



FROM THE GROUND UP

“Sowing The Seeds of Love For Gardening”

July 2014

From Our President: Janet Bugbee

Hello Master Gardeners,
Here we are again, in the heat of the summer already. Hope you are all staying cool. Remember to take precautions when out in the sun and heat of the summer. I want to thank all of you that could make it to our picnic at Lynches River Park. It was quite enjoyable considering it had turned hot on us. We always have so much good food and fellowship that we forget about inconveniences. There was such a good turn out and we had a lot of great plants for exchange. Some enjoyed touring the Educational Center which is always changing. The officers from last year were acknowledged with a Thank You Certificate, which is not enough for all they did. In the upcoming summer months we are not scheduled for monthly meetings, but we will still meet at the church (John Calvin Presbyterian Church), for those of you that still want to get together and talk gardening. The officers and I are working on lining up a field trip for us in the next month, so keep watching your email for that mention.

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for anyone wanting to get their hours, to be a certified Master Gardener. Watch for emails with details of times and places. Right now the gardens at the PDREC are

being transformed, and are looking great thanks to the new class of Master Gardeners, and others. We are also maintaining the gardens at McLeod Hospice House, which is a treat just to deadhead plants there.

Just a quick mention that you should wear your name badge at all Master Gardener functions and workdays. I know I forget at times and have to be reminded too. Some have not paid their dues yet and the year is half over; just another reminder. I hope to see you in the garden wherever it might be.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,
Janet Bugbee



*****Field Trip*****

Pearl Fryer's Topiary Garden in
Bishopville

July 26 at 10 am.

We will meet in the Magnolia Mall
parking lot across from IHOP at 9 am

FROM THE GROUND UP

FCMGA OFFICERS

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DUES REMINDER

The FCMGA By-Laws require a member's dues be paid in order to vote on any issue brought before the Association. Dues are \$10 and can be paid at the next meeting or mailed.

Quotation Corner



Upcoming Events

FCMGA Meeting

Monday, July 21, 6:30 PM

No agenda. This is an opportunity to get together and talk gardening and let us know what you would like to see happen with the Florence County Master Gardeners; program suggestions, field trips, other group activities.

Pearl Fryer's Topiary Garden

July 26 at 10:00 am

Meet at Magnolia Mall IHOP at 9 to carpool

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

Creating Beautiful Statements with Fresh Flowers

Saturday July 12

9:30 AM – 2 PM

Registration: \$30 per person

Limited to 15 people

Learn how to turn your cut flowers into centerpieces.

Materials provided. Lunch and a garden tour are included

For more information, contact Rebecca Turk at rturk@moorefarmsbg.org

Flower Pressing

Thursday, July 17

9:30 AM - Noon

Registration: \$20 per person

Limited to 18 people

Learn most effective ways to preserve beauty, shape and color of flowers

Then learn how to turn your dried creations into a piece of art

For more information, contact Ashley Fooy at foashley@umich.edu

Brookgreen Gardens

Butterfly House

Features a lush tropical garden filled with plants and hundreds of butterflies

Exhibit open daily. Tickets are \$3 Adults and \$2 children

With garden admission

Cool Summer Evenings

Enjoy special performances and explore the gardens which stay open until 9:00 PM.

Wednesday-Friday, June 11 – August 8

Cool summer evenings is included in the regular admission price. Purchase tickets online and save \$1 per ticket.

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July In The Garden

MONTHLY TO DO LIST

- Work outdoors in early morning or evening avoid excess heat Water early in the morning to cut down on disease.
- Cut off faded blooms (deadhead). Pinch back fall annuals.
- Shear ground covers and rock garden plants.
- Dig up irises. Check for borers and root rot. Divide and replant after dusting with a fungicide.
- Take stem cutting of ground cover plants for propagation.
- Weed regularly.
- Water beds thoroughly as needed. Water roses to soil depth of 18 inches.
- Check and replace mulch as needed.
- Harvest flowers for indoor display.
- Fertilize centipede if not done already .do NOT feed after August 1st.
- Plant fall-flowering bulbs.
- If centipede lawns look yellow at this time of year, it may need iron, especially if your fertilizer does not contain this element. For quick greening, spray the lawn with liquid iron in the late afternoon. It will green up in a few days!

LAWNS

- **Fertilizing:** This is the last month for centipede fertilizing. Use 3-4 lbs./1000 sq. ft. of 16-4-8. Never fertilize wet grass, but water well after application.
- **Mowing:** Due to excessive heat stress, raise mower blade 1/2 inch this month.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

- **Planting:** Time to plant pole beans, lima beans, seeds for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, eggplant and southern peas. Last week of the month to transplant pepper, rutabagas, and tomatoes. Plant biennial herbs, such as parsley and caraway for next year. July 1st. is the last date to plant pumpkins for Halloween harvest.
- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize 2-year-old blueberries, with 1/2 cup of 10-10-10. Fertilize strawberries now, in August, and in September. Use 1 1/2 lbs. Of 10-10-10/ 100 sq. ft. Feed tomatoes this month.
- **Irrigation:** Water when rainfall is less than 1 inch per week, or signs of heat stress show. Do not water tomatoes right before fertilizing.
- **Special care:** Do not use fertilizer or pesticides if plants are stressed. Wait after watering or rain. Check tomatoes for blossom-end rot. Treat with calcium chloride or calcium nitrate if found.

TREES & SHRUBS

- **Irrigation:** Maintain regular watering as indicated by rainfall.
- **Pruning:** Do not prune azaleas after the first of this month. If you notice new upright sprouts along scaffold limbs of pear trees, you need to remove them now.
- **Special Care:** Aerate compacted soil around roots and apply pre-emergence herbicide. If gardenias stop blooming, look for thrips or aphids, and treat after sunset.

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MONTHLY TO DO LIST

FLOWERS

- Planting:** Sow seeds of hardy annuals and perennials for transplanting in the fall. Plant quick-growing annuals for fall color, such as marigolds, zinnia, and cosmos. Plant fall-flowering bulbs now.
- Fertilizing:** Maintain fertilizing program for roses. Feed mums monthly with complete fertilizer. Fertilize all annuals with water-soluble fertilizer every 2 weeks.
- Irrigation:** Water regularly and deeply. Check to be sure mulch is adequate.
- Special Care:** Check regularly for mites, mildew, etc., and treat immediately. Maintain fungicide program for roses, spraying every 7-10 days. Remove spent flowers and fertilize to rejuvenate annual and perennial beds. Divide and transplant daylilies after blooming.

From Jenks Farmer's Blog, June 21, 2014

Garden Things to Do in the Heat; Capture Summer's Energy

Gardening work gets rearranged around here when the afternoons get really hot.

Rearranged; not stopped. Gardening must go on. In fact, contrary to lots of gardening media and advice, it should go on. Think about it from an energy standpoint, this is peak production time. As on rainy days there are some things that work better there in the heat. Work in the cool, or revel in the humidity and heat. I happen to love being sweaty and dirty. And I love that I get to use, a few times a day, the well-water cold shower on the back of the barn.

Here are five things that we do in hot weather on the farm;

- 1. Plant things that like hot soil.** On the farm, that mostly means sub-tropical bulbs; divide amaryllis
- 2. Sow seeds of summer annuals** which work the soil, provide shade to new small plants and act as living mulch.
- 3. Train Woody plants to do what you want them to.** Use shrubs summer energy to make them do what you want them to do instead of fighting them. Trying to establish a hedge? Instead of planting too closely to fill the gaps, bend new, long branches down and tie them branches from the next shrub. Pulling the branches horizontally, stimulate new growth upward, thereby filling the gap and creating a more dense hedge.
- 4. Target Your Fertilizer Applications.** We use only seaweed fertilizer, a liquid and it only gets applied to things that need it. Just squirt everything down in the morning or evening; everything that needs fertilizer. Remember, everything doesn't *need a* push from fertilizer.
- 5. Make Compost.** It happens faster in the summer.