



St Marys Garden Club Newsletter May 2022

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Wild Nite – 7 pm Tuesday, May 10. “Gopher Tortoises” This may be held at the Peck Center (510 S. 10th St., Fernandina) in person, on Zoom, or a combination of both. Check Wild Amelia/Wild Nites website or facebook page closer to the date for final details.

Nassau County Extension Master Gardeners Plant Sale – Sat. May 7, 9am-noon, 85831 Miner Rd., Yulee. Cash or check only.

Camden County Extension Rain Barrel workshop. May 11, June 23, July 20. Build your own for \$35. Register on website.

Announcements

Plant Sale – May 21, so keep potting those plants up.

Garden to-dos for May

If your plants are growing too slowly and have yellow leaves, feed them. If they have too much growth and a lack of flowers, skip a feeding. Fertilize palms. Plant heat loving plants like celosia, coleus, impatiens, kalanchoe, marigolds, salvia, pentas, verbena, zinnias, coreopsis, crossandra, exacum, gaillardia, gazania, hollyhocks, nicotiana, eggplant, okra, Southern peas, herbs. You have missed the boat for tomatoes (unless you buy a big one), wait till August to plant them. Stake flowers as needed, keep them deadheaded and trimmed. Watch for pests. Keep watching for late emerging plants like gingers and caladiums. Be ruthless with things that have taken over (like ferns, assorted wandering jews, spiderwort, chenille plant, cosmos). If you haven't cut back your plumbago yet, it is time to do it. Prune azaleas until the middle of July.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"

Dear Garden Maven,

My friend has a beautiful mandevilla that has lived for 3 or 4 years. I have trouble growing them and having them look good for even one season. What can I do to improve my odds this year?

Man-o-manDvilla

Dear Mano,

Well, I think I may know the friend of which you speak. She grows her mandevilla in full sun in front of a brick wall, so that helps it stay warm in the winter. Where she lived before it spent the winter in the garage. She is conscientious about fertilizing and watering and also is blessed with a green thumb.

I also am trying to get my new mandevilla to just look good this season (and maybe to make it to the next). I bought a lovely 2 foot tall obelisk to fit in the pot for it to climb last year. The one that died last year didn't make it to the top of the obelisk. I am optimistically hoping I have to prune this new one to keep it in line on the support.

Mandevillas like full sun or part shade (with direct morning sun). They need good drainage, regular doses of fertilizer (I am vowing to do this this year), and plenty of water. Cut them back when they get unwieldy (if only I had this problem!), but don't prune too hard. In the fall, move it to a sheltered location, up against a brick wall if possible, and don't let it dry out completely. And maybe give it a good talking to. Hope springs eternal!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: With apologies to George Jones, is this a good year for the roses, or is it just because I switched to a different rose fertilizer?