

# The Bloomin' News

November, 2020, Vol. VI, 154

Alan Howland, Chairman      Thomas Perez, Editor

*Member of FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS*



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Fellow gardeners,

November is probably one of the best months to garden in Florida. The cooler weather helps to lessen the bug population. However, many bugs will remain including aphids, cutworms, mole crickets and leaf hoppers among others. Continue feeding your vegetable garden and annuals. Remember to mulch your plants so you don't have to water so much. Plants that will grow good this month are lilies, amaryllis, verbenas, pansies and daisies. Vegetables include beans, beets, broccoli, carrots, spinach, swiss chard, peppers, kale and lettuce.

The mist house continues to progress. The poles are now all set and the crushed concrete flooring in place. The water system is being rebuilt and a special thank you to Buck for fixing the north water system. Rick and Arve continue to replace pallets and weatherize them. Thank you for the women who show up each week to propagate and weed the plants.

One of our surprise accomplishments is growing loofah or luffa gourds, sometimes called Chinese okra. We have harvested many large gourds and are now drying them so we can make sponges for the bath and cleaning around the house. More gourds are still growing and it's going to be a bumper harvest. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday season.      Regards, Alan

### 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 degree. This is a good



zone 9, when they will put up showy spikes of flowers. **Petunia** – Another tender perennial in this zone, petunias can be grown to bloom all through the winter.

**Tips for NOVEMBER – RoseMarie Peurrung**

**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 plants for wonderful color all winter long. **Herbs:** Anise, arugula, basil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic, rosemary, sage and thyme **Bulbs:** amaryllis; crinum, spider, day & rain lily, and iris.

**Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm**

Members meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10 am at "the Farm", located next to Stuart Park, at 1230 Thoreau Street.

Our next meeting is November 10th, 2020



*Happy Thanksgiving*



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**The Bloomin' News  
Titusville Men's Garden Club**

**Tom Perez, Editor; 240-285-6189**  
**Email: [Tomp@MountAiryAlpacas.com](mailto:Tomp@MountAiryAlpacas.com)**

# The Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

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

Next Meeting: Second Tuesday of the Month, -- 10:00 a.m.  
(@ "the Farm" Behind Stuart Park)

## INVITATION TO JOIN THE TITUSVILLE GARDEN CLUB TREE FARM

**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 Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at our Tree Farm near the Titusville Water Maintenance Facility, next to Stuart Park. 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 \$30.00 annually, due in April.

For more information Phone Rose @ 321-289-8388.

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## Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm

### Application

Send application to Titusville Garden Center, P. O. Box 1783, Titusville, FL 32780.

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

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

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