

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

October 2022

Dates and Events (events are free unless noted)

Tues. Oct. 11, 7pm. *“Cumberland Island Update”*, Wild Amelia Wild Nite. Peck Center, 516 S. 10th St., Fernandina.

Nassau County Extension Webinars – Register for each event on Nassau County Extension facebook page.

Weds. Oct 12, 10 am. *“Wildflower Gardening”*, 86026 Pages Dairy Rd. Also available on Zoom, register on Facebook.

Thurs. Oct 20, 3:30 pm. *“Attracting Wildlife.”* Online only, register on Facebook.

Camden County Extension – *“Basic Palm Health and Mgmt.”* Virtual Lunch and Learn. Register on Website.

Announcements

Fig Leaf – Start collecting personal care items , diapers, soap, detergent, etc. for Christmas distribution to local nonprofits (Camden House, Food pantry).

Garden to-dos for October

Plant winter vegetables like beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, bulbing onions, radishes, spinach, turnips, and strawberries. Plant flowers like digitalis, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, viola, million bells, flowering kale, and Shasta daisies. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, society garlic, spider lily, gladiola, star of Bethlehem, and pineapple lily. Of course, fall is a great time to plant those perennials you have purchased at the plant sale! Don't prune spring flowering trees or bushes. Prune fall flowering shrubs just after bloom. Check grafted trees and plants and remove growth below the graft. If planting new trees, water well, don't fertilize till spring. Start keeping Christmas cactus in the dark at night to have them bloom for Christmas.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the “Floralorn”

Dear Garden Maven,

My plumeria has grown to be about 4 feet tall, with only the one stem. What can I do to make it more bushy? Also, how do I propagate it?

Too Leggy in St. Marys

Dear Leggy,

It is best to propagate the plant in the spring. Water the night before cutting. Cut light gray branches, 12-18 inches long. Don't do green cuttings. Dip in rooting hormone right away. Allow to callus in a warm dry shady place with good air circulation. Dry until the cut end is hard, 1-2 weeks. If the end gets soft, cut off till you reach good white wood. Fill a pot with 1 part perlite, one part potting soil (**WITHOUT FERTILIZER**). It needs good drainage.

Make a 3-5 inch deep hole, insert the cutting, firm the soil. One cutting per pot. Water **ONLY ONCE**, don't water again until there are 3 or 4 good leaves. If it looks wrinkly, mist it, don't water. Good roots should be there in 6 or 8 weeks. **Don't use fertilizer until next season, especially bloom booster.**

Pruning for shape:

Prune in late winter or early spring to maintain size. You can cut dead or diseased stems any time.

Use a sharp tool wiped with alcohol between cuts. Cut at 45 degree angle. The only way to prune too much is to cut to the ground. Cut 1 inch from the base of the limb. Don't cut in the middle of the branch (unless it is the vertical branch). Remove the biggest leaves from the bottom. If it is too tall you can cut to 12 inches above the ground. You will have fewer flowers the first year after pruning.

The Maven

Plant Hero of the Month: The roses are appreciating this cooler weather. Passionflowers have been attracting a lot of Zebra longwings lately.