



Village Institute for Sustainable Technologies & Agriculture

VISTA MATTERS

- October Edition -

Say Hello to VISTA's Wildflower Garden Resident Experts!

VISTA's Wildflower Garden along the berm will soon be moving to the next stage; after solarization comes soil prep and planting!

And, *VISTA has Resident Experts who have volunteered to dedicate time and expertise to the various plantings.* These Resident Experts are learning about the plants selected for the Wildflower Garden, including proper planting and care techniques, and preparing to guide volunteers who will assist in transplanting native trees, vines, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers in late October. Our VISTA members are excited about this Native Wildflowers project and welcome all of our community residents to enjoy and learn about these fabulous Florida native plants. *The Wildflowers project is funded by the Florida State Wildflower license plate program, the Florida Wildflower Foundation, and other generous donors.*

For more info about our volunteer Resident Experts and why they stepped up to work on this project, [click here](#).

Check out these volunteers!

Our gratitude to the *Sickles High School National Honor Society* members who tirelessly volunteered these past months helping us prepare the soil for the future *Wildflower Garden*, move “a mountain of” of soil into raised garden beds, build a pergola, assist with soil testing, planting, composting, weeding, mulching,

making seed packets and a myriad of other activities.

We are grateful to each one of them and to the many VISTA gardeners who worked alongside them!



- Interesting Facts -

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN OCTOBER

	North	Central	South
Survives Transplanting	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive/Escarole, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberry, Tomatoes
Transplant With Care	Carrots, Mustard, Spinach	Carrots, Mustard, Spinach	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach
Use Seeds	Onions, Radish, Turnips	Onions, Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Onions Peas (english, southern), Radish, Squash (summer), Turnips



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Oh, those dreaded garden pests and diseases...

"It happens; it's normal. Your job is to try and mitigate it so that your plants remain healthy and productive as long as possible."

- Kristian E. Holmstrom, Manager,
Rutgers's Vegetable Integrated Pest
Management Program

Karen Rose, VISTA's Garden Steward, shared [**this article**](#) from the New York Times of interest to the tomato growers among us at VISTA.



*Unwelcome tobacco hornworm
at VISTA, October 2020*

A special shout-out to Adrian Madhosingh! - Phase 2 President -

For his help and cooperation in working with VISTA Gardens on getting the irrigation of the wildflowers berm arranged.

Adrian's support along with VISTA's project leaders, Fieldstone Landscaping that is installing the watering system, and Chris Cernosek Carrollwood Village's community manager, helped us find a solution to VISTA's irrigation challenges.

Thank you all!

News from Your VISTA Gardens' Board of Directors and Jennifer Grebenschikoff



As you read in the last issue, Bill West, VISTA's founder and longtime President, and his wife have sold their home and are on their way to soon having a new home in their other favorite place, the NC mountains.

For any of you who know Bill, you will agree that VISTA will definitely miss his good humor, his sweet smile and laugh, his endless patience, his constant doing and fixing. So as your new Board President I now will try and fill his very big shoes, but in my case, I'm in boots (you've seen my psychedelic tie-dye garden boots?).



Bill was correct: I have been with VISTA since it was started in Bill's and friends' backyards. Our very small group was part of the start-up organizing and welcoming so many people who wanted to be part of this amazing community garden.

During those years, my husband David Kirschman and I established and ran for 35 years a national healthcare consulting firm focused on high level executive search.

We closed that business in 2014 in order to be able to spend more time in our communities and enjoy some leisure and travel opportunities. Our two sons, now 45 and 42, grew up here and both are now successful in their careers. From time to time you might see our 14 year old granddaughter and 12 year old grandson visiting the garden with me.

Onto Board news:

I'm so pleased to tell you that at the September 11 Board meeting when Bill officially offered his resignation, the Board gave him the designation Chair Emeritus! We hope that Bill will continue to visit and work with us as VISTA grows and thrives.

Your Board members are Marty Kleiner (BW2, VP and Chair of all things Infrastructure), Susan Baxter Gibson (CE1, Treasurer and keeper of our financial records), Barb Mahlmeister (BW1, Chair of Education and my garden mate on our

shared raised garden beds), Steve Taylor (AE7, Chair of Marketing and the guy who finds those great restaurants for our fundraiser meals).

The Board also decided to increase the Board to seven members (as allowed by the Bylaws). And we're so delighted to announce that Keshia Arlinghaus (AE6) and Evans Bostick (BE7) accepted our invitations to join the Board.



Eric, Arlo, and Keshia Arlinghaus

Keshia will serve as Board Secretary while continuing her work with Rolfe on the membership records. Evans will represent the Garden Committee and continue as Chair of the Hugelkultur Committee.



Linda and Evans Bostick

We are very fortunate to have so many talented members at VISTA. When you see Keshia and Evans, please welcome them to their new leadership roles. I am sure that they will bring new insights and exciting ideas to the wonderful work we all do at VISTA!

- educational opportunity-

" When and where to plant your veggies and how to trim tomato plants. "

**Sunday 3rd of October at 9 am
& Monday 4th of October at 6:30 pm**

Soil Testing underway



"When you create healthy soil with lots of compost, you've got probably all the nutrients your plants need to make it through the growing season productively and healthy."

- Joe Lamp'l

VISTA's Garden Committee randomly tests garden soil for pH levels and, in some cases, the fertility levels of nutrients.

Early pH test results showed soil from 5 of 6 raised garden beds to be within the preferred range (5.8-6.3) or acceptable range (5.5-7.0) for growing vegetables, with 1 of 6 being too alkaline.

Early fertility level testing showed nutrients to be high, especially phosphorous. Pending more testing, we encourage the use of fertilizers with lower levels of phosphorous - the "P" in Nitrogen-Phosphorous-Potassium (N-P-K) ratio on fertilizer labels.

[READ MORE](#)

What's that Plant?

Aloe maculata "Soap Aloe"

Different than the aloe commonly known to calm burns, contains saponins used to make a soapy lather.



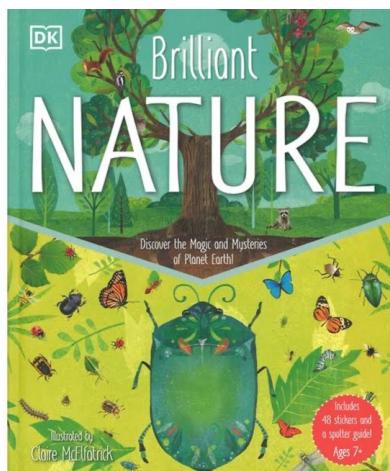
More cold and wet tolerant than many other aloes.
Excellent in rock, cactus and succulent gardens.

*Good for xeriscaping and can be used as a dry ground cover.
Flowers attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.*

What's new in the Little Free Library?

Brilliant Nature

by Jess French and Jen Green
Claire McElfatrick (Illustrator)



Venture into the depths of the forest and learn about the extraordinary secrets of trees, then creep into a wonderful world where fireflies dance and spiders spin. There's so much more to the natural world than meets the eye.

Go on a captivating journey of nature-packed exploration. You'll never look at the planet in the same way again!

[Click to Discover](#)

Both VISTA and our community appreciate [Forever Friends](#) for the grant to purchase books for the Little Free Library.

Can you find four millipedes

in this picture?

Just one of 50 millipede species in Florida.

If you are uncomfortable with them in your garden bed, just move them to your compost area. Use them as a teaching 'tool', kids love finding millipedes when we talk about 'Good Bugs and Bad Bugs'.

Lisa Meredith, Compost, Vermicompost & School/Community Garden Program Coordinator, Hillsborough County Extension, University of Florida (UF) Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)



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