

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

September 2020

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Duval County Extension Zoom class – Thursday, Sept. 17, 10:30 am. “Herbs for the Fall Garden”, register on Duval County Extension website, click on upcoming events, then on the Herb class. It will bring up Eventbrite to register on.

Announcements

Plant Sale – Our Fall Plant Sale will be on Saturday, October 3 from 9am-noon. Rain date is Oct. 10. We will be having it at Orange Hall by the Conyers St. entrance. We have plenty of room there to social distance and best of all there is lots of shade. Plus rest rooms! Please get your plants ready. Gail and Darlene will be sending out an email with details soon. At the summer sale we sold almost everything for \$5 (most were in 1 gallon or 6 inch pots), but smaller plants are also welcome.

Garden to-dos for September

Prune perennials. Plant bulbs, trees. 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, basil, parsley, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, broccoli.

The Garden Maven’s Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My rose bushes have started to get a lot of leaves that are pale yellow. Could this be caused by all the rain we have been getting? What can I do to get them greened up?

Feeling sorry for my pale roses

Dear Sorry,

Yellow leaves have as many meanings as tea leaves. Overwatering usually turns the veins yellow, while the leaf tissue remains green. This shows an oxygen deficiency which occurs with poor drainage. It is normal for the lower leaves of roses to turn yellow and fall off. If the leaves at the top part of the lower section of the rosebush turn yellow before the leaves below them have fallen off, it may be a magnesium deficiency (Epsom salts). If the upper leaves turn yellow, it may be an iron deficiency (veins green, leaves yellow). You can treat with chelated iron, but if the soil is too alkaline, iron has a hard time absorbing, so check the pH and add something to lower the pH, like soil acidifier (the stuff you use to turn hydrangeas blue). Some things turn the leaves grayish, which is usually caused by a deficiency of some trace elements. So Dynamite (the fertilizer, not the explosive) may be a good idea. Finally, if you have uneven yellowing with dark spots, you have black spot, which is a fungus caused by wet conditions. Prune away infected areas (sterilize clippers between cuts). You can make a blackspot spray by adding 1 tsp. baking soda and 2-3 drops of old fashioned lemon dish soap (like you buy at the dollar store, not the newfangled type) to 1 quart of cool water. Spray the foliage with this. Black Spot won’t kill the plant right away, but will weaken it over time. Yellow leaves with red spots can show a nitrogen deficiency, so add a nitrogen rich fertilizer. Who knew yellow leaves could have so many meanings?

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: _Mandevillas are happily blooming, and the butterfly gingers are in their full glory.