

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

July 2016

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau County Extension – Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Plant Clinics (10am-2pm): July 11 and July 18, August 1 (Mondays), Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Landscape Matters –10 am -11 am –Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Weds., July 6 -- *Drought Tolerant Plants*

Weds., July 20 – *Native Plants*

Weds., August 3 -- *Vegetables*

Announcements

The **President's Summer Luncheon** is **Tuesday, July 12, 11:30 am**. Bring a dish to share. The theme for the fun and friendly flower arranging competition (participation is optional) is "Go for the Gold". Fabulous prizes for the two winners!

Garden to-dos for July

Keep flowers watered, deadheaded, and clipped back or pinched back when they need it. If you can reach them, clip off the seed heads on your crape myrtles to encourage bloom through September. Make sure your plants are mulched to keep the soil temperature cooler. Water containers every day if there is no rain.

Plant annuals such as celosia, coleus, crossandra, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental peppers, portulaca, torenia, salvia. Also plant lima beans, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, peppers, and watermelon.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"

Dear Garden Maven,

My crape myrtles have not bloomed and are looking a little down at the mouth. They are very tall and scraggly, with not many side branches. I recently had some trees taken down, so they will get more sun now. What can I do to help them out?

I don't wanna be a crape hanger

Dear Hanger,

Crape myrtles are among the easiest trees to grow, and are very forgiving. But any pruning should wait until they are dormant. Late winter is the best time. There are a few courses you could take, depending on how many trunks you want, how bad the tree looks, whether it has been crape murdered, etc. If the tree has only one trunk and you'd like more, cut it down to the ground and when it comes back, select 3-5 trunks to keep and cut away the rest. If it has one trunk and you'd like to have it branch off lower, cut back to two feet below where you want the branching to start. If it has been crape murdered, cut below the fist and select a couple of branches to keep (several if there is only one trunk). Crape myrtles need 6-8 hours of sun, so make sure they are planted where they will get that. A little triple superphosphate in the spring will benefit them, then a balanced fertilizer afterwards. Too much nitrogen will reduce the amount of blooms. They bloom on new wood, so if you prune too late that will cut down on blooming. So hold off till February and give your crapes some TLC next spring. Good Luck!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Spider lilies! And the crape myrtles are especially beautiful this year.