

The Bloomin' News

JUNE, 2015, Vol. VI, 95

Duane "Buck" Cowen, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

Hi Fellow Gardeners,

As I wrote previously, time seems to fly as we get older. I thought I just turned an article in, and here it is time again. It reminds me of how fast weeds grow, almost overnight.

The Monday meetings are very important. All decisions are made there and I thank the members for their attendance. The Tuesdays and Thursdays we spend at the Tree Farm are producing great results. The farm continues to look better and better. We have removed the dark shade cloth #80 and replaced it with #40 weight on the mist house. Hopefully our rooting program will be more rewarding. A big thank you to the men who helped with that project. We also have a very good start on the ground cloth in the new tree area. We could use some input as to the types of trees we should grow.

I'm of the opinion that all members should have access to the farm. If you ask, I'll be happy to provide you the combination. By the same token, I don't want to hear about plants disappearing. Sooo, please help me! No one should take plants without asking the farm managers. We all raise or donate plants for the sales and our ultimate goal, to help our community!! PLEASE ASK! If a nonprofit organization would like our help with plants, it must be brought to the floor for a vote. You will find I sometimes speak in generalities! My favorite saying: "If the shoe fits, wear it. If the shoe doesn't fit, don't worry about it." We have a group of very nice people who like gardening, or we wouldn't belong to the club. Each of our contributions, be it large or small, adds to the growth of the club and the farm. We are all the best of the best!!!

Just Me, Buck



JUNE IN THE GARDEN

Although May surprised us with some showers, June should give us even more rain. In a normal year, we get about 7 Inches, mainly as afternoon and evening showers. An unobstructed rain gauge can save guess work, and sometimes a good deal of watering. Our flowerbeds and lawn need a minimum of 1 inch of water a week in our hot weather. If you do not get about ½ inch of rain during each 3 to 4 day period, you should water until about ½ inch of rain and irrigation has been applied. Applying and/or renewing mulches and weeding will reduce water needs and help control summer weeds.

The increased rain and higher humidity will increase Black Spot and Powdery Mildew on ROSES, CRAPE MYRTLE, ZINNIAS and other similar plants. Start a

weekly fungicide spray program. This will also help control Spider Mites.

If you have Bahia lawn, June is an excellent time to seed bare and thin spots. After sowing seed, apply a thin layer of soil. Water well and frequently when no rain.

June is one of the most active months for Mole Crickets the scourge of Bahia lawns. Follow label instructions when you begin spraying or putting out bait. Mole Cricket bait applied on a damp lawn in the evening is also effective. Mole Crickets are usually active on the surface after dark.

Pinch back the tips of bushes and shrubs to develop more compact plants. Use the cuttings to root new plants for our plant sale. Do not prune or pinch AZALEAS or GARDENIAS after the end of June, or you will sacrifice some of next year's blooms. If plants are not a deep rich green, feed with Chelated Iron, Iron Sulphate and/or Manganese Sulfate. Manganese Sulfate will also cure "frizzle top" on Palm Trees.

Root tip cuttings of CHRYSANTHEMUMS and POINSETTIAS – use 4 to 6 inch long cuttings with all the leaves left on the MUMS. Remove all but the tip leaves on the POINSETTIAS.

Fruit drop from Citrus and some other fruit trees can be expected this month. The trees shed the fruit they can not support. To reduce drop, follow an established fertilizer and watering program. Feed bananas monthly.

Joanie's Corner -- SUCCULENTS

Succulents store water in their thick leaves, so they do not rely on a large root system. Take advantage of this unique quality by planting in small containers crevices of rocks or any small space. For containers, use a high quality potting soil. It is not necessary to use expensive cactus potting soil if you reduce the water and ensure good drainage. For large containers, fill the pots up halfway with empty milk jugs, soda bottles or cans or packing peanuts to take up space, increase drainage and keep the pots a bit lighter. Saving money on potting soil is an added bonus.



Succulents will grow well in full sun to part shade. You can add a beautiful topdressing to accentuate the color and texture, such as stones, pebbles, shells, gravel or tumbled glass. Propagate by setting leaflets on the top of a pot or tray of soil. Avoid temptation to "stick" them in – they will root if left just resting on the soil. A light misting every few days will be needed. Over several weeks you will begin to see small roots growing down from the cut end and new baby plants will begin to grow. Let these small plants reach dime size before transplanting into their own pots.

Titusville Men's Garden Club

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

**Our next business meeting is on June 8th, 2015
Garden Center -- 5275 Sisson Road**

**Our next meeting will be
June 8th, 2015!!!**

Come join us! We look forward to seeing you as we discuss plans for the coming year.

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Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com
Phone: 480-8807

