



A Gift List for Gardeners by Gardeners



Wondering what to get your gardener friend or the green thumb in your family? Here's a short list of items that VISTA members have found to make their time in the garden more efficient and effective:

- Many of us favor bamboo gloves that we purchase at [Duncheon's Nursery](#)
- Other favorite garden gloves are the Signature Solid style sold by [Digz](#) at their online site.
- Rolling garden seat with wheels
- Kneeling garden seat
- Refrigerator keeper for cut herbs
- VISTA Gold honey, sold by our [beekeeper David](#)
- Watering extension wand, such as that made by Dramm
- Seed saver box, such as those shown on Seed Savers Exchange website
- Some of us like to give and receive books like "[This is How a Robin Drinks: Essays on Urban Agriculture](#)" by Joanna Bricetto

If you're still not sure what to give and want to honor your family and friends, VISTA gratefully accepts donations in their honor. Many of our members have donated money and goods to help us initiate and complete projects in many areas of our garden. As you reflect on your 2024 year-end philanthropic plans, please consider a gift to VISTA. We will always say, Thank You!

Note: VISTA provides the above ideas and links as examples, but doesn't necessarily endorse any specific product. Some of these items can be found at our partner Urban Roots, where members receive a VISTA discount.

VISTA Says Thank You...

To all our members who fulfill their monthly volunteer hours. VISTA is very appreciative of the time and energy our student and community volunteers give us. But it is our members who make the greatest impact. We are especially grateful to those who not only show up to dig, weed, move mulch and soil, turn compost, give tours, guide students, educate the community, and repair and renovate our structures, but also to those behind the scenes who manage the membership process, keep our financial records, process our store orders, write and produce the email blasts and the newsletter, and update and keep our website and social media platforms current and informative. If you are looking for a way to fulfill your required monthly volunteer time and not sure what to do, contact [Jennifer](#) to get started on an activity that works for you!



Getting Too Much Sun?

Your dermatologist has probably reminded you how important it is to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays. Our more experienced gardeners offer this advice:

- Use sunscreen on all exposed skin.
- Wear a hat that shades your ears and neck.
- Use gloves to protect your hands.
- Wear sunglasses, and polarized ones are best for blocking UVA and UVB rays.
- Invest in UPF 50+ clothing, including sun sleeves, that will keep the rays off your body.

Remember, spending time outdoors is essential for our well-being, but doing so responsibly is key. With the right protective clothing plus

sunscreen, you can soak in the benefits of the sun without the risks. Embrace the call of the outdoors with confidence and care, knowing that you're fully protected.

Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)



Photo by Emily Bell, used with permission of the Florida Wildflower Foundation

Watch for these flowers to emerge on VISTA's Carolina jessamine vines in the Woodland and Wildflower Garden, adding winter color to our Florida native plant landscapes and lure hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. The fruits of this vine attract many birds, including cardinals, chickadees, grosbeaks, thrashers, titmice and warblers. [Read More](#)

Got Too Many Veggies?

All of a sudden it happens. You have way too many zucchinis, tomatoes, eggplants, lettuce, etc. It happens to all of us. And your friends and family have said, No more! The solution: Share with your fellow gardeners at VISTA. On the picnic table next to the red shed is a crate with a FREE sign. Place your excess crop there for others to enjoy. All items will be composted once they are beyond their expiration dates.



Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday, December 4, 4p
New Member Orientation - Reserve with **Beverly S.**

Friday, December 6, 8-10a
Join volunteers maintaining the native plant garden at Carrollwood Village Park.



Saturday, December 7, 8-11a

Volunteer to work alongside Sickles High School National Honor Society members as they complete planned projects at VISTA.

Sunday, December 8, 9:30a Win Prizes, Learn and Shop

*Meet **David, VISTA's Beekeeper**, and purchase VISTA Gold honey for yourself, your family and friends.

*Hear Joe Martin, Southeast Salesperson, **Coast of Maine**, share ideas about building and feeding your soil, preparing your garden for a cold snap, and answering your questions during a walkaround.

Get your raffle tickets now!

Lucky raffle ticket winners will have their choice of our beekeeper David's honey and Joe's Coast of Maine products.

Go to <https://www.vistagardentampa.org/shop> and purchase your tickets. We'll make sure your name and contact info are on the tickets you buy online. Ticket holders who attend the session above will have first choice on selecting the products they want. All other winners will be notified to pick up their prizes. Tickets will also be sold at VISTA on Dec 8th.

Saturday, December 14, 10a-12p

VISTA Open House – Come greet visitors from the community! Share information about what you are growing, and the volunteer work you do at VISTA.

Saturday, December 21, 8-11a

Volunteer to work alongside Sickles High School National Honor Society members as they complete planned projects at VISTA.

Saturday, December 21, 10a

New Member Orientation - Reserve with **Beverly S.**



First Aid at VISTA

Did you know that VISTA maintains two well stocked first aid kits in the red shed? You can find what you need to treat minor cuts and scratches, allergy itches and insect bites. The kits are labeled: Box #1 for wound care and Box #2 with other supplies, including a nasal Narcan. Hopefully, it will never be needed, but a lot of people come to VISTA and one never knows. Narcan is a nasal spray to be used in a suspected opioid overdose. Opioid overdose should be suspected in a person that appears sleepy, isn't responding well, has shallow breathing and may have small pupils. If opioid overdose is suspected, first call 911, then spray one dose in the person's nostril. If the person doesn't wake up, another dose can be given in about 3-5 minutes. Narcan is safe, and has no side effects if given to a person without opioid use. Reminder: If you or anyone else has anything close to a life threatening emergency, call 911 immediately. Our address, 13572 South Village Drive 33618, is posted on the shed.

Gardener Highlight



Susan Baxter Gibson and Jay Gibson, VISTA gardeners since 2015, with their adopted ram, “Ash”. Ash enjoys his days on a New York farm sanctuary that Susan and Jay support. They tend vegetables and flowers in CE1 and CE2, along with garden mates Terrisa and Dan. [Read More](#)

Q: How do I find out what vegetables to plant in December?

A: At VISTA we post monthly UF/IFAS infographics, and gardeners follow the suggestions for Central Florida.

Bookmark this [helpful site](#) to access this information each month. For questions about your vegetables, you can reach our local UF/IFAS extension agents at hillsborough@ifas.ufl.edu (813) 744-5519.

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN
December

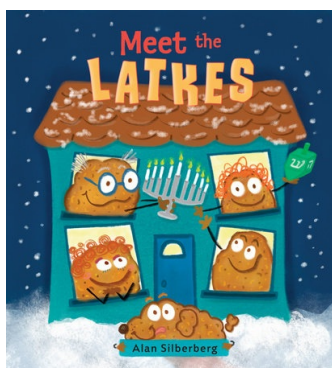
	North	Central	South
EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
TRANSPLANT WITH CARE	Celery, Mustard, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
USE SEEDS	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon

GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu
 Text only: go.ufl.edu/EdibleText

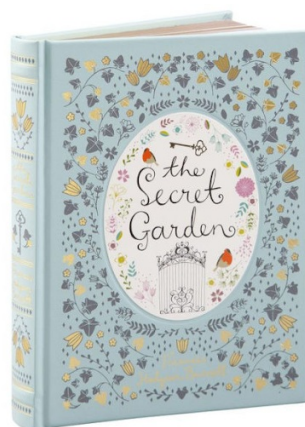
New in the Little Free Library

Both VISTA and our community appreciate

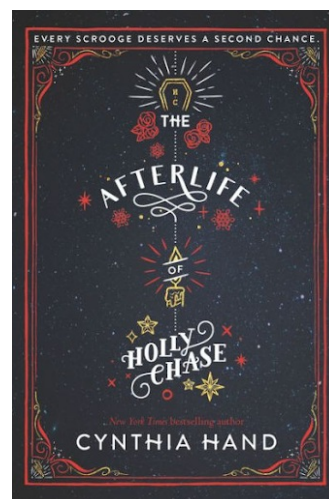
[Forever Friends](#)



A book that parents and grandparents will enjoy reading to children ages 3-5. [Read More](#)



8-11 year-olds and those older will enjoy revisiting this classic. [Read More](#)



A modern retelling of Dickens' classic for teen readers [Read More](#)

**"Learn from the mistakes of others. You cannot live long enough to make them all yourself."
-Eleanor Roosevelt**

*VISTA Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Federal ID # 26-2532379.*

VISTA Gardens
13572 South Village Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618

Connect with us



VISTA Gardens | 13572 South Village Drive | Tampa, FL 33618 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!