

# The Bloomin' News

August, 2014, Vol. VI, 85

Les Leckron, Chairman

Joanie Opperman, Editor

*Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS*



## Chairperson's Message – Les Leckron

What a summer! The rains just seem to keep on coming! It seems we are getting too much rain, but a look at <http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov> shows our Florida Aquifer levels are much higher than a couple years ago, but not as high as back in the 2004-2005 timeframe. I didn't find specific information on Brevard County, but there are data available from neighboring counties that shows similar water level trends. We have a busy fall ahead of us – Fall Tree and Plant Sale coming up – We also need to form a Nominating Committee to get a slate for Officer positions we'll vote on later this year. My term as Chairman ends this year, so if you're interested in serving in that capacity, make sure the soon-to-be-formed Nominating Committee knows you're interested. Keep it Growing! Les

## 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 watering. 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. Wait until next year to prune AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS AND GARDENIAS. Pinch out the tips of CHRYSANTHEMUMS to produce compact plants and increase blooms. 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.

**Don't forget to get your new 2015 FFGC  
Calendar - \$6.00**

**CORRECTION – PLEASE NOTE!!**

There is a NITROGEN & PHOSPHOROUS FERTILIZER BAN from June 1 to September 30, 2014!!! No Phosphorous is allowed unless there is a soil test showing a need for Phosphorous.

<https://sites.google.com/site/fertilizeruseintheir/watershed/fertilizer-ordinances>

**FERTILIZER BASICS – Terry Rosenberger**

After September 30, only fertilizer with 50% or greater “slow release Nitrogen” can be used until June 1. For other rules, contact Stormwater Division @ 321-383-5798. For the Ordinance, call City Clerk’s Office @ 321-383-5774.

**AZOMITE – Steve Korpacz**

You can apply Azomite volcanic trace minerals any time; it has no Nitrogen or Phosphorous; just organic micronutrients. It will help with yellowing, also helps with heat stress and cold resistance.

For more info, call Steve at: 321-747-7260



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

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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; gather at 6:30 for socializing, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for program at the ENCHANTED FOREST, 444 Columbia Blvd, Hwy. 405. The public is welcome. Please call (321)264-5185 for more info.

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

**The Beauty of Pollination – Ruby Ebright**

Be sure to watch this on the largest computer screen you have (HD if possible) and have your sound turned on. The hummingbird doing rolls chasing a bee is not to be missed. Be sure and watch closely (around 2 min 40 sec) and check out the baby bat under its mother. Unreal. If you never knew what goes on in the garden when you aren't paying attention, watch this - some of the finest photography you will ever see.

<http://www.youtubenocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0>

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**August 9 – Open Gardens & Plant Sale -**

Free admission (9am to 3pm) Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch

Trail, Stuart – (727)283-5565 [www.trbg.us](http://www.trbg.us)

**August 23 -- Orlando, FL**

9-noon. Seed Swap. Bring your extra seeds, packaged & labeled in small packets, then swap for other seeds. Experts on hand. Free admission. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. (407)-246-2620 [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org)

**September 20 – Cocoa, FL**

9am to 1pm – Edible Plant Sale, herbs and more. Workshops, music. Brevard Botanical Gardens, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa. (321)633-1702 [www.brevardbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.brevardbotanicalgarden.org)

**September 20 – Orlando, FL**

Orange County Master Gardener Fall Plant & Garden Festival. Free admission and parking. Extension Service 6021 S Conway Rd., Orlando (407)254-9200

**September 20 – Stuart, FL**

Open Gardens & Plant Sale -  
Free admission (9am to 3pm) Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens, 1905 SW Ranch Trail, Stuart – (727)283-5565 [www.trbg.us](http://www.trbg.us)

**Become a New Member! 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 and clippings. For more information, call RoseMarie at 385-9051.

### The key to preventing moldy berries...

Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying \$4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find that fuzzy mold growing on their insides.



### Wash them with vinegar.

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably work best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar) and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them. *You're so berry welcome!*

### TREE FARM NEWS-

We need to up-pot lots of seedlings in Mist House on Tuesdays and Thursdays to get them ready to sell. Thanks to all who have propagated all those plants.

### Where Have All The Birds Gone? – Robert Smith

This morning (Saturday, July 5, 2014) on the early morning National News, a professor from the University of California stated that the population numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds was down over 60% in the last six years. Where have all the birds gone? It appears that the combination of loss of habitat and the increased use of pesticide is the most likely cause.

August 14, 2013 NBC News reported a sampling of garden store plants by "Friends of the Earth" and coauthored by the "Pesticide Research Center" discovered 7 of 13 plants purchased in various nursery and "Big Box" stores were contaminated with Neonicotinoid pesticides.

These potent systemic pesticides can persist in the soil and be absorbed by subsequent crops. Studies have linked these potent insecticides to Bee Colony Collapse Disorder and reduced bird populations due to the decreased food supply. Fewer bugs means less food for our feathered friends.

So, what is a gardener to do? By using Horticultural oils, pepper spray, Neem oil, Pyrethrins and better house cleaning in our gardens, we can certainly reduce our use of these potent, systemic pesticides. It would appear we may have to live with a few more pests in order to save the bees and the birds.

For more information, check out Mother Earth News, Chemistry World, Mother Jones, and the Center for Food Safety. Double check the labels on the brands carried by your favorite garden shop and ask their opinion on safer alternatives.

### Titusville Men's Garden Club

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, 5275 Sisson Road, Titusville. FL  
***No meeting in August!***

### CALENDAR OF Upcoming EVENTS

Sept 20 – Edible Garden Festival & Sale  
Brevard Botanical Gdns – 9a.m. to 1p.m  
3695 Lake Drive – Cocoa (321-633-1702

<http://ediblegardenfestivalsale.eventbrite.com/>

Sept. 25, 26, 27 - The Landscape Show  
(Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Assoc)  
(Orlando Convention Center)

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*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 RoseMarie Peurrung @ 385-9051**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_