

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

June 2017

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (Mondays, all at 10am): June 5, June 19, -- Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a plastic bag.

Weds., June 7, 10-11am – “Lawn Problems”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd).

Weds, June 21, 10-11am – “Zika – Protecting yourself from Mosquitoes”, Yulee Satellite Office (86026 Pages Dairy Rd).

Mon. June 5, 10 am –National Garden Week observance, Bring flower arrangements to City Hall for photo op with the mayor. Then we will deliver to various sites. Lunch afterwards at Highway 55!

Announcements

Christmas in July – Bring your items to the June meeting and give them to Joan. Suggested items include: body wash, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, talcum powder, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm. This is a wonderful project that helps people in our own community.

Plant Sale – Start growing plants for the plant sale in October. Lots of plants can be started by taking cuttings now and sticking them in a pot of dirt. Keep watered and in the shade. Even though they may look like they have died, wait a few weeks to throw them out. Often new growth will start after you think they are dead.

Garden to-dos for June

Plant melampodium, pentas, portulaca, purslane, salvia, zinnia, lantana, buddleia, daylily, verbena, coneflower, plumbago, sun coleus. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, blackberry lily, clivia, achimenes, crinum, iris. Plant eggplant, okra, southern peas, and sweet potatoes. Watch for pests like grasshoppers or slugs who chew holes in the plants, aphids, other pests. Laugh maniacally as you handpick and execute the giant grasshoppers. If ants are running wild on your trees or shrubs, they may be farming aphids. Malathion will take care of both the farmers and the livestock. Some things like gingers, clerodendrum, and caladiums have still not come back. Keep watching for the latecomers. Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. Fertilize most plants monthly. Keep mulch at least 1-2 inches away from the crowns of plants. It should be 2 inches deep, no more.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My loquat tree is looking really bad. The last 6 inches of the branches are just breaking for no good reason. The leaves are brown, and sometimes the branch tips just hang there, looking forlorn, with the brown leaves still attached. It used to be a thing of beauty, now it looks like it is on its way out....

My Loquat and I are feeling Verklempt

Dear Verklempt,

Call Garden 911! Your loquat has fireblight, and you need to act fast before you lose your tree. Fireblight enters the tips of the branches and travels down the stems causing the tree to die back. It attacks soft new growth first. The leaves on the infected area turn brown or black very quickly and die, but don’t drop off. Sometimes there are reddish water soaked marks on the bark which can ooze an orange-brown liquid. The bacteria winters over in the bark and spreads rapidly in the warm weather, particularly if it is moist.

Now for the treatment. Infected branches will have brown marks inside the wood. You need to cut back 8-12 inches past that. Wood will be free of any brown inside. It is very important to DIP PRUNERS AFTER EACH CUT in a disinfecting solution of 10% alcohol or bleach. Also, dispose of all the dead leaves and pruned branches. Otherwise the bacteria will jump back up onto your tree and reinfect it. Good luck saving your loquat!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: The roses look happy, especially the ones in the stone median planters! Great job, Kay!