**Beautyberry**

Today on Gardening in a Minute: beautyberry.

Beautyberry is an easy-to-grow, colorful native with attractive berries.

The branches of this slightly sprawling shrub form long arches that bend toward the ground. Birds may feed on the berries, and the leaves can be crushed and used as a natural insect repellent.

Flowers appear along the beautyberry’s branches from June through August, maturing into jewel-like berries by September. These berries typically come in bright purple, but there are also selections with lavender or even white fruit.

If the berries aren’t first devoured by birds, they’ll persist for several weeks after the plant drops its leaves, adding a splash of color to what otherwise might be a dull winter landscape.

You can plant beautyberry anywhere in Florida most any time of the year, and it’ll be drought-tolerant once established.

For more information about beautyberry and many other gardening topics, 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 Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

your solution for Florida-friendly gardening