

All About Air Plants

Air plants are popular in homes and gardens everywhere! Come and learn all about air plants and solve the mystery behind these trendy plants! Learn how to cultivate, care for, and even decorate with Tillandsia and discover how they thrive without soil.

Beach Dunes: Growing a Coastal Barricade

Beaches are so much more than vacation destinations; they are key ecosystems, home to diverse communities of plants and wildlife. Dune plants are specially adapted to tolerate shifting sand and are our beaches' first line of defense against erosion from daily wave action. Join us to learn more about the resilient plants building the protective dunes along Florida's sandy shore.

Botanical Battles

Animals aren't the only organisms that have evolved to defend themselves. Over time, plants evolved to fight back against predation. While they can't use a "flight" reaction, plants can engage with a "fight" reaction!

Botany of Brewing – Coffee

Coffee is grown in over 50 countries and consumed worldwide. A fresh cup of coffee is a fantastic way to start your morning, but have you ever stopped to ponder where it comes from or how it is grown and processed?

Botany of Brewing – Mezcal and Tequila

Tequila is more than just that kick in a cocktail or something to be tossed back and chased with a citrus wedge. Join us to explore the history and production of mezcal and tequila and discover the plant that makes it all possible.

Bounty of Bromeliads

Bromeliads are a bold, eye-catching staple within the Garden and landscapes across Florida. The variety of size, color, and shape builds the diversity of the bromeliad family. In the air or on the ground, inside or outside, the simple care and array of Bromeliaceae will inspire you to incorporate them into your own garden or homes and if you choose one in particular – onto your plate.

Cacti, Succulents, and Spines, Oh My!

Cacti and succulents have become quite the craze in the gardening world, due to their hardy nature and diversity. Stop by and learn what makes these plants so tough, and how to care for them at home.

Feeling Hot! Edible Pepper Varieties

Whether it be a soup, burger, taco, salsa, or pasta, you can rely on peppers to add a hit of heat. From ancient origins in central Mexico, to modern laboratories and even the Nobel Prize, peppers have been shaping history for thousands of years. Come learn what chemical is responsible for that famous heat and test your knowledge of pepper heat and identification.

Funky Fruits

Pineapple, mango, papaya, bananas—these are a few of the tropical fruits that can be found in the produce department of the supermarket and at the Garden. But they are just a small fraction of the edible fruits that grow in tropical and subtropical regions. Here in the Garden, you can find more than a few fun funky fruits from the tropics you are probably not familiar with.

Herb Crash Course

Generally, when we use the word “herb” we are referring to a leafy, aromatic plant, but what exactly is an “herb” and is it the same as a spice? You’ll learn the answer to this question as well as how herbs behave in their natural environment and how they are used by people.

I Bought an Orchid – Now What?

So, you bought an orchid or are considering buying an orchid—now what? Learn the basics of growing orchids and the first steps to caring for and keeping your new plant.

Kitchen Scrap Gardening

Food scraps don’t always have to end up in the trash. You can create a whole edible garden from vegetable and herb scraps. Re-growing kitchen scraps is a sustainable, cost-effective, and rewarding way to create new life from what is typically discarded. Many produce items are easy to grow at home; you don’t even need soil!

Mangroovin’

Discover the incredible adaptations that allow mangroves to live in salty coastal environments and learn how important these hardy plants are to the health of coastal ecosystems worldwide.

Monarch Butterflies

In Mexico, monarchs are a natural wonder and celebrated cultural symbol. They migrate thousands of miles to overwinter, inspiring people along the way. Learn about this incredible insect, threats to its population, and how you can support it, including here in Florida!

Myth Busters: Orchid Edition

Many common assumptions and ideas about orchids may not be completely accurate. Whether it’s orchid care or simply what an orchid is, a little shake-up of our understanding may save our plants!

Myth Busters: Palm-spiracy

Did you know not every beloved “palm” tree is a true palm? Common names can be very misleading. Some species may have “palm” in their common name, but they are completely different plants. Whether you are a palm expert, or these tropical plants are new to you, drop in and see if you can pick out the im-palm-ster!

Oh, My Gourd!

Good gourd! It’s pumpkin season already? Stop by today’s Dig Deeper: Oh, my Gourd! to learn about the origins of gourds and squashes and find out how the pumpkin became so popular!

Oh Wow, Cacao!

Hot cocoa. Chocolate candy. Brownies. All these delicious treats are thanks to the fruit of one plant, Theobroma cacao. Though chocolate’s uses are well known, the cacao plant, its habitat, pollinator, and other botanical aspects aren’t. Learn all about cacao and see for yourself that it’s more than just chocolate.

Seeing is BeLEAFing

There’s more than meets the eye when you look at a leaf! Learn about the determining factors for leaf size, shape, and texture as plants strive to adapt for maximum efficiency in their native environments.

Smarty Plants

*As humans, we use the five senses to maneuver through our daily lives. Just like us, plants also use their senses to react to their surroundings. From the fast-acting sticky trichomes of the sundew (*Drosera* spp.), to the solar-tracking capabilities of the sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), join us to learn how plants perceive and react to their environment.*

Spice Series – Achiote

Use your senses to explore achiote, a common but often unknown South American spice. Learn about achiote’s history, natural habitat, and how people continue to use it today.

Spice Series – Vanilla

From ice cream and soda to perfumes and lotions, the flavor and scent of vanilla surrounds us. Join us to learn the fascinating history of the orchid that produces one of the most expensive spices in the world.

Swipe Right! A Match Made in Nature

Many plant and animal species rely on each other for survival. Let’s explore several species of flora and fauna that have symbiotic relationships to understand the deep connections found in nature.

The Buzz on Pollen

Pollination is one of the most important processes in the natural world. Pollinators are responsible for every one in three bites of food we take. This is an opportunity to learn more about how pollination works and how we can better support our pollinators!

The Buzz South of the Border

Pollinators are vital to the survival of plants, people, and animals. Take a few moments to learn about pollinators that call Mexico home and what plants they interact with.

The Spice is Right

Spices provide our food with an exciting array of flavors. They shaped the culture of many civilizations, and the quest for spices drove early exploration, trade routes, and even wars. Test your knowledge of spices by matching their smell to their original plant form and learn about their history.

The Spice is Right – Spices of Mexico

Mexican cuisine is irresistible for many of us, and you can thank spices for that! There is an array of spices that not only flavor food, but also have cultural and medicinal importance in Mexican culture. Let's spice things up and test your knowledge of the various spices of Mexico!

Waterlilies: Big to Small

*The Garden's aquatic collection includes about 150 varieties of waterlilies, including the largest variety in the world, *Victoria waterlilies*. We also have the smallest waterlily in the world, *Nymphaea thermarum*, which is extinct in the wild. Join us to learn more about the waterlilies in our collection that are big, small, and some in between.*

What's That Smell?

Love to stop and smell the roses? Well, roses aren't the only plants that pack a perfumed punch. Many different plants have nose-stopping fragrances that can be made into perfumes, candles, and more. Join us to learn all about these fabulous fragrances and get a sniff of your own!