

The Bloomin' News

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Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Buck Cowen

Hi fellow gardeners.....My gosh, I don't know if it's just me, but we must be having fun. The weeks seem to fly by. Is it because we keep ourselves very busy? I certainly hope it isn't because at most of our ages, we can't keep up to the speed of the world around us. I, for one, will never admit that ! I will always say farmers and gardeners can work much harder than others. And it shows in our Tree Farm.

Thanks to the consistent weeding, up-potting and propagation, we had a very successful Fall Sale. I think the signs on the plants helped as we had less inquiries of what is this and what's that. We also learned from things that happened throughout the two days. We still have to work on prices and sales table area. The new sign over the highway looks great and I'm sure helped. A few more signs in the right places will help. More apparent was the general atmosphere; we members seemed happy, and our customers seemed happy.

We are working together toward a common goal. We have created a very nice nursery, and you should be very proud. I've noticed we have not slowed down. The weeding crew and potters have been working, working. We need to keep in mind the meetings are very important. That's where we hash our problems out. I try to keep the meetings as short as possible. We need a few volunteers in an area or two! Sooo, until I see you at the Tree Farm or at a meeting, its.....Just Me, Buck

November in the Garden

This is a good gardening month with cooler nights and lower rainfall. Some cool days and cooler nights are needed to start dormancy in our plants for winter protection. Most plants other than hardy annuals are preparing to go dormant for the winter.

Tropical plants and many plants that retain their leaves in the winter will need some protection from frost and winter cold. You can "hill" around the base of the plant with mulch, soil or Spanish moss to provide some protection. When frost is expected, cover tender plants with paper bags, cardboard boxes, trash containers, burlap or cloth. If you use plastic, keep it well away from plants. In severe cold, a small electric bulb (40 to 100 watts) at the base of covered plants can prevent freeze damage. Running sprinklers during freezing weather can save many plants. You can reduce damage from light frost by washing frost off lawns and tender plants early in the morning before the sun hits them.

Prepare lawns and woody ornamentals for winter by withholding fertilizer. Renew mulches to conserve moisture and to reduce cold injury. Shorter days and cooler temperatures have slowed lawn growth, but lawns and citrus trees should still be watered as needed. Bahia and St. Augustine

lawns should continue to be cut 3 to 4 inches tall. Remove fallen leaves from the lawn. If your lawn is thin in areas, you can make it green by overseeding with winter rye grass; seed late in the month as the permanent grass goes dormant. Broadcast 8 to 10 pounds of seed per 1,000 sq. feet to get a good winter cover. Rye grass will grow in light shade and will need fertilizer, water and mowing.

DIFFENBACHIA, CROSSANDRA, EPISCIAS, PEACE LILY, LIPSTICK VINES and other cold sensitive plants will suffer if temperatures drop much below 55 degrees, so be prepared to bring them indoors, or place them in a heated shelter. A few nights of 50 or even 45 degrees will not harm most ORCHIDS, although it may retard flowering; however, most ORCHIDS will benefit if protected from temperatures below 42 degrees.

This is a good time to control Scale on AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS, GARDENIAS, IVY, HOLLY, MAGNOLIA, LIGUSTRUM and many other plants. When the temperature is below 80 degrees, use dormant or low-toxicity oil spray as directed..

Hardy plants that will provide winter color in your yard include ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, DIANTHUS, LARKSPUR, PANSIES, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, SNAPDRAGON and VERBENA.

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