## SEASONS



## A TROPICAL FALL IN PARADISE

Look a Little Closer...

BY CHRISTIANE FRANCIN

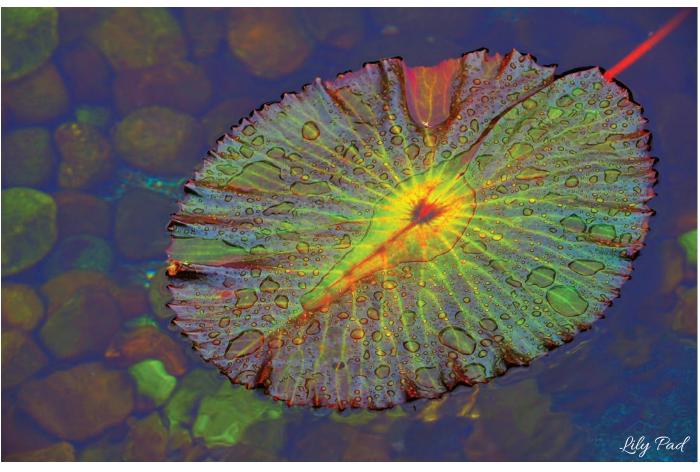
hile much of the country is getting ready for winter, Florida's landscape is more vibrant than ever! The seasonal changes in the Sunshine State may be more subtle than what can be observed up north, but take a closer look and you will discover a wealth of autumn colors. You'll observe hues of yellow, red, orange and even purple. Ornamental grasses are taking on rich autumn shades and the vines are turning from

green to red. Seagrape leaves dressed in bright emerald are transformed into a brilliant orange and gold. Bushes, full of colorful berries, bloom and flowers blossom in these seasonal shades.

Enjoy our Beautiful and Fragrant Fall "What gives leaves their green shade is chlorophyll," explains Master Gardener Becky Wern. When our climate changes and the Fahrenheit dips, it triggers more vivid shades of color to emerge in the foliage. "As the nights get longer and cooler," says Becky, "the chlorophyll breaks down within the plant, allowing the other colors already in the leaf, such as red or orange, to come through."

It's wonderful that fall foliage does exist in Florida! Gardening enthusiasts can visit the University of Florida's Gardening Solutions website for its guide to seasonal color or Floridata.com for a list of fall foliage plants. There, you can learn more about native plants and trees that bring a touch of autumn color to our Sunshine State.







Palm







Banana