

The Bloomin' News

August, 2011, Vol. VI, 49

Dena Chemerys, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



Chairman's Message

By Dena Chemerys

Last month's program was an informative presentation by Maureen Phillips, Water Conservation Department. She had wonderful suggestions for conserving our water, along with offers for free shower heads, rebates on toilets to name a few. Be sure to work in your garden in the cooler parts of the day now that the heat and humidity are upon us. Don't forget to drink plenty of water.

Please join us on August 8th for another wonderful program. Our speaker will be Laura Braun, Rest Haven Farms, in Geneva. She will be speaking about growing tomatoes, etc hydroponically. Please plan on joining us as we should all be in for a real treat. Hope to see you there!

Titusville Garden Club – Day Group -
Will resume in the fall.

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 Enchanted Forest on Hwy. 405. The public is welcome.

Garden Club Web Sites

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.nbbd.com/npr/tmgc>

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. We have facilities to start plants from seeds/clippings. Back page of newsletter has additional information. Drop by to visit and to possibly join us. For more information, call RoseMarie at 385-9051 or Joanie at 480-8807.

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

July has been a hot month with a fair amount of rain. August will be as hot and hopefully bring as much or more rain.

Shrubs, flowerbeds and lawns need at least one inch of water per week to grow well during our hot weather. A good rain gauge can save much water-

ing. If you do not get ½ inch of rain during each 3-4 day period, you should water to bring the total to ½ inch. Normally, plants in hanging baskets and pots will require daily rain or watering. Large hanging baskets and large potted plants in the sun may require two or more waterings a day.

You can make it easier on yourself if you prune most large shrubs. Groom trees and shrubs removing lanky, unsightly summer or storm damaged growth. Pruning will reduce the plant's water requirement, stimulate new growth, and make your shrubs and trees more compact and bushier. Prune declining CRAPE MYRTLE flower heads to reasonably large stems before seed pods form to encourage continuing bloom. Prune POINSETTIAS by the end of August for the best displays. Repot plants that are pot bound. Trim overgrown pots. Renew mulches to save water and help control weeds.

An August application of 6-6-6 with minor elements, or a similar fertilizer, will set shrubs, trees and annuals for September growth. Wait until next year to prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS and GARDENIAS. Pinch out the tips of CHRYSANTHEMUMS to produce compact plants and increase blooms. Feed weekly with 10-30-20 or similar fertilizer. Palms planted during our rainy season establish quickly.

Divide overgrown bulbous and tuberous type plants, such as AMARYLLIS, BIRD OF PARADISE,

DAY LILIES and CRINUMS now or in September. GLADIOLAS planted at 10-day intervals will bloom in about 3 months.

Seed thin Bahia lawns. Plug or sod bare or weedy areas in St. Augustine lawns. Lawn insects are quite active now: Sod Webworms and Chinch Bugs usually in St. Augustine, and Mole Crickets usually in Bahia.

Seeds can be started in August for transplants for fall and winter flowers. Try CALENDULAS, COSMOS, DIANTHUS, PANSIES, PETUNIAS and SNAPDRAGONS.

Hot weather plants for summer color include BEGONIAS, BLUE DAZE, CALADIUMS, COLEUS, IMPATIENS, MARIGOLDS, PENTAS, SALVIA, PERIWINKLES, VERBENAS and ZINNIAS.

“Why we should all be growing Muscadine Grapes and eating them.” By RoseMarie Peurrung

Muscadine grapes (*vitis rotundifolia*) are native to the Southeastern United States. They can be found growing wild in the back yards of many southern homes. It differs from other grapes with its thick skin, which is where much of the antioxidant power of the grape is stored. They have an extra set of chromosomes containing genes that allow them to produce a unique balance of phytonutrients that are virtually absent in other grapes. It has significantly more antioxidant power than other grapes, making it a powerful anti-cancer fruit. It is low in fat and sodium, and has a healthy amount of potassium, fiber and Vitamin C.

There are written historic accounts of the Muscadine grape dating to 1524 by Giovanni do Verrazzano when exploring North Carolina. In 1585, Governor Ralph Lane stated to Sir Walter Raleigh, “We have discovered grapes of such greatness, yet wild, as France, Spain, nor Italy hath no greater”. It was later referred to as Scuppernong after the town of Scuppernong in North Carolina. In 1819, Nathaniel Macon, a member of congress, sent samples of Scuppernong wine to Thomas Jefferson.

Many of the phytonutrients in the Muscadine grape have been recognized as powerful antioxidants and anti-inflammatory agents. The most powerful of these concentrated in the skins and seeds. The amount of antioxidants in the Muscadine is approximately 9 times greater than other common red grapes and 3 times higher than blueberries.

The Muscadine grape is easy to grow. It is not bothered by diseases or insects. It requires regular water and fertilization the first 2 years, and then when needed. It does not require yearly pruning after the plant goes dormant in winter. Best of all, it does not freeze in our zone. If it produces more fruit than you can eat, which it will, the birds will help you out. Some plants are self-pollinating; others need a pollinator. In that case, you will have enough grapes for preserves, or a bottle or two of

wine. Muscadine grape wine is now sold commercially in most beverage stores. Muscadine grapes are now ripening and are in season.

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 Sept 12th, 2011!!
Speaker, Robert Bowden, Director of Leu Gardens, will discuss “GROCERIES FROM THE GARDEN”.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING **2011 EVENTS**

Sept. 29, 30, Oct 1 FNATS
(Landscape Show)

Oct 7 & 8 Fall Tree & Plant Sale –
(Searstown parking lot)

Oct 15 Master Gardener Plant Sale
(Ag Center - Cocoa)



The Bloomin' News
Titusville Men's Garden Club
Joanie Opperman, Editor
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The Titusville Men's Garden Club

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

INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

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, Lisa Dugowson 264-6389.

Name: _____

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

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