

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)



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.

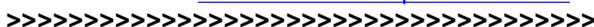
Onions, garlic and shallots are ready to harvest when the leaves turn brown and fall over. That is if you have allowed most of the leaves to remain on the plant and not used them as herbs. Always leave enough leaves on the plant to support growth of bulb and roots.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The 22nd Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival is being held on Jan 23 - 26 at the E. Florida State College, 1311 N. U.S. 1, Titusville (321-268-5224). For more information see website www.scwlf.org

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/



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. There are facilities to start plants from seed and clippings. We meet at 9:00 am on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Tree Farm, behind Stuart Park. For more information, call Joanie at 480-8807.

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY. January 18, 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:

The Titusville Garden Club web site has a link to the Titusville Men's Garden Club web site:
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 Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

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The Titusville Men's Garden Club

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

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 Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road (south of SR 50 / north of SR 405). We also meet at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility. 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.

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

For more information, please phone Joanie at 480-8807

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Street: _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____