



VISTA MATTERS

- January Edition -

WELCOME 2022!

VISTA's Wildflower Garden
a VIVA Florida Landscape



Photo credit: Kathy Neukamm

The demonstration garden funded by the Florida Wildflower Foundation and friends of VISTA, is planted.

VISTA Resident Experts volunteer to monitor and nurture selected varieties of plants regularly, ensuring that they thrive during the initial stages of growth.

[Read about our Resident Experts](#)

Downloadable informational sheets

Successful VISTA gardeners follow the planting, irrigation, fertilization, harvest, and companion planting recommendations. We have downloadable information sheets available on our website.

This is an example of the *Cherry Belle Radish vegetable information sheet*.



Cherry Belle Radish

Round roots, bright red skin, and firm white flesh. Somewhat less susceptible to developing pithiness compared to other varieties. Our sweetest spring radish.

Culture: Optimum soil pH between 5.5 and 6.8. Loosen top 6" of well draining soil and work compost into the top 2".

Spacing: Sow seeds in moist soil, 3/4" apart, 1/2" deep in rows 8-12" apart and thin to 1-1/2". Planting successively every week allows for continuous harvesting.

Irrigation: If plants do not receive one inch of rain weekly, water deeply. Drought stress can cause the roots to develop poor flavor and a tough texture.

Fertilization: Radishes do not require additional fertilization after they are planted. Be careful not to use nitrogen-rich fertilizers near radishes, as you will prompt leaf growth at the expense of radish root.

Maturity: 24 days.

<https://www.southernexposure.com/products/cherry-belle-radish/>

Plant radishes near beans, beets, celeriac, chervil, cucumber, lettuce, mint, parsnip, peas, spinach, squash, and tomatoes. Avoid planting near potatoes.

Download informational sheets

Time to turn the compost!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FELLOW GARDENERS!!!

Compost takes time....

Our compost cured for 3 months, giving VISTA volunteers a long break for the holidays.

Now it is time to aerate and turn the compost in our bins.

Every garden is enriched when amended with compost.
Now is the time to sign up on the Vista website
to help turn all compost in our bins.

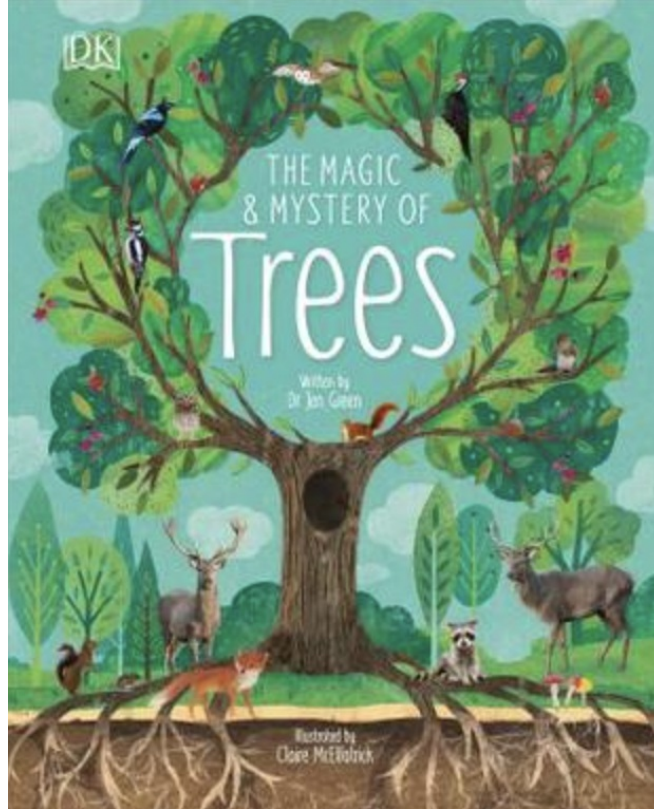
We will be turning compost **January 27,28, and 29 from 8-10 am.**

Please sign up to volunteer for 1 hour.
I will be there to support everyone who volunteers.

Thank you
- MJ Wentzel, Compost Committee Chair

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The Magic and Mystery of Trees
by Jen Green, Illustrated by Claire McElfratrick



Goodreads

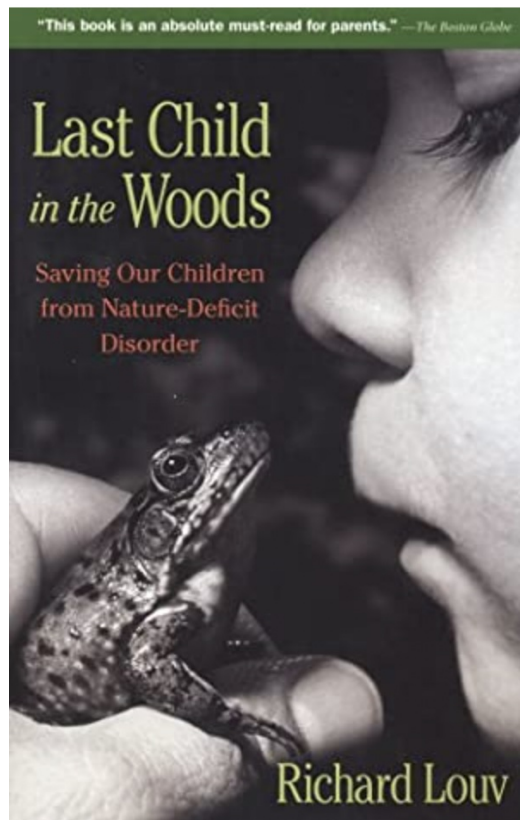
This breathtaking book about trees takes children on a captivating journey of nature-packed leafy exploration, showing them just how special these mighty organisms are.

Discover how they communicate and warn each other of predators, how they nurture their networks, record the past, and anticipate the future to ensure their survival. There's so much more to trees than meets the eye. Learn about the amazing natural science of trees in this nature and science children's book. From the highest branches, all the way down to the complex wood wide web of roots, every part of a tree plays an important role. Not only in its own growth but that of the whole ecosystem of the forest or woodland. *Did you know that trees take care of each other and that a whole forest is connected?*

You'll learn unbe-leaf-able tree facts, see extraordinary trees from around the world, and the animals that call them home. Find out what trees do for us and how we are damaging them with pollution and deforestation. This book will show that it's not too late to do something about it, and you'll find out how you can help with instructions on how to plant your very own tree!

**Last Child in the Woods:
Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder**

by Richard Louv



Goodreads

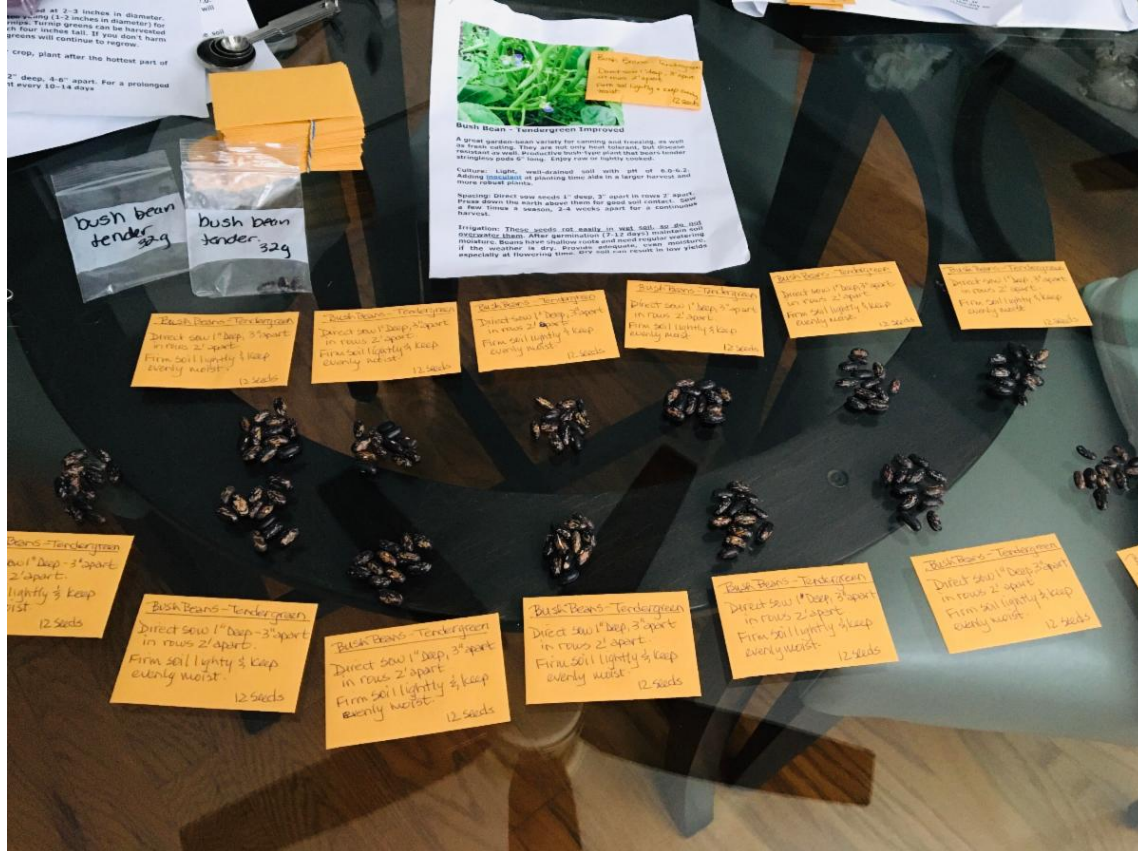
"I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are," reports a fourth-grader.

Never before in history have children been so plugged in—and so out of touch with the natural world. In this groundbreaking new work, child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation—he calls it nature-deficit—to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as rises in obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and depression.

Nature-deficit disorder is not a medical condition; it is a description of the human costs of alienation from nature. This alienation damages children and shapes adults, families, and communities.

Both VISTA and our community appreciate Forever Friends for the grant to purchase books for the Little Free Library.

Order mini-packets of seeds now for cool-season and spring season gardening.



The House of the Rising Seeds Committee carefully sources seeds known for successful growing, productive harvest, and favored flavor.

Thanks to Corinna Edwards, Denise Wood, Luisa Kattan, Kathy Neukamm, and many VISTA student volunteers who have created hundreds of mini-seed packets for our members!

[Order Here](#)

Edibles to plant in January

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *January*



	North	Central	South
 Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Swiss Chard, Sugarcane	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Sugarcane, Tomatoes	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 Transplant Carefully	Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffah, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 Use Seeds	Carrots, Onion (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips	Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onion (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Pumpkin, Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon



UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Welcome new VISTA members

Noelle Mills
Gardening in H2.



Cecilia and David Mitchell
Gardening in DW1.

Cecilia shown here with their youngest of 4 children, Kian.



Mike and Tomoko Arnold
Gardening in CW7.



Deb Ramos
Gardening in CW6.



Quick Reminder:

When trimming your garden veggies and weeding.

Please DO NOT compost diseased clippings or weeds.

Take diseased clippings home for disposal.

Weeds may be placed on grassy areas to be mowed.

Keeping our compost clean and healthy for our gardens

Thank you

Click here to submit your photos and stories for future editions of VISTA Matters.

VISTA Gardens
13572 South Village Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618

Connect with us

