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Berry picking forbidden on Flagler County property

August 24, 2017 – Palmetto berries on Flagler County land might be tempting to pick, but county ordinance forbids it.

“It’s palmetto berry season, which means it is the time of year when we see people on the side of roadways and in our parks to pick the berries,” Flagler County Land Management Coordinator Mike Lagasse. “While some private property owners allow the harvesting of the berries with permission, picking palmetto berries is not allowed on Flagler County owned or managed preserves and parks.”

Flagler County ordinance also prohibits the removal of soil, rock, sand, stones, trees, shrubs, plants or wood materials. Violators could pay a penalty of up to $500.

“This practice can create unwanted debris on public lands, create unwanted trails, and harvesting palmetto berries reduces the amount of food for our wildlife,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said.

In the past, palmetto berry harvesting has been problematic on many of Flagler County’s coastal and inland properties.

Flagler County is making efforts to curtail the palmetto berry harvesting activity with increased enforcement to catch violators.

“People might say they have permission to pick the berries, but this is absolutely untrue of Flagler County public lands,” Lagasse said. “There are no licenses in effect for individuals to harvest palmetto berries.”

If you see someone you suspect of harvesting palmetto berries on county-owned property, please report it to Lagasse at 386-313-4064.

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