

# The Bloomin' News

November, 2013, Vol. VI, 76

Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Les Leckron

What a beautiful time of year to be outside enjoying our plants! Sometimes it's just nice to look around at what we grow and think as Louis Armstrong sang "What A Wonderful World".

I can't regularly attend the Tuesday & Thursday Tree Farm Work Days, but I did get a chance to be there this last month. The Gov't Shutdown affected KSC workers so the silver lining was that I got to get back to the Tree Farm a couple times. Things are looking great and my hat is off to all those who donate the sweat of their brow to the Tree Farm, regulars and those of us who are hit-n-miss on working there.

Thanks to one of our newer members, Bill Shumpert, for being our speaker last month. We heard lots of good suggestions, reminders of things we knew, and heard some things we didn't know. It's good to hear some input from someone looking with "new eyes" at how we propagate and grow. As with any suggestions, we can try new things and techniques or not try them. I certainly hope that the message was taken as suggestions for improvement and not that we haven't been doing things "properly". Our success growing plants has been pretty good, and as we continuously learn and improve, we grow better plants. I think one of the best things working at the Tree Farm is our "fellowship" with one another as we work in the great outdoors. See you at the November Meeting, and.... Keep It Growing! Les

## November in the Garden

This is a good gardening month with cooler nights and lower rainfall. Some cool days and cooler nights are needed to start dormancy in our plants for winter protection. Most plants other than hardy annuals are preparing to go dormant for the winter.

Tropical plants and many plants that retain their leaves in the winter will need some protection from frost and winter cold. You can "hill" around the base of the plant with mulch, soil or Spanish moss to provide some protection. When frost is expected, cover tender plants with paper bags, cardboard boxes, trash containers, burlap or cloth. If you use plastic, keep it well away from plants. In severe cold, a small electric bulb (40 to 100 watts) at the base of covered plants can prevent freeze damage. Running sprinklers during freezing weather can save many plants. You can reduce damage from light frost by washing frost off lawns and tender plants early in the morning before the sun hits them.

Prepare lawns and woody ornamentals for winter by withholding fertilizer. Renew mulches to conserve moisture and to reduce cold injury. Shorter days and cooler temperatures have slowed lawn growth, but lawns and citrus trees should still be watered as needed. Bahia and St. Augustine lawns should continue to be cut 3 to 4 inches tall. Remove fallen leaves from the lawn. If your lawn is thin in areas, you can make it green by over-

seeding with winter rye grass seed late in the month as the permanent grass goes dormant. Broadcast 8 to 10 pounds of seed per 1,000 sq. feet to get a good winter cover. Rye grass will grow in light shade and will need fertilizer, water and mowing.

DIFFENBACHIA, CROSSANDRA, EPISCIAS, PEACE LILY, LIPSTICK VINES and other cold sensitive plants will suffer if temperatures drop much below 55 degrees, so be prepared to bring them indoors, or place them in a heated shelter. A few nights of 50 or even 45 degrees will not harm most ORCHIDS, although it may retard flowering; however, most ORCHIDS will benefit if protected from temperatures below 42 degrees.

This is a good time to control Scale on AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS, GARDENIAS, IVY, HOLLY, MAGNOLIA, LIGUSTRUM and many other plants. When the temperature is below 80 degrees, use dormant or low-toxicity oil spray as directed..

Hardy plants that will provide winter color in your yard include ALYSSUM, CALENDULA, CLEOME, DIANTHUS, LARKSPUR, PANSIES, PETUNIAS, SALVIA, SNAPDRAGON and VERBENA. Remove faded blooms to extend flowering. Hardy foliage plants include DUSTY MILLER, ORNAMENTAL CABBAGES and KALES



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**TREE FARM NEWS – Tony K & Alex C**

Today, Alex Chamberlain loaded up 7 Oaks, 10 Maples and 30 Pine Tree seedlings and delivered them to the Enchanted Forest. They are to be given away to children at Enchanted Forest Festival on Saturday morning, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 3pm....Thank you, Alex and Tony.

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**Garden Club Web Sites**

National Garden Club: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Florida Federation of GC: [www.ffgc.org](http://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. For more information, call RoseMarie: 385-9051

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**-SACRED TREES -**

"It is difficult to place a monetary value on the many vital services that trees provide. However, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection calculate that a single tree that lives for fifty (50) years will contribute service worth nearly \$200,000 (in 1994 dollars) to the community during its lifetime. This includes providing oxygen (\$31,250), recycling water and regulating humidity (\$37,000), controlling air pollution (\$62,500), producing protein (\$2,500), providing shelter for wildlife (\$31,250), and controlling land erosion and fertilizing the soil (\$31,250)."

**Titusville Garden Club – Day Group -** From the Prez

**Nov 6 – “Happy, Healthy Hydroponics”**

**Theresa, Rockledge Gardens**

**Nov 13-- Board Meeting @ 10:00a.m.**

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**Florida Native Plant Society – Sea Rocket Chapter**

The Sea Rocket Chapter’s meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the The Enchanted Forest, 444 Columbia Blvd (Hwy 405) Info: 264-5185. The public is welcome.

<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/>



**Tips for NOVEMBER – RoseMarie Peurrung**

What a wonderful month it should be to work in the garden. Average day time temps should be around 76 deg. With nights around 56 deg. Not as much water is needed with the coolness. Adjust your sprinkler systems accordingly. Appropriate watering will also help to prevent fungal disease of lawns (brown patch etc.) and gardens.

Cooler temperatures mean less frequent mowing. However, continue to keep weeds in check. Continue to check for chinch bugs and mole crickets this month. Try to keep the fallen leaves raked off the grass and use these for garden mulch elsewhere in the garden to aid in weed and moisture control.

**WHAT TO PLANT-**

**Vegetables:** Cool/cold weather veggies love this season. Who can resist home grown broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower etc? It’s a great time to plant beets, carrots, radishes, lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, peas and onions

**Flowers:** dusty miller will grow next to any other flower for an interesting contrast. Now is the time to plant dianthus, gaillardia, pansy, petunia, snap-dragon and verbena among other plant for wonderful color all winter long.

**Herbs:** Anise, arugula, basil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic rosemary, sage and thyme

**Bulbs:** amaryllis, crinum lily, rain lily, daylily, spider lily and iris

Begin to harvest sweet potatoes this month. Save a few for your Thanksgiving Dinner.

Feed your garden vegetables with a good slow release or organic fertilizer as needed.

Harvest early ripening citrus.

Sow papaya seeds to grow in a pot over winter in case we have a severe freeze.

Control scale insects with an oil spray.

Renew mulch in garden areas.

Continue to keep your Christmas cactus and poinsettias out of night light and water only when needed. Do not fertilize at this time.

### **CITRUS GREENING DISEASE – RoseMarie P.**

Huanglongbing , HLB-( Citrus Greening) is a Bacterial disease that affects the root vascular system of citrus trees. It has spread around the world in citrus producing countries only exempting Australia and several other small countries. It was found in Brazil in 2004, and by 2005 was known to be in Homestead, Florida. Since then, it has spread to 32 counties in Florida, all with commercial citrus interests. It is spread from tree to tree and grove to grove by the Asian citrus psyllid, a very small insect, smaller than a pinhead.

Early signs of the disease are yellowing of the veins of the leaves, asymmetrical chlorosis or yellowing of the foliage resembling a manganese or iron deficiency. It starts with affecting a branch and advances to the entire tree, killing it. The fruit becomes small, misshapen and taste is greatly altered to almost being bitter.

Presently, no cure exists. The Citrus industry, which made Florida, is totally threatened. It is now found in California and Texas. Sen. Bill Nelson has procured 11 million dollars of federal money to assist in funding the fight against this disease. Coca Cola is investing in the industry as it is now bottling orange juice as other grove owners are selling off.

The University of Florida advised that the one of the few things to be done to hold off the advance of this disease is for home owners and growers to be diligent with providing the trees with a more powerful cocktail of nutrients. In the meantime, until a cure is found, refrain from planting dooryard citrus.

### **Calendar of Upcoming 2013 Events**

**Nov 2 (10-4) & 3 (1-4) Mt Dora Garden Cost \$10, \$8 in advance. Tour begins at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, 222 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave (352-383-4613)**

**[www.lakesandhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.lakesandhillsgardenclub.org)**

**Nov. 2& 3 – Mt Dora Garden Fair – Tropicals, roses, bonsai, camellias, herbs, natives, palms & more. Simpson Cove, 311 Tremain Street.**

**[www.mountdoraplantsandgardenfair.org](http://www.mountdoraplantsandgardenfair.org)**

**Nov 10-- 2-4 Edgewater Permaculture Society's Plant/Garden Swap Party. Free refreshments. Menard-May Park, 413 S Riverside Drive (386-957-4734) [epsplantswap@gmail.com](mailto:epsplantswap@gmail.com)**

**Nov 20 -- 10-4 Spade & Trowel Garden Club's Christmas Tour of Homes. Tickets \$15 or \$12 in advance. (Info: 321-632-8632)**

**Nov 24 – Jan 5 – Leu's Holiday House. Leu House Museum adorned for the season. Tours every half hour from 10-3:30, incl with garden admission: \$10 adults, \$3 K-12. Free admission on Dec 2. Closed Dec 25. Leu Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando (407-246-2620) [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org)**

### **Titusville Men's Garden Club**

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00p.m. Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville, FL  
Our next meeting is November 11th, 2013**

#### **WORK DAY !**

**Our members meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Other work times are available by contacting Ed @ 268-4418.**

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### **APPRECIATION DINNER**

We have been invited to the home and gardens of Elisa Artusa, 3740 S Ridge Circle, Titusville to have our APPRECIATION BANQUET for members and guests. This will be a pot-luck and we can go over details at our November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.



*Happy Thanksgiving*

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Please send your articles to Joanie at [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com) to be included in next month's Bloomin' News.