



VISTA MATTERS: November Edition

Let the Harvesting Begin!

Text exchanges among VISTA gardeners recently.

"Making soup with the kale and turnip greens from my garden." Sierra

"So, I made a smash of carrot parsnips, turnips & potatoes Chris* was spot on, absolutely yummy." Susan

November is a good time to continue planting turnips and kale. HRS seed-distribution volunteers, Amanda and Luisa, have turnip seeds available and there are a few remaining kale seedlings in the House of the Rising Seeds.

Speaking of VISTA harvests, the AARP gardening group donated 16 pounds of basil, banana peppers, cucumbers, collard greens, radishes and turnip greens to the Community Food Pantry last week and 20 pounds this week (that included many turnips, in addition to the greens). AARP generously grows vegetables and herbs in two of VISTA's raised garden beds to share with others.

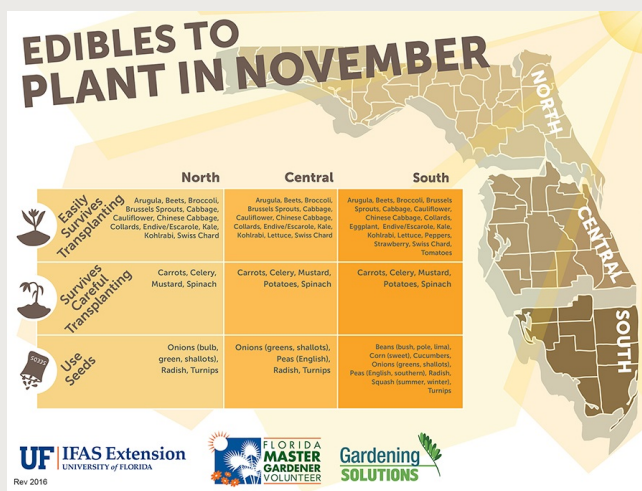


[Growing Turnips Info](#)

[Growing Kale Info](#)



Right Plant, Right Place, Right Time - Edibles to plant in November



University of Florida's Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Website

Upcoming Events

Garden Social Sun Nov 15, 3-5pm

Make and meet new friends as you enjoy a few socially-distanced hours with garden buddies.

Safety precautions will be encouraged:

- Bring your own chairs so we can spread out
- Food can be brought in individual portions to be shared
- Gloves will be provided for any shared utensils
- Bring your own food/drinks if you prefer not to share with others



Community Calendar

Happy Hour Time Change

When: Fridays
Time: 4:30-5:30p.m.

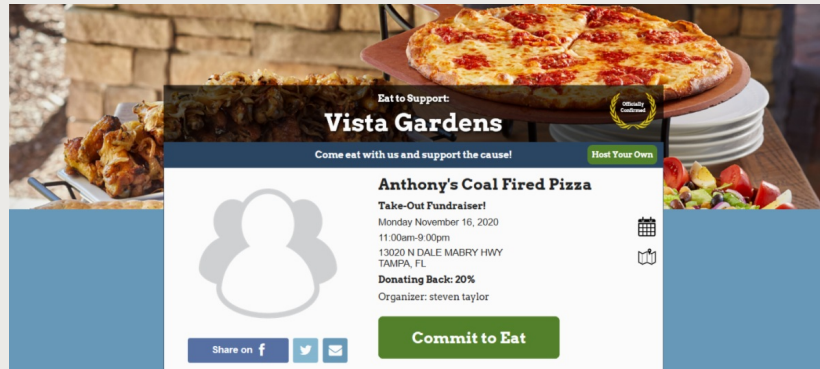
Join your fellow garden members for a socially distanced Happy Hour at the garden.

Hope you can join us!!

This is an excellent opportunity for members to get to know each other and unwind after a hectic week.

Please bring a chair and your favorite drinks and snacks.

Anthony's Pizza Supporting VISTA



November 16, 2020

Support VISTA with Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza take- out fundraiser! 20% of the proceeds from this event will be donated directly back to the garden.

Anthony's is located at 13020 N DALE MABRY HWY, TAMPA, FL, US 33618

[Click HERE to Register!](#)

Garden Reminders!

VISTA Gardens is a community and, as with any community, these core commitments allow our ecosystem to thrive:

1. Maintain your raised garden bed and surrounding pathways using organic gardening methods.

2. Volunteer for general garden upkeep at least two hours monthly. Book online, as this helps us track volunteer hours to favorably impress potential grant donors.

<https://www.vistagardentampa.org/book-online>

3. Participate actively in one of VISTA's committees. There are a wide variety of options that accommodate all levels of skill and physical ability.

American Gothic

Come get your photo taken by our resident photographer, Ernie Moore!

Photo shoots:
Tuesday evenings 5:30-6
Saturday, November 14 9-10:30 a.m.



Healthy Gardening for delicious vegetables and pretty flowers

Smart Watering Ideas

Low and slow! Keep the hose or watering can close to the ground and the water moving slowly, so that you do not wet the foliage on your vegetables.

Early in the day! If any watering is necessary during this humid season, irrigate in the morning so that plants use moisture during the day. It is ideal for you garden soil to be drier at sundown.

Moisture meter! Invest in a higher tech meter or use your index finger. Poke two-three inches into the ground to determine if your garden soil is sufficiently moist.

Know the needs of the plants you grow. Check for irrigation info on our plant information documents at:
<https://www.vistagardentampa.org/vegetable-fact-sheets>

Smart Disease Prevention:

Remove weeds. Weeds are incompatible with vegetables and flowers! They can host plant diseases and rob plants of nutrition and moisture. Dig them out by the root and take them home to add to your yard waste.

Remove pruned stems and leaves. Plant trimmings invite fungus to your garden. Compost the healthy ones. Seal diseased stems and leaves in a bag (provided inside the shed) and to take them home to your trash container.

Clean your tools with sanitizer before and after use. Spray bottles are available in the shed, thanks to Chris Schelin! This is especially important to prevent spreading spores and insects from one raised garden bed to another.

**Garden Committee welcomes VISTA's
Garden Steward and HRS and Garden Art**

Committee Chairs

The Garden Committee is pleased to announce *Karen Rose* as VISTA's Garden Steward. In this role, Karen will be available, as requested, to assist gardeners with planning (what to grow when) and growing successfully (best practices for soil health, amendment and fertilizer applications, watering, harvesting, etc.) She will monitor for plant disease or infestations to prevent spread from one garden to another and inform gardeners of remedies, helping the Garden Committee to ensure that gardens are well maintained. We are grateful to Karen for all she has done in recent years as Chair of the House of the Rising Seeds, seeding and tending hundreds of vegetables to start our gardens each season. We appreciate Karen's willingness to continue contributing to VISTA as our steward.

We welcome *Chris Schelin* as Chair of the House of the Rising Seeds committee and *Simone Johnson* as Chair of the Garden Art committee. Chris leads an able team of volunteer members and gardeners, including Luisa Kattan, Marc Katz, Karyn Lear, Amanda Mahon, Laura Perez, Denise Wood, Jennifer Jackson, Jocelyn Deshields Clinton and Teresa Quaye who will raise terrific seedlings and source fine seeds for VISTA gardeners. Simone leads a group of creative volunteer members, including Alex Livingstone, Katie Rincon, Lauren Chidel and Scarlet Rodriguez Ortiz. Watch for the color and interest they add to our gardens in the months to come!

Volunteers Needed!

We need more volunteers to turn the compost. Please visit our website volunteer tab to sign up for a shift today. This is a fun way to complete your VISTA volunteer requirements, get exercise, and save our planet!

Sign up now to "take a turn" for one hour on one of the following dates:
November 19, 20, 21
December 31, January 1 or 2.

Click [HERE](#) to Sign
Up!

Spotlight On: Basil Tulsi



Basil Tulsi is also known as Holy Basil or Queen of Herbs. This basil is grown in India in pots near temples and homes.

The herb helps combat stress, colds, flu and other respiratory ailments. To use, steep the leaves and flowers for tea, it will have a spicy clove aroma. It can also be used as a mosquito repellent by rubbing the leaves and flowers on the skin and clothes.

To learn more about herbs and their uses, sign up below for Herbs, Conversation and Cultivation.

Click [HERE](#) to Sign
Up

VISTA Gardens
13572 South Village Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618

Connect with us

