

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter
September 2015

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): Sept. 14 and Sept. 21(Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., Sept.2, 10-11:30am – “Hypertufa”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

Coastal Wildscape Events (more information and registration at Coastal Wildscape website):

Tues., Sept. 8, 5:30-7pm, Straton Hall, Brunswick, “Wonderful World of Dragonflies and Damselflies”, \$10.

Fall Native Plant Sale -- Saturday, Sept. 26, 9am-1pm, Ashantilly Center, Darien

Announcements

Tues., Sept. 8, immediately following regular garden club meeting. Anyone who would like to help with the scarecrow for Hay Days please join Sharon for a short meeting.

The **Earth Angels** are looking for classroom helpers on an occasional basis.

Plant Sale – Keep getting your plants ready and growing for the October sale.

Weeding party -- Thursday, Sept. 3, 9 am at waterfront pavilion (at end of Osborne St.) Bring clippers, bug spray, water.

Garden to-dos for September

Prune perennials. Fertilize palms with slow release fertilizer. Most palms are deficient in potassium, so add Muriate of Potash to correct the deficiency. Apply organic matter to roses, fertilize, and prune back 1/3. This is the last month to fertilize citrus trees. Plant Marigolds, chrysanthemums, onions, turnips, basil, parsley, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, broccoli.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My life has become the stuff of nightmares! I have about 15 kinds of dastardly, insidious, sneaky and prolific vines in my yard. They grow so fast they are engulfing my bushes faster than I can pull them off. What can I do? I am afraid to let the dog out or stand still too long.

Tangled Up and Blue

Dear Tangled,

I feel your pain. I have vines that I can't even find in the weed books, one a charming one with little heart shaped leaves that regularly covers my pittosporums. I also have about 6 kinds of "smilax", crossvine, skunkvine, creeping cucumber, some kind of trumpet vine that never blooms, as well as blackberries, morning glory, English ivy and woodbine. About the only vines I don't have are maypops (which I wanted for the butterflies, and have killed 4 times) and poison ivy (I am not complaining). If only there were a magic wand that would rid us of these vile pests that want to choke the garden.

The bad news is that only persistence and dogged determination will rid your gardens of these murderous thugs that keep our poor plants from getting the light and air that they deserve. Handpulling or digging out is the first line of defense. Of course, some vines like smilax have tubers the size of a football. Some can resprout from the smallest piece of root. The second method is to spray with herbicide. For herbaceous vines, Roundup is best. Woody vines respond better to Triclopyr (Brush B Gone or other brush killer). You can untangle the vine from your bushes and lay it on a piece of plastic. Make sure that there is no poison ivy entwined with the vines (if there is, wear protective clothing). Spray with Roundup. After 48 hours, cut off close to the ground. When the vine resprouts and is 6-8 inches tall, spray or paint with herbicide again. You may need to do this several times until the plant says Uncle. You can also dig it out, and spray when it comes back. For very large established vines, cut a few inches above the ground and immediately treat the cut stump with undiluted triclopyr (Green Light Cut Vine and Stump Killer). This is best done in the fall. Another method of doing in unwanted soft vines like bindweed is by pouring boiling water on the roots (only do this if there are no desirable plants around). Good luck, keep at it, and never surrender.

Plant Hero of the Month: Cypress vines are coming into bloom and attracting hummingbirds, as is my red pom pom bush which has been hosting them all summer.