flowering color and season, value to wildlife, wind resistance and other characteristics helpful for plant selection and maintenance.

If you want to jump directly to this informative list, go to <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/fyn/list.pdf>. This list is meant as a guide to start choosing plants appropriate for your conditions. The absence of a plant from this list does not imply that it is not well adapted to Florida landscape conditions.

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Solutions for Your Life emphasizes material that could be useful anywhere in the state. The Web site isn't meant to replace direct contact with local Extension offices, but it's the next best thing, and it's available around the clock.

Theresa Friday is the Residential Horticulture Extension Agent for Santa Rosa County. The use of trade names, if used in this article, is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the product name(s) and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others. For additional information about all of the county extension services and other articles of interest go to: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/extension>