



It's a Date!

BY JULIE CLAY

PHOTOS BY
KATHLEEN BLASE

It's a brand-new year, and you deserve a little something special. What better way to capture a fresh perspective on the days ahead than with one of these spiffy new 2004 calendars? This year, you can turn one of life's little necessities into a real conversation piece. And hey, you even get that extra day in February to show off your acquisition!

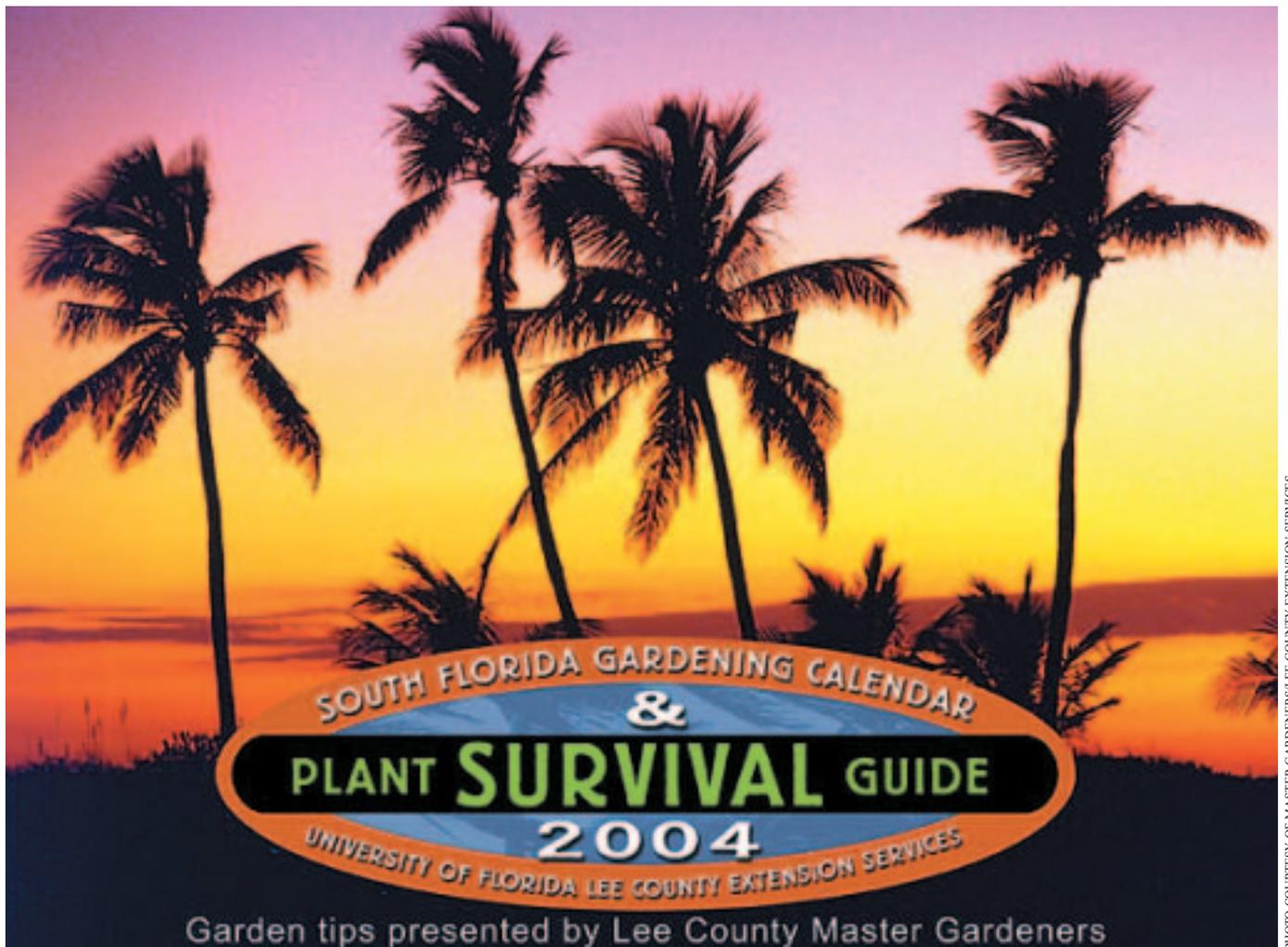


PHOTO COURTESY OF MASTER GARDENERS/LEE COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICES

PLANTING SCHEDULE

Figuring out the gardening schedule in South Florida can be confusing, especially to those used to cooler climates. But with a calendar from **Master Gardeners of University of Florida—Lee County Extension Services**, gardening just got a lot easier.

The 2004 South Florida Gardening Calendar and Plant Survival Guide will help you figure out what to plant when, according to the region's climate and conditions.

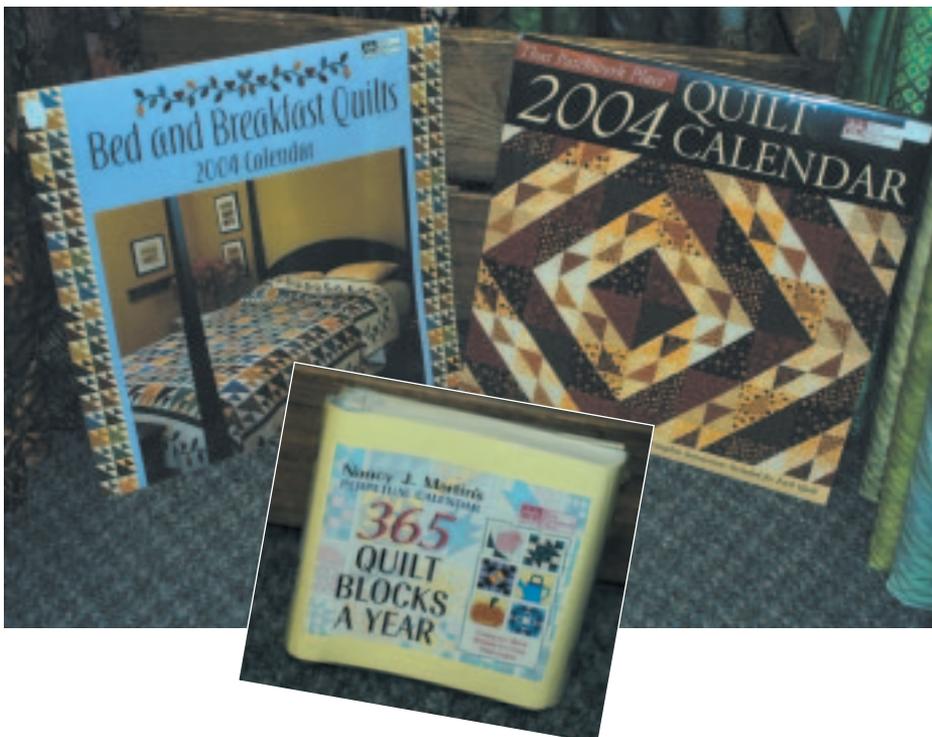
Photographs, including a cover shot by Sanibel photographer David Meardon, highlight a plant every month that will survive in Florida conditions, including dry winters, rainy summers, and salty air. Pictures and tips also cover pests and diseases, pruning, and fertilization. Proceeds will benefit Master Gardeners education and beautification programs. *Lee County Extension Services, Terry Park, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL 33916, 239/461-7514, www.lee-county.com*



REAL CLASSICS

Adorn your wall with one of three vintage-art calendars imported from Italy and available at **Pandora's Box**. The Paris collection features Photocrons, or retouched pictures, for a unique display of photos taken at the 1900 World's Fair, courtesy of the Library of Congress. Notable shots include Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, and Arc de Triomphe. For

those who prefer to spend the year more at home, the Americana calendar is a set of vintage posters highlighting popular United States destinations, including New York, Las Vegas, Yosemite, and New England. And if you have a grasp of non-English languages, you will enjoy the European advertisement calendar featuring posters circa 1920. 2075 *Periwinkle Way, Unit 1, Sanibel, 239/472-6263*



DESIGNS UNCOVERED

For the quilters among us, **Three Crafty Ladies** offers the 365 Quilt Blocks a Year desk calendar, featuring a quilt-block design for each day. Designs for every occasion are highlighted, including seasonal and holiday configurations. Each day has a full-color block illustration, fabric-cutting key, and assembly diagram. And if you'd just like a nice quilt to look at on your wall each month, wall calendars by That Patchwork Place feature quilts found at bed-and-breakfasts around the country, complete with directions for making each month's design. 1620 *Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239/472-2893*



THE WHOLE SET

If you're one of those people who has to have everything match, calendar sets found at **Book Warehouse** are for you. These "four-in-one" sets, made by Cardinal Calendars, include a wall calendar, booklet desk calendar, address and phone directory, and two-year planner. Each piece in the collection features the same print and design, which range from teddy bears and scenic wonders to dream cars, military aircraft, and wild animals. *Book Warehouse, Tanger Factory Stores at Sanibel, 2035 Summerlin Road, Ft. Myers, 239/454-0045*



A NATURAL CHOICE

Sanibel Island Bookshop is one place on Sanibel and Captiva to find the 2004 Sanibel-Captiva Nature Calendar—on recycled paper, of course. Available in either standard stapled binding or spiral-bound, with tide charts, each month features wildlife scenes shot on the islands. Photographers include full-time islander George Graham and seasonal resident Jim Fowler. Part of the calendar proceeds benefit island conservation and wildlife protection organizations. Calendar writers are island residents as well, including Betty Anholt, Charles LeBuff, and Bev Postmus.

The bookshop also carries unique desk calendars, including two collections of timeless quotes from our commander in chief. *George W. Bushisms: The Accidental, Wit and Wisdom of our 43rd President*, and *Presidential (Mis)Speak: The Very Curious Language of George W. Bush* both display a year's worth of keepers. The *Itsy-Bitsy Card-A-Day* desk calendar doubles as a set of miniature greeting cards for all occasions, including birthday, holiday, thank-you, and wedding cards. *1711 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239/472-5223, sanibelbookshop.com*

ON THE ELECTRONIC END

When a calendar on the wall just won't do, head to **Brookstone** for something on the innovative side. A hot seller, The Globe Knows "Infoglobe" is a sphere about five inches in diameter with a floating blue LED read-out circling its middle. Manufactured by Olympia, this globe contains a hundred-year calendar for quick and accurate reference many years to come, but it does much more than tell you what day it is. It's a digital caller identification unit capable of holding up to fifty-seven messages. It also contains a real-time clock.

Similar in concept but different in design, the Floating Message alarm clock utilizes the unique "persistence of vision" phenomenon by flashing eight LEDs sixteen times per second between its columns. One can program several custom messages into the clock, and it's also a hundred-year calendar. *Brookstone, Bell Tower Shops, Ft. Myers, 239/481-7711*



PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKSTONE