

The Bloomin' News

February, 2010, Vol. VI, 32

Steven Korpacz, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Steven Korpacz

Greetings, Gardeners....My topic for this month is one of my favorite trees in my landscape, the Persimmon. I planted my Fuyu Persimmon almost 6 years ago, and just in the last 2 years, I have been rewarded with fresh Persimmons, ripened right on the tree. It is compared to a rich, sweet apple with a little hint of allspice when eaten firm; becomes even sweeter when eaten soft. If you have never tried one—you should. They are in season from October to December. They can be found at local grocers and fruit stands in season. The Fuyu is a grafted Persimmon, the rootstock is native Persimmon, and the scion is Fuyu. The tree is very cold tolerant, needs no winter care, and is grown up to Zone 7. During the winter, the tree is dormant and bare, but the gnarly, twisted branches add interest to any landscape. In spring, the tree flushes out quickly, then flowers, followed by a bounty of delicious fruit in the fall. In the late summer, the tree will have a large flush of growth. Mine grew almost 3 feet last year, all within a few months. If you have a small space in your yard for a fruit tree, the Persimmon is a good choice, self pollinating, cold tolerant, and fairly slow growing. The tree can be pruned to maintain size. Mine is about 8 years old, and is under 10 feet. The tree rarely grows to 20 feet.

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group - From the Prez

The next meeting for the Women's Garden Club will be **February 3rd** at 9:30 a.m. --

Plants that attract Butterflies, by Sandra Natowich

February 19 and 20 -- Plant Sale

February 24 -- Card Party

****Start collecting items for the Fantastic Sale on March 12 & 13, 2010****

Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter

The Sea Rocket Chapter's meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Brevard County Agriculture and Extension Center, 369 Lake Drive, Cocoa. The public is welcome.

Garden Club Web Sites

The Titusville Garden Club web site has link to the Titusville Men's Garden Club web site:

National Garden Club: www.gardenclub.org

Florida Federation of GC: www.ffgc.org

TGC site: <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/tgc/>

TMGC site: <http://www.tmgc.djb.net/>

Potential New Members, YOU Are Welcome

We are always looking for new members and have great opportunities for learning at our monthly meetings, at the Tree Farm and at special events. As a return for members' input/work, many plants are available to members at no cost. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. For more information call Tony Koromilas: 269-1931, RoseMarie: 385-9051.

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

This has been a good winter in our gardens. The cold snaps served to intensify Citrus color and harden most shrubs. We have had some frost and a few freezes so far. Some plants have been damaged by cold, but none beyond recovery. Remember, cold spells are common in Florida during February full moons, and have occurred during cold winters as late as the second week of March.

Judicious pruning of cold-damaged plants can be done. Grape and Kiwi vines and all deciduous fruit and shade trees should be pruned in February, if not already done. Begin routine apple, peach, fig and similar tree spraying. Till and enrich sandy soils with organic matter. Complete transplanting bare root trees and shrubs as soon as practical. Divide and replant large perennials.

You can thin and prune dormant shrubs. **CRAPE MYRTLE** should be pruned. Remove all small, spindly stems from the base of the plant, and small shoots on the main stems. Thin to 3 to 7 main trunks to open up the plant. Prune stems up to about ½ inch in diameter. **CRAPE MYRTLE** only blooms on new wood. Thin twigs will seldom produce big blooms.

ROSES can stand heavy pruning by mid-month. Cut vigorous bushes back by 1/3 to ½. Remove all twigs and any branches that are dead, diseased, injured or thin and spindly. Shorten main canes and remove small twigs and older canes that have become too hard. Miniature **ROSES** should be pruned as you would a bush **ROSE**, but lightly. Vigorous varieties may need heavier pruning to keep them compact. Clean up as much of the cut foliage as practical. Add a new layer of mulch to cover old **ROSE** leaves and Black Spot spores.

Hedges can be pruned heavily and shaped. Keep the top of the hedge narrower than the bottom to allow sun to reach the lower branches.

February in the Garden (continued)

By the middle of the month, you can work your beds for annuals by removing old plants, checking soil for pH, and correcting, if necessary. Treat for pests, work in compost, mulch or other organic matter and, when needed, colloidal phosphate, other amenders and fertilizer.

By the end of the month, all except spring blooming trees, shrubs and vines can be pruned. Spring flowering plants should be pruned after they finish blooming. A good pruning now will shape the plants for much of the summer. Renew mulches to control weeds and conserve water.

By the end of February, you should fertilize all plants except your lawn. Use 6-6-6 with minor elements, or if you prefer one for a special plant, such as Citrus fertilizer. Citrus trees will need ½ pound per inch of circumference measured 6 inches above the ground. Shade trees will need 1 pound per inch when less than 6 inches in diameter, and 2 pounds for each inch above 6 inches. Feed container grown plants monthly.

Major lawn care and fertilizing should wait until March. Repair winter damage. Spraying for weeds can continue. If crabgrass has been a problem, remove brown but surviving crabgrass and apply a pre-emergence herbicide by mid-month. Mow lawns as needed at the normal cutting height. Water normal lawns once a week.

If you did not start seed in January, start the seed now. Seeds started in trays or flats will grow rapidly and be ready to set out in March or April.

Burl's Corner – by Burl Ferguson

We need to wait for new growth to appear on cold damaged plants before pruning dead branches. Tuesday and Thursday mornings we will be at the Farm, so please plan to join us.

We are working on an order of liners from Plant Source. They offer excellent prices for liners and do not have a 100 minimum order like Liner Farm. Most trays are 60 plants per tray.

We are concentrating on plants that are hardy for our winters. We have taken a real beating from the back-to-back freezing days this year. One way to look at it is that our April 2010 Sale should be good for customers looking for freeze hardy plants.

If you have any plant species that you would like included in our order, let me know ASAP. Liner Source makes frequent deliveries to Titusville, and will deliver directly to our Farm. I will pay with my credit card and present an invoice for reimbursement.

Tree Farm News – Tony Koromilas

Just a note to tell all that about 484 Bald Cypress seedlings in mist house are crying to be potted in 1 or 2 gallon pots. We hope to plant and donate some to school kids, City and Enchanted Forest.

Arbor Day in Titusville will be the 3rd Friday in April because not enough rain when planting in January as

we have done in the past. The remainder will grow to sale next year—I hope.

Lots of Pine are ready for planting too, so that we can get ready for submitting to get Award? Trees save the environment in many, many ways; beautify our City, etc.

Don't forget our Day Club—we need cuttings, especially Crotons. Bring to Farm on Tues or Thurs morning and see Burl or myself.

We lost gobs of plants even though Ed and I covered them.

Let's continue to grow cold resistant varieties and natives that will survive in cold weather.

NOTE: Dues for the Titusville Garden Club and FFGC will need to be paid by April 1, 2010.

Please send your articles to Joanie at freddiefla@yahoo.com to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL

Our next meeting is February 8th, 2010!!

Upcoming Events:

Spring Tree & Plant Sale -- April 9 & 10 (tentative)
Brevard Rare Fruit Council April 24th, 2010

Mark these dates on your calendar; it's never too early to get plants ready for the next sale!!! The parking lot east of Emma Parrish Playhouse is our usual location.

Work Day

Please remember that the **Saturday** after our Monthly Meeting is a day of concerted effort at the Tree Farm. Individuals put in many hours during the week at their convenience, and this is very necessary for continued success. We also have some tasks that need teamwork to accomplish. This is the focus of our Saturday events.

Saturday, February 13th is our next Work Day! We will meet at the gate between 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. until about noon. Stay as long as you are able. Please come out and join us as we continue preparing plants for our next sale.

The Bloomin' News

Titusville Men's Garden Club

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Email: freddiefla@yahoo.com Phone: 480-8807

THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Titusville Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville, FL 32780

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

Next Meeting: 2nd Monday of each month Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Who We Are: A non-profit club that enjoys gardening and contributing to our City's beautification and our environment.

What we Are: As a part of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, we are a partner of the Titusville Garden Club.

What We Do: We educate and help each other to enjoy gardening, teach and learn to enjoy plants. We assist others to propagate, grow and distribute trees and plants to non-profit organizations. We participate in voluntary efforts to help Titusville's "Tree City" initiative to plant 2,000 trees per year.

Where We Meet: We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road (south of SR 50 / north of SR 405). We also meet at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility. Members adopt trees and plants to grow and have fun.

How We Operate: We presently sponsor an April and an October Tree and Plant Sale. The sales receipts are used to support the Club, purchase materials, and donate plants to the City and other worthy non-profit causes. Some members grow plants to landscape their own homes (all are welcome to do so). With permission from a plant's adoptee, members may take plants for personal use. Dues are \$25.00 annually, due in April.

Send application below to Titusville Men's Garden Club, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

Phone Tony Koromilas 269-1931 or Lisa Dugowson 264-6389

Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Street: _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____