



110 Mehrhof Hall
PO Box 110675
Gainesville, FL 32611-0675
Telephone (352) 392-1831 x 246
Fax (352) 392-1413
www.gardeninginaminute.com

Spanish Moss

Today on Gardening in a Minute: Spanish moss.

Spanish moss is a trademark of the South. And this tangled-looking, gray or green bromeliad droops from oaks, fences, and telephone lines throughout Florida.

Contrary to popular belief, Spanish moss is not a parasite. It's actually an epiphyte, meaning it gets all of its nutrients from the air and rainwater. Spanish moss does not need to be removed from your trees. It actually has an important role in Florida's ecology.

Many animals use Spanish moss for protection, taking cover in the thick masses. Insects love to hide out in the moss, too.

Spanish moss is also a significant component of the nests of several species of birds, including the parula warbler and the Baltimore oriole.

So be a good host and let your Spanish moss hang out in your yard.

For more information on Spanish moss, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

your solution for Florida-friendly gardening