The Bloomin' News

JULY, 2019, Vol. VI, 140

Alan Howland, Chairman **Thomas Perez, Editor**

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello, Fellow Gardeners!

Thank you to all of our fellow gardeners who come out each week and put in hours during this long and hot summer. Our first of the year field trip has been tentatively scheduled for September 21st and we are going to Leu Gardens in Orlando. The historic home and gardens was donated to the city of Orlando in 1961. We will explore the 50 acre botanical gardens located near downtown Orlando. Cat & Rick no cuttings please. Our new spring sale dates are March 13th and 14th 2020 and we look forward to being competitive with the local plant outlets. Our new membership chairman is Donna Jensen. Thank you Donna, everyone one of us needs to support her in order to rebuild our membership. We just donated to the Wekiva Youth Camp, a residential nature camp for 3rd through 8th graders that is supported by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. The camp is located in Molino Florida west of Sanford. Enjoy your July in the garden and don't forget okra and peppers grow really well in this hot and steamy environment.

JULY IN THE GARDEN

June has brought some needed rain, and July is also expected to be a wet month with 7 to 10 inches of rain in north Brevard County. July will be very hot making it one of our most uncomfortable months for gardening. Despite the heat, routine garden maintenance should continue. Work early or late in the day, apply sunscreen and wear a head cover. Save water by turning off your automatic sprinkler system and operating the system manually as needed.

Sod-web worms could arrive in July. They feed heavily on St. Augustine, but will attack other lawns. Watch for grass that is chewed close to the ground, as if cattle had grazed. Chinch bugs may also be active in July. Mole Crickets are active in Bahia and Bermuda lawns and should be treated now. Use Mole Cricket Bait, spray/granules. Follow label instructions.

CRAPE MYRTLES have been blooming beautifully, but this can be only the beginning. Prune back each cluster to reasonably large stems before seed pods form. Remember, strong branches can only grow from branches larger than themselves. If mildew occurs, spray with a good fungicide. In 4 to 8 weeks, you should have a second flush of blooms.

Continue to pinch new growth, except AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS and GARDENIAS to assure thick, compact plants. Use the cuttings to root new plants. Prune POINSETTIAS to develop compact plants. Divide and repot ORCHIDS and BROMELIADS. Fertilize shrubs and flowers lightly every 3 to 4 weeks. Feed outdoor container plants every 2 to 3 weeks. Transplant PALMS and SAGOS during our rainy season. Remove weak or diseased tree limbs that could be damaged by storms. Make a weekly trip through your garden to check for insects, diseases or other problems. Watch for yellowing or scorching – a sign of Spider Mites. Blast them off with a hard stream of water or spray mites with a summer oil home citrus spray which will help control mites, scale and whitefly. Use Natural or Organic sprays.

Hot weather plants that add color to the landscape include BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUMS, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLE, SALVIA and VERBENA. Add an additional thin mulch layer to flower beds to conserve moisture and control weeds.

Accentuate With Annual Flowers

Annual flowers are the candy of the gardening world. They kick things up a notch in the garden and are an easy way to add a burst of color if you're on a budget. One of the best uses for annual flowers is to brighten up high-traffic areas like mailboxes, sidewalks, and front doors. Whether in containers or in the ground, annual flowers provide a way to add something new without breaking the bank. And, because annuals generally grow for just one season, they're a great way to try new color schemes and combinations without fully committing.

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TREE FARM NEWS –

Mist house has lots of propagated plants ready to up-pot then be placed in shaded area or proper corral. Great job and thanks to those who started cuttings.

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PLANTS THAT REPEL MOSQUITOES

***Lemongrass**: Mosquitoes hate the lemony scent of this plant. With some patience, you can easily grow this in your garden. Lemongrass prefers good drainage and full sun. This tropical plant does not tolerate freezing temp.

***Marigold**: Besides mosquitoes, this plant can also repel aphids; companion plant for vegetable garden. Collect seeds for next year's planting. Never rub on your skin!
(to be continued next month)

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Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the ENCHANTED FOREST, 444 Columbia Blvd. (Hwy. 405) The public is welcome. **http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/ (264-5185)**

Garden Club Web Sites

National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org
Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org
TGC site: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc
TMGC: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9 am.
"At the Tree Farm" next to Stuart Park
1230 Thoreau St
Our next meeting is August 13th

The public is welcome to join us. Work at the Farm is conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Joanie's Corner – Rain Lilies

Rain lilies are plants with dainty, funnel-shaped blooms that pop up overnight after a heavy rain. The flowers of this member of the amaryllis family come in subtle shades of white, yellow, pink, or red. The narrow, grass-like foliage of rain lilies blends in well in rock gardens and borders. In containers, they do best when crowded.

Rain lilies can be cultivated in the garden and will flower spring through fall if kept alternately wet and dry. They overwinter easily throughout the state. Rain lilies prefer full sun to part shade and do best in moist, well-drained soil.

You can transplant rain lilies, or you can purchase some of the small bulbs to plant. They're very low maintenance, and their delicate blooms will surprise you when they appear!

Become a New Member!! YOU Are Welcome

We are always looking for new members and have great opportunities for learning at our monthly meetings, at the Tree Farm and at special events. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. For more information, please call Joanie at 480-8807..

Titusville Men's Garden Club
The Bloomin' News
Thomas Perez, Editor;
Email: tomp@mountairyalpacas.com

Please send your articles to
be included in next month's Bloomin' News.

The Titusville Men's Garden Club

Titusville Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville, FL 32780

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday of the Month, -- 10:00 a.m.
(@ "the Farm" Behind Stuart Park)

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Who We Are: A non-profit club that enjoys gardening and contributing to our City's beautification and our environment.

What we Are: As a part of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, we are a partner of the Titusville Garden Club.

What We Do: We educate and help each other to enjoy gardening, teach and learn to enjoy plants. We assist others to propagate, grow and distribute trees and plants to non-profit organizations. We participate in voluntary efforts to help Titusville's "Tree City" initiative to plant 2,000 trees per year.

Where We Meet: We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility, next to Stuart Park. Members adopt trees and plants to grow and have fun.

How We Operate: We presently sponsor an April and an October Tree and Plant Sale. The sales receipts are used to support the Club, purchase materials, and donate plants to the City and other worthy non-profit causes. Some members grow plants to landscape their own homes (all are welcome to do so). With permission from a plant's adoptee, members may take plants for personal use. Dues are $25.00 annually, due in April.

For more information Phone Rose @ 321-289-8388.

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Titusville Men's Garden Club Application

Send application below to Titusville Men's Garden Club, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

Name: ____

Email: _________________________ **Phone:** ____________ **Cell:** ____________

Street: _________________________ **City** __________________ **Zip** __________