



St Marys Garden Club Newsletter July 2022

Dates and Events --

Camden Co. Extension – register on website:

July 14, 12-1pm, Virtual Lunch and Learn – “*Invasive Plants in the home landscape*”

July 20, Rain barrel workshop, \$35 for materials

Coastal Wildscapes events – register on website

August 11, 10-11:30am, Marine Extension, Brunswick. *Pollinator Friendly Landscapes*, \$10 non member.

August 28, 3pm, Ashantilly. *Janisse Ray lecture and book signing*. \$20.

August 19-20. Pollinator census. Hear more at our meeting.

July 11, 10-11am. Webinar for pollinator census training. Register at <https://gagpc.2022.eventbrite.com>

Announcements

Christmas in July -- Bring personal care items, nonperishable food, diapers and other items for Camden House and Helping Hands food pantry to our July meeting or bring to Joan.

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,

I have a rubber tree plant with two long shoots coming off it. Can I cut these off and propagate them into new plants? I have High Hopes....

Ant Susie

Dear Ant,

It looks like some new leaves are forming on the plant. You can start some new plants, but you’ll have to go lower on the stem than the shoot. Wait till the leaf opens out to a true leaf, then get things ready to take your cuttings.

The sap is somewhat toxic and very sticky, so wear gloves. You will need clippers, a small pot around 4 inches deep, some soilless potting mix and perlite, rooting hormone, and a large Ziploc bag.

Take cuttings about 6 inches long with 4 leaf nodes to be exposed (you will leave one leaf at the top). Cut just above a leaf node, one inch below the next one. Take off the leaves on the bottom 4 leaf nodes. If the cut drips sap, use a paper towel till the bleeding stops. Keep one leaf on top, with shiny side out, roll it into a cylinder and secure with a rubber band. Fill pot with planting mix and moisten it thoroughly. Dip cutting in rooting hormone, then push into pot with the top node resting on the top of the soil. Support it with a small stake and firm up soil to hold it in place. Put a Ziploc over the pot to make a greenhouse.

Now the tricky part, put it in a warm “sunny” location. Not direct sun, but dappled sun all day. Who has that? Anyway, do your best. Mist it as needed so it doesn’t dry out. In 4-5 weeks it should have some roots starting, let them develop a bit then take off the greenhouse and let them grow more before repotting. Maybe 5-6 months.

Air layering (involved) and rooting cuttings in water (lots will rot) are other methods, but the cuttings in pots seems to be the easiest and most successful. Good luck! Oops here comes another rubber tree plant!

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: Crinumns are blooming. Gingers are finally up and running.