

The Bloomin' News

APRIL, 2012, Vol. VI, 57

Dena Chemerys, Chairperson

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

Hello everyone,

I am happy to report we had a very successful Spring flower, plant, and tree sale. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Our site at the Searstown Mall was a big hit, and we had a lot of participation among our members. I can not thank you enough for All of your hard work and time. With the proceeds of our sale our club has voted to offer two (2) \$500.00 scholarships to two high school students from Titusville who plan to attend college in the fall while majoring in horticulture or agricultural studies. We also have plans to sponsor two children's scholarships to Wekiva Camp this summer. Also we will be purchasing more trees for our Arbor Day give away each year, and for the trees we will be giving away to children at our fall sale. Our efforts continue to beautify our city, businesses, roadways, and parks. Thank you also to the public who came out to purchase plants for their yards and homes, and in doing so, have provided us with the funds to continue these worthwhile endeavors. God Bless and Happy Easter, Dena Chemerys Chairman

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. As a return for members' input/work, some plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. We meet at 7:00p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Garden Center on Sisson. For more information, call RoseMarie: 385-9051.

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

April is a busy month in the garden. Most plants are growing well. By mid-month, day temperatures will be up in the 80's and most nights will be above 65 degrees.

Replenish mulches to conserve moisture and keep weeds down.

AZALEAS have about finished blooming. Now is the time to continue a care program to assure good blooms next year. Feed each AZALEA with a good, acid-forming fertilizer at the rate of ½ cup per plant per month. Prune and trim large AZALEAS, and pinch back branch ends until mid-June. AZALEAS, unlike most other plants, will branch wherever you cut them. If mites, insects or scale are a problem, spray now and in 30 days with Cygon and Summer Oil. Follow label instructions.

DAY LILIES are ready to start blooming. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer, such as 2-10-10 or 10-30-10 will assure better blooms.

CRAPE MYRTLES already have extensive new growth. An application of a Bloomer fertilizer every 2 weeks will assure more and larger blooms. Mildew is a common problem on both leaves and blossoms, even in full sun.

ROSES are growing rapidly. ROSES are heavy feeders and require frequent watering. Regular fertilizing every 2 weeks in our sandy soils is not excessive. Spraying weekly with Funginex or Daconil will control Black Spot and Mildew.

LAWNS should be fertilized now if you did not fertilize in March. Use 16-4-8 with minor elements to stimulate rapid growth. Plug, sod or seed to fill in bare areas in your lawn or to start new lawns. Provide sufficient irrigation, within water restrictions, to give your lawn an inch of water in any week your lawn gets less than an inch of rain. Cut Bahia and St. Augustine grasses 3 to 4 inches high. If grass clippings are left on the lawn, the grass should be mowed more frequently than when clippings are removed.

Move ORCHIDS to shady outdoor locations and feed every 2 weeks. Move tropical plants outdoors. Feed all container-grown plants.

Bulbs for April planting include ACHIMINES, AMARYLLIS, AGAP ANTHUS, BLOOD LILIES, CANNAS, CALADIUMS, CRINUMS, DAHLIAS, GLADIOLI, GLORIOSA, GINGER and RAIN LILIES.

Warm season plants that will perk up flower beds include AGERTUM, ASTER, BEGONIA, BLUE DAZE, COLEUS, COSMOS, DAY LILIES, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, PERIWINKLE, SALVIA, VERBENA and ZINNIA.

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>

THE PINEAPPLE – Steve Korpacz

Have you ever tasted home grown PINEAPPLE? It is usually very sweet, much better than grocery store fruit. You can start by cutting the top off a PINEAPPLE, wait a day or two for it to harden off, then plant an inch or two deep in a rich, slightly acidic organic soil. You can leave some of the fruit on the edges of the top; the plant can use this for food until it becomes established. I like to start with a 6" x 6" pot, since the roots are not deep. I fertilize lightly and monthly with a liquid fertilizer like Miracle Grow or Peter's. Just pour onto plant and in crown too. Once the plant has become established, you can move it to a 3 gallon size pot, after 6-7 months.

In a 3-gallon size, you can fruit the plant once it has some size (18" – 24"). At 1 year old, I like to take a small piece of apple or banana and force it into the crown. As this decomposes, it emits ethylene gas and forces the plant to fruit. You can harvest your first PINEAPPLE a few months later. You will know it's ready when you can smell it from 2 – 3 feet away. Just twist the fruit and it will detach from the plant, then you can start all over again. The PINEAPPLE can be propagated several other ways: slips, suckers, rations and crowns (described above). Slips arise from just below the fruit, suckers from the axils of the leaves and rations which grow from the base. Slips and suckers are the preferred method of propagation.

A 5-gallon is all the plant will ever require as they don't have deep root systems. I like container growing mine; it's easier to weed and to protect from cold weather. The PINEAPPLE is not cold tolerant at all. They will need protection. Give growing PINEAPPLES a try. The flavor of a home-grown PINEAPPLE can't be beat. **Keep it Green.**

TREE FARM NEWS – Tony Koromilas

Thanks again to all the folks who help weed and tend to plants and trees on Tues. and Thurs. Thanks to Janice for fixing street sign/ banner for our Spring Tree & Plant Sale in March. Buck continues to fix Mist House, which is now ready for propagating plants. I welcome any help to up-pot Maple trees, Podocarpus, Azaleas, Society Garlic and any plants in one-gallon pots.

We and all the plants miss Burl's expertise and wisdom while he recovers from illness.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR – Ann Wicks

April 14, 2012--- [4-H & FFA Ag-Fest](#)

9am – 5pm - Fort Christmas Park, Christmas, FL
Tractor Obstacle Course, Mechanical Bull, BBQ,
Cook Off, Bake Off, Prizes.

April 14, 2012 – [Brevard Botanical Garden – Spring Plant & Craft Sale](#) – 9am to 1pm – Cocoa Ag Center

April 17-21, 2012---[The 9th Annual Moore Heritage Festival of the Arts and Humanities](#), Mims,FL

April 21, 2012--- [Celebrate Earth Day in the Enchanted Forest](#) – [Native Plant Sale](#) -10am - 3pm
For more information, please call 264-5185.

April 22, 2012.---- [Secret Garden Tour](#)
9am - 5pm.--Hosted by Keep Brevard Beautiful.

APRIL 28th, 2012---[Brevard Rare Fruit Council](#)

8am (No Earlier) – 4pm
Rain Date Sunday, April, 29th 8am – 4pm

Held at Melbourne Auditorium

Get rid of grasshoppers! – Jeanie Huppert

Use ordinary, all-purpose flour. When grasshoppers (or any other chewing insects such as blister beetles) feed on foliage that have been dusted with flour, their mouths get all gummed up, and the grasshopper cannot eat any more. Furthermore, when they swallow a whole lot of this flour, they get sick and stop eating all together.

(NOTE: You must be careful, though. To get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly way, use ONLY the old-fashion all-purpose type of flour because the self-rising flour has salts in it. These salts may ruin your plants, and salt is not good for the soil.)

You can buy a commercial garden duster to use this method, which will get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly way, but why not save money and make your own duster?

1. You can punch a dozen or so holes in the bottom and lower sides of a brown paper, lunch-size bag with an ice pick or a carving fork and use it to dust flour onto the foliage in your garden.

2. Other containers might be salt or pepper shakers, empty spice containers with perforated lids, grated cheese jars, or container with shaker top, or cover you can punch holes in with tiny nail and hammer.

You will need 3 cups of plain all-purpose flour, a garden duster or shaker, and a garden hose.

3. **The best time to use this method** is early in the morning when there is no wind and there is still dew on the plants; the flour will end up on your plants The dew will help the flour stay on your plants and not be blown away. You could also use this method after a rain as long as there is no wind. (cont on page 3)

Get rid of Grasshoppers (cont)

4. **Pour flour into container with shaker top** or the perforated paper bag. Use less for small garden.
5. Before dusting the flour on the plants in your garden, **give the foliage a shake** in order to get the grasshoppers to move off them.
6. **Dust the leaves AND the insects** with the flour.
7. **After 2 days, rinse off the flour** from your plants with **fine spray** so as not to damage your leaves. If the leaves are hairy (such as tomato leaves), you may need to rinse twice.

If you need to repeat this method to get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly, wait about a week before you dust your leaves again. As long as you don't leave the flour on the leaves for more than 2 days, the flour will not damage your plants.

This method is the easiest and most economical way to get rid of grasshoppers the eco-friendly way.

Titusville Garden Club–Day Group From the Prez

April 4 – Monthly Wednesday Meeting – 9:30a.m.

April 4 - TGC Board Meeting

April 4 – “What’s My Name”, Horticulture Fun Quiz

By Cathy Spencer

April 4 – TGC and FFGC Dues due

April 27 – U.S./National Arbor Day

Did you forget?—

TGC dues are due April 1, 2012

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 on S.R. 405 in Titusville. The public is welcome.

<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>

SPEAKERS!! – Steve Korpacz

For our **March meeting**, we were treated to an outstanding presentation of Grafting technique by Adam Shafner. Most of our members have never seen this done. Adam answered our questions, and grafted step by step so we could observe this art form.

For our **April 9th meeting**, Dana Venrick will be the Speaker. His topic will be on plant nutrition/ Hidden hunger; how to correct minor element deficiencies. This should prove very beneficial to our members as we work at the Tree Farm and at our homes. See you there!

More Gardening Resources:

Florida Master Gardener

<http://mastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>

Gardening in a Minute

<http://gardeninginaminute.com>

Florida School Gardens

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/schoolgardens>

Florida-Friendly Landscaping

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Solutions for your Life

<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>

EDIS

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

Univ. of Florida, IFAS Extension

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu>

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at
7:00 p.m.

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

Our next meeting is April 9th, 2012 !!

Annual Dues are due April 1st.

Single member \$25; couple is \$45.

Saturday Workdays: April 7th & 21st

**April 14th – Brevard Botanical Garden –
Spring Plant and Craft Sale (9am to 1pm)**

Cocoa Ag Center. For info: 633-1702

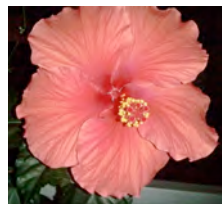
**April 14th – Garden Tour of members'
gardens: Lisa & neighbor, Colleen, Ed, Patty**

**April 21st – Native Plant Society Plant Sale
at Enchanted Forest on S.R. 405**

**April 28th - Brevard Rare Fruit Council –
Edible Fruit Tree Sale. (8am to 4pm) at
Melbourne Auditorium**

**April 28 – Appreciation Dinner at Whistle
Junction**

Please send your articles to Joanie at
freddiefla@yahoo.com to be included in next
month's Bloomin' News.



**The Bloomin' News
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