

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

July 2020

Dates and Events -- Slim pickins with the Rona....

Saturday, July 11, 9am-1pm – Early Bird Plant sale. Orange Hall, Conyers St. side (in the shade). Masks, social distancing. Contact Gail F. about bringing plants and helping out. Gail has sent a flyer in the email so all can help publicize this event.

Tuesday, July 14, 9 am – 11:30 am – Socially distant garden tour at Judy’s house. Wander around the yard and wave to your friends. Some chairs will be set up at a safe distance from each other in the shade if anyone wants to visit and eat some hermetically sealed Little Debbie’s. Yes, it is possible to have too many flowers.

Announcements

Plant Sale – Keep potting those plants for the plant sale in October. Lots of plants can be started from cuttings just by sticking them in a pot of dirt and keeping it watered in the shade .

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,

Can I still prune my azaleas or did I miss the boat again?

Iggy

Dear Iggy,

Now is a good time to do it. Finish up by the middle of July, so you don’t cut off something that is planning to bloom next spring. Do not shear. Shearing is evil. Cut out the “cowlicks”, the branches that detract from its appearance. Frances, our “Princess of Pruning”, cuts a lot of branches way down as far as possible. Especially the ones that have 4-5 small branches coming off the top like an umbrella, and nothing for two feet below it. You want to open up the bush to some air, and give the plant room to grow some healthy looking new branches that look naturally attractive. Please do not torture your azaleas into squares or perfect balls. People should say, “Dang that’s a good-looking bush”, not “Oh, they just pruned those azaleas.” Fertilize after pruning if possible. Azaleas are naturally happy here, so if you don’t fertilize them that’s okay too.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Crinum’s and spider lilies are blooming.