

St Marys Garden Club Newsletter

June 2021

Dates and Events

National Garden Week, June 6-12. Bring your flower arrangements to City Hall on **Thursday, June 10 at 11 am** for the photo op and proclamation by the mayor. Wear your garden club shirt if you have one.

Plant Sale – Saturday, June 12, 9am-noon at Orange Hall. (Conyers St. side). Shade, bathrooms, room to spread out, who could ask for more?

Announcements

Christmas in July –Bring personal care items for delivery to Coastal Assisted Living to Joan at the June meeting. Suggested items include body wash, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand cream, face cream, deodorant, combs and brushes, nail polish/remover, cotton balls, tissues, either purse size or regular size, mouthwash, lip balm.

Garden to-dos for June

Plant melampodium, pentas, portulaca, purslane, salvia, zinnia, lantana, buddleia, daylily, verbena, coneflower, plumbago, sun coleus. Plant bulbs like agapanthus, blackberry lily, clivia, achimenes, crinum, iris. Plant eggplant, okra, southern peas, and sweet potatoes.

Watch for pests like grasshoppers or slugs who chew holes in the plants, aphids, other pests. Laugh maniacally as you handpick and execute the giant grasshoppers. If ants are running wild on your trees or shrubs, they may be farming aphids. Malathion will take care of both the farmers and the livestock. Some things like gingers, clerodendrum, and caladiums have still not come back. Keep watching for the latecomers. Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. Fertilize most plants monthly. Keep mulch at least 1-2 inches away from the crowns of plants. It should be 2 inches deep, no more.

The Garden Maven's Advice to the "Floralorn"

Dear Garden Maven,

My camellia has developed gray spots on some of the leaves. What causes this and what can I do about it?

Garden Dominatrix

Dear Dom,

You have Algal Leaf Spot, also known as "Green Scurf". Sounds about as appealing as scrofula, but it's not so bad unless it is all over the shrub. It is caused by a parasitic alga. It is helped along by wet weather and plants weakened by poor growing conditions. It reproduces in summer and produces spores. While it is doing this, the spots turn velvety brown. This can also affect magnolias, Indian hawthorn, holly, and other plants with thick leathery leaves. If it gets into the twigs and branches it can cause some damage to the plant. If it colonizes, it can combine with a fungus to turn into "LEAF SPOT LICHEN". Horrors! So try to take care of this while it is still a mild problem. Remove and destroy the spotted leaves and diseased branches. Rake up any leaves on the ground. Improve the growing conditions for your plant. Fertilize and make sure it gets enough water. Improve the air circulation around the plant by cutting back and thinning out any plants that are crowding it. Sing to it and give it some love. Severe cases can be treated with a copper fungicide, but use caution as it can harm the plant if applied in the wrong way.

Plant Hero of the Month: Yellow bells, Mexican love vine, and plumbago are showing their colors.