The Bloomin' News

January, 2022, Vol. XI, 1

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

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Chairman's Message – Alan Howland

Fellow Gardeners,
Happy New Year to everyone. The new year will indeed start quite quickly with a sale at the garden club on Sisson Road in February and our annual spring sale in March. The dates are easy to remember because both will be on the 11th and 12th of each month. New construction projects continue with our newly installed shed being remodeled as well as one of our shaded plant stands being completely gutted and rebuilt. We recently purchased a mulching machine and we look forward to getting that up and running for the spring. We will be pressure washing our buildings in the next few weeks to get ready for the spring sale. Thank you for the team that put together our first berry plot. The berry patch may take up to a year to plant since the mulch will need time to decompose. Thank you to Rose for hosting our fall sale appreciation dinner. The food was wonderful and everyone enjoyed themselves.
The fall vegetable gardens are producing an abundance of crops including green beans, kale, collards, mustard greens, carrots, radishes, lettuce, broccoli, tomatoes and herbs. Remember now is the time to start your seedlings for the spring gardening season. We have dedicated one long shelf in the mist house for seed propagation in pots and plan on having extra plants to sell at the spring sale. The fall sale was the first time we actually made money selling vegetable plants. We look forward to supplying our customers with vegetable plants at a reasonable price.
Come out and join us this new year because have a lot of work to do. Regards, Alan

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

This year we may experience a colder winter than usual. Freezing weather or heavy frost has occurred in Central Florida as late as the March full moon. So some chores must be put off until, at least, the end of February.

Do not prune undamaged Non-Deciduous Plants.
Pruning now will stimulate new growth that will be more susceptible to cold damage. If frost or a freeze has killed the leaves or tips of non-deciduous plants; dead parts if unsightly can be removed but do not prune back to green wood until warm weather returns.

Do Not Fertilize During January, don't fertilize lawns, trees or shrubs.

Replace declining trees and shrubs. You can transplant dormant trees and shrubs, and spray trees and shrubs for Scale and Mites. Use a dormant oil spray. Follow label instructions. Add a fruit tree to your yard. Prune deciduous fruit trees, shrubs and vines. Apply dormant spray before apple, peach, pear and similar trees bloom. Divide perennials and renew mulches. Maintain a 3 to 4 inch mulch layer in shrub and perennial areas. Continue to mow lawns to control weeds. Reduce watering lawns to once a week

Flower seeds of MARIGOLDS, IMPATIENS, GERANIUMS, PETUNIA and FIBEROUS BEGONIA are best planted between now and February 15th.

Bulbs for Florida planting in January include AFRICAN IRIS, AMARYLLIS, BLOOD LILIES, CRINUM, DAY LILIES, SOCIETY GARLIC, ZEPHYRANTHES (RAIN LILIES), and refrigerated DUTCH IRIS, TULIPS and DAFFODILS. Flowers that bloom this month in spite of the cold include ALYSSUM, BEGONIA, CALENDULA, DIANTHUS, PANSY, PETUNIA, PHLOX, SNAPDRAGON and VERBENA.



The blooming period can be extended by removing old blooms as they mature so seed pods cannot develop. Fertilize container grown plants monthly.

Keep holiday plants attractive into the New Year by keeping them in bright light. Water when the soil begins to feel dry. Feed them monthly.

This is the month to thumb through those new garden catalogs. Plan your next garden. Decide the varieties of new plants or your favorite plant for planting. Local nurseries will have lots of annuals available in the spring, but most will be the old proven standbys. The catalogs will have seeds of the old proven varieties and many new hybrids developed to give us genetically stronger, hardier plants, with larger and more vivid flowers. Get your seeds started in January for setting out in March.

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Garden Tip – RoseMarie Peurrung

Now is the time to start thinking about the Spring Vegetable Garden. If you want to grow heirloom or a certain kind of tomato, purchase the seeds now. Mid-January is the time to start the seeds so they will be big enough to transplant out into raised beds or the vegetable garden in late February. This is so the plants have adequate time to fruit before the hot weather arrives. Hot, humid weather causes the blossoms to be infertile. Spring seeds are available at this time in the garden stores. (I like Ace Hardware)

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GROWING ALLIUMS – RoseMarie Peurrung

The warm flavors and aromas of garlic, onions, shallots, chives and leeks are indispensable in the kitchen. I can't imagine not having them to flavor my dishes. They are all members of the Allium family, a relative of the Lily. Besides their rich, flavor-enhancing qualities, they have been proven to lower cholesterol and combat bad microbes. This is an excellent time of year to grow Alliums. Most will do well in pots on your patio in full sun, or planted in rich, humus-type soil that is ph neutral in the ground or in raised beds. It is best to keep the soil damp, but not wet to avoid rot.

For onion and garlic chives, it is best to purchase a small plant from a garden center. They are both perennial plants, which spread slowly. Garlic leaves are flat, while onion leaves are round and hollow in the center. Both have a mild flavor which are best to use in salads or foods eaten raw. Green onions can be started from seed or you can purchase a bunch of green onions at the market. Plant the bulb or white part of the plant just deep enough to cover the white bulb. Use the other leaves as needed. Eventually, they will flower and seed, and you will have many more plants.

Scallions are regular onion sets planted too deeply for an onion bulb to form. (6 inches)

Regular onions are planted from sets or tiny plants purchased at garden center 1-2 inches deep (Probably best in soil or raised beds.) Use the green leaves from outside as an herb. These take months to mature depending on time of year.

Garlic is planted here in Florida in the Fall or early

Spring. Separate the cloves and plant approximately 1 inch deep. It also takes months to mature, but I use the outside leaves as herbs.

Shallots are rather expensive to purchase, but can be grown. They prefer a more acidic soil (5.0 – 7.0), and are planted close to the surface. Like onions and garlic, they have a very long growing period.

Leeks are slow to grow, prefer cooler weather and probably best to purchase.

Onions, garlic and shallots are ready to harvest when the leaves turn brown and fall over. That is if you have allowed most of the leaves to remain on the plant and not used them as herbs. Always leave enough leaves on the plant to support growth of bulb and roots.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For information on local events this month see:
http://nbbd.com/events/

Florida Native Plant Society

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday from 7 – 9 p.m. at the ENCHANTED FOREST, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405).

The public is welcome. For info: 264-5185.

Their website is www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/

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Potential New Members, 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. We meet at 10:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Tree Farm, behind Stuart Park. For more information, Rose at 321-289-8388.

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY, January 21, 2019

Plant a tree on Arbor Day is observed Nationally.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872 to urge settlers to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, fruit, fuel and beauty to residents of the largely treeless plains. On that day, more than 1 million trees were planted. Eventually, it spread throughout the United States and to many other nations.

In Florida, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Friday in January, our best tree-planting time. If you are looking for a tree to plant, try a Cabbage Palmetto; it is our State Tree.

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 site: http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc

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The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
Tom Perez, Editor; 240-285-6189
Email: TNTsservice@gmail.com

The Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

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, located at at 1230 Thoreau Street

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE GARDEN CLUB TREE FARM

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.

Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

Application

Send application to Titusville Garden Center, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Street: _____ City _____ Zip _____