

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

August 2018

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Nassau Extension Plant Clinics (10am): August 6 and August 20 (Mondays), Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd.) Bring your sick plants in a bag for diagnosis.

Weds., August 1, 10-11am – “Gardening with Children: Sunflowers, Beanstalks, and Worms”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd, Yulee)

Weds., August 15, 10-11am, “Vegetables”, Yulee County Bldg. (86026 Pages Dairy Rd., Yulee)

Announcements

The **Earth Angels** are looking for classroom helpers on an occasional basis. Contact Barbara C., Karen W. or Angel.

Plant Sale – Keep getting your plants ready and growing for the October sale. There is still time to root them.

Garden to-dos for August

Plant coleus, blue daze, salvia, asters, begonias, melampodium, moon vine, pentas, porterweed, tithonia, verbena, black eyed susan vine, cat’s whiskers. Bulbs like agapanthus, amaryllis, cannas, crinum, gladiolus, society garlic, and rain lilies can be divided and planted. Plant herbs like Mexican tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, rosemary, and thyme. Plant tomatoes, beans, summer squash and other warm season crops early in the month so they will have time to mature. Later in the month plant cool season vegetables like broccoli, collards, bunching onions, turnips. Fertilize heavy blooming flowers. Save seeds from flowers. Let pods dry on the plant, harvest when pods begin to open. Dry inside for a few days, then put in a plastic bag or jar and store. Fertilize fig trees after harvesting. Prune dead branches on trees.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

I have a night blooming jasmine in my yard that is getting a little too big. How can I control it? Also, I think I have some other jasmines, but am not sure what to do with them. Also, I have heard that they are poisonous.

Looking to Name that Jasmine

Dear Looking,

Night blooming jasmine (*Cestrum nocturnum*) is extremely poisonous if eaten. Also people with respiratory problems like asthma probably shouldn’t go out and stick their nose in it. It blooms again and again with a wonderful evening fragrance but can get around 7 feet tall and wide. It can be grown in a pot, but may need to be repotted more than you’d like. You can pinch the tips and cut it back after it blooms. It grows in full sun to part shade. Arabian jasmine (*Jasminum sambac*) is an evergreen shrub or vine with white flowers with rounded petals and deep green rounded leaves. It blooms on and off throughout the year. It can be pruned to a shrub but wants to be a vine. *Jasminum nitidum*, or Angel Wing jasmine, is a vine that can be pruned to a 2-4 foot shrub. It has white pointy petals on its flowers and pointy shiny green leaves. Both would be happy growing on a fence. Confederate jasmine and Asiatic jasmine are not true jasmines, but belong to the *Trachelospermum* family. They like sun or part shade and are commonly used as vines or ground covers. Don’t turn your back on Asiatic jasmine. I was out of town for a couple of weeks and noticed it had gone 20 feet up my oak tree when I got back. When used as a ground cover, it can be pruned back hard and will eventually become a woody little shrub (like at Gilman park) that can be sheared into a low wall for shrubbery beds. Assume all jasmine is poison, and wear gloves when cutting it, since the sap is toxic.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Gingers of all sorts are blooming. White butterfly ginger perfuming the air, hidden ginger with its pink tropical looking flowers, corkscrew ginger with its little orange knob, peacock ginger with its variegated leaves and lavender flowers, Siam tulip buds showing themselves and pine cone ginger coming out of the ground. Blue ginger yet to come!