

OCALA 2026 Home & Garden Show - Master Gardeners Schedule

Friday, April 24:

1:00 PM – Pollinator Gardening 101

Florida's climate is a paradise for pollinators nearly year-round, yet their populations continue to decline! Come learn how you can promote pollinator sustainability in your community—even in HOAs!

Jeremy Rhoden

2:00 PM – Best Palms for Central Florida

Come learn about palms that grow well in Central Florida, and best management practices for keeping them alive and well!

Amanda Marek

Saturday, April 25:

1:00 PM – Florida Friendly Landscape: Right Plant/Right Place

FFL principles provide a science-based framework for sustainable, low-maintenance landscaping. Come learn about plants best suited for Central Florida!

Linda Johnson

1:30 PM – Florida Friendly Landscape: Lawns

FFL principles highlight water conservation, but lawns need water too—just not too much! Learn about proper water management and lawn care.

Linda Johnson

2:00 PM – Native Wildflowers for the Butterfly Garden

Florida's native wildflowers enhance the beauty of low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscapes while supporting butterflies and bees.

Audrey Edwards

2:30 PM – Backyard Birds

Florida is known for its avian biodiversity, with more than 500 migratory bird species. Learn how to attract these beautiful birds to your backyard!

Audrey Edwards

3:00 PM – Good Bugs in the Garden

Discover the beneficial insects that help maintain a balanced ecosystem by preying on harmful pests.

Debra Lukasiewicz

3:30 PM – What Is Wrong with This Plant?

Plants show signs of stress through color and structure. Learn how to identify and diagnose common plant issues.

Debra Lukasiewicz

Sunday April 26:

1:00 PM – Getting Started with Hydroponics

Grow food faster, reduce pests, and eliminate the need for pesticides. Learn what hydroponics is and how to get started!

Jeremy Rhoden

1:30 PM – Garden Problem... What Can I Do About That?

Garden issues often occur in groups. Learn how to properly diagnose and address common gardening problems.

Linda Johnson

2:00 PM – Soil: The Foundation of a Healthy Garden

Soil provides nutrients, water, and support for plant growth. Learn what makes “good soil” and how to improve yours.

Linda Johnson

2:30 PM – How to Become a Marion County Master Gardener Volunteer

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer? Learn about training, requirements, and benefits.

Jeremy Rhoden

3:00 PM – Ask a Master Gardener

Get your gardening questions answered by a panel of Master Gardeners.

Debra Lukasiewicz, Linda Johnson, Audrey Edwards