



FROM THE GROUND UP FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

July/August 2013

"Sowing The Seeds Of Love For Gardening"

From Our President:

Hello fellow Master Gardeners. My name is Tom Pantos and I am presently serving as president of the Florence County Master Gardeners Association (FCMGA). I have been a member of the FCMGA for the past 6 years. During this time I have been actively involved in nearly all of the Associations' events as well as performing hours of volunteer work.

Now as president, I find myself in a position of service to all the members of the FCMGA. With the help and support of my fellow officers (*Bill Duncan, Co-President; Co-Vice Presidents Susan Lander LeBase and Christine Petrush; Secretary, Terasa Young and Treasurer Janet Bugbee*), I believe we can continue building on the good work and success of our past Association officers. These past officers have set the standard high for excellence in leadership for our Association and I and our new officers will work hard to do the same.

However, as is true in almost all associations, be it social, civic, fraternal, or service, there seems to be an unwritten commitment to try and make each year a little better than the previous. Change is inevitable but change just for the sake of change is usually counterproductive. Change for the betterment of specific needs identified by active members is change that can result in improvements that benefit the total membership and Association as a whole. These are the kinds of changes your Association officers will be looking into throughout the coming year. Therefore, it won't be just the hours volunteered or events worked, but just as importantly, your input of suggestions, ideas and recommendations on how you feel we can make our Association grow that will be crucial to increasing the success of all we do through the FCMGA.

The combined membership of our Association is a virtual living/breathing 'Wikipedia' of gardening. Sally Haynes, Barb Mathews, Tony Melton, Terasa Young, Janet Bugbee and the list goes on and on are just a sampling of the human resources that make up the uniqueness of this Association. Our membership makes up a treasure trove of free information and advice regarding nearly every aspect of gardening in the South.

When you volunteer to clean up the gardens at the PDREC or pot cuttings or help at the Spring Workshop or whatever you do as part of the FCMGA, you will find yourself bombarded by continuous gardening tips and hints which constitute about 85% of all the conversations between you and your fellow master gardeners working around you. I can't remember ever coming away from a FCMGA work project or event where I didn't pick up something new and usable regarding gardening.

I am looking forward to working with all the FCMGA new and present members. I hope you are enjoying the summer months and I will be planning to see you at our September meeting.

Co-President Bill Duncan's 'Message from the President' will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Regards to all,
Tom Pantos
President

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Passion Vine
Passiflora incarnata

Quotation Corner

"There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling."

~Mirabel Osler



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note that the group will NOT meet in July or August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16 at 6:30 PM at John Calvin Presbyterian Church. Co-President Bill Duncan will give a program on the medicinal uses of plants.

Recent Events

Raised Bed Gardening at Mt. Zion Apartments

On Wednesday, July 12, a small group of Master Gardeners spent a few hours teaching the children at Mt. Zion Apartments about vegetable gardening. Living in an apartment complex doesn't provide much opportunity for gardening but thanks to the manager of the complex, Ms. Gwen Dixon, the youth there now have the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of plants and hopefully enjoy some fresh from the garden produce.

Upcoming Events

Pee Dee REC Workday

The garden beds at Pee Dee REC need some TLC. Tom Pantos and Bill Duncan will be there on Tuesday, June 25 at 8:00 AM. Please consider spending a little time out there with them sprucing things up.

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City is offering an array of classes and workshops on everything from planting for cut flowers to growing living walls. Find out more at www.moorefarmsbg.org

Brookgreen Gardens

Summertime is hot but you can enjoy Brookgreen Gardens in the cool of the evening Wednesdays, Thursday, and Fridays through August 9. For more information, visit www.brookgreen.org/CoolSummerEvenings

Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens

There's always something growing at the Riverbanks Botanical Garden and with more than 4,200 species of plants and 5 themed gardens, you're sure to find something interesting and unique. Learn more at www.riverbanks.org

Some Light Reading

Don't forget to read Tony Melton's column which appears each Sunday in the Pee Dee Living Section of the Morning News along with Dr. John Nelson's Mystery Plant. Terasa Young's column appears in the same section on the first Sunday of each month.

July in the Garden

General

Work outdoors in early morning or evening to avoid excess heat. Water early in the morning to cut down on disease.

Cut off faded blooms (deadhead). Pinch back fall annuals and perennials.

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 cuttings 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 you have not done so 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 and St. Augustine 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.

Irrigation: Water soil to a depth of 5-7 inches when blades show signs of wilting, before noon, about 1 inch of water every 3 days for sandy soils.

Special Care: Lay sod if needed. De-thatch and aerate. Maintain regular mowing. Check for bugs and disease and treat accordingly, after proper identification.

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 until after watering or rain. Check tomatoes for blossom-end rot. Treat with calcium chloride or calcium nitrate if found.

TREES & SHRUBS

Planting: Plant container-grown and balled & burlapped trees and 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.

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.

August in the Garden

General

Prepare beds for fall vegetable planting by tilling and cultivating.
Purchase vegetable seeds, flower seeds, and flats for planting.
Water potted plants daily and frequently with liquid fertilizer.
Cut back petunias and other annuals that look unyielding.
Cut garden flowers in the morning and place in water immediately.
If daylilies did not bloom, it is probably due to overcrowding. Dig up, divide, and replant 12-18 inches apart.
Give extra water to shrubs, trees, flowers, and lawns to compensate for summer heat.
Remove faded blooms from annuals.
Regular inspection and treatments are your best defense to maintain healthy lawns and gardens.
Prune overgrown hollies and woody evergreens now.
Pick up any rotten fruit around trees and shrubs to reduce disease.

LAWNS

Fertilizing: Avoid fertilizing a warm season turf grass in the autumn. The latter undergoes a hardening-off process during this time of year to prepare it for winter.
Mowing: Due to excessive heat stress, raise mower blade this month.
Irrigation: Water before wilt occurs as needed throughout summer.
Special Care: Watch for late summer insect infestation and treat accordingly. Apply pre-emergent herbicide for winter annual weed control, such as henbit, chickweed, and annual bluegrass.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Planting: Sow beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, cucumber, kale, lettuce, mustard, rutabaga, summer squash, and turnips for fall harvest. Plant garlic now. Transplant catnip, lavender, tarragon, and fennel. Divide and replant chives, tansy, tarragon. Keep well watered.
Fertilizing: "Sidedress" to fertilize established plants.
Irrigation: Continue irrigation program as needed.
Special care: Swollen, knotted roots on non-leguminous plants from the garden indicate a root-knot nematode problem. Take a nematode sample this month if noticed. If nematodes are found, solarize the soil by tilling, moisturizing, and covering soil with clear plastic for two months. Continue to spray fruit trees, brambles, grapes, blueberries, strawberries, and pecans, to control insects and disease.
Herbs: Now it is time to dry herbs. Gather bundles of each type of herb, and spread on cheesecloth or hang upside down in a warm, dark, dry place.

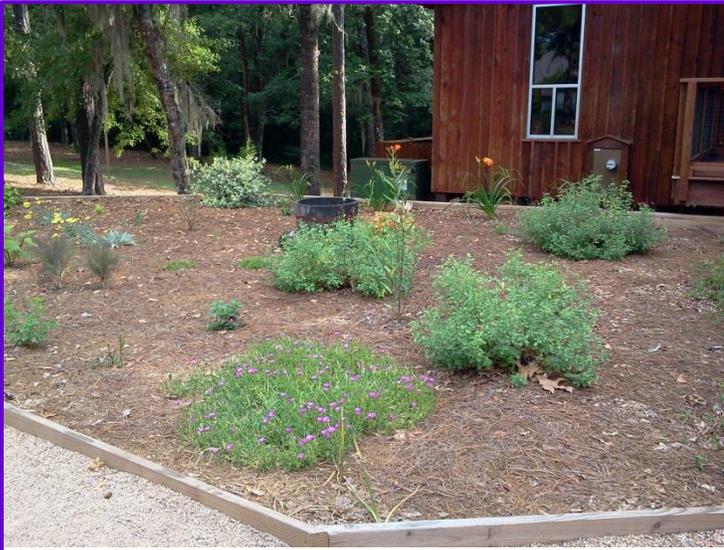
TREES & SHRUBS

Planting: Take cuttings of ornamentals to propagate new plants.
Irrigation: Continue to irrigate new shrubs weekly. If extremely hot and dry, use drip hoses around base of established trees and shrubs. Ensure there is adequate mulch, but do not pile mulch around the base of trees.
Pruning:
Prune trees and shrubs lightly for cosmetic purposes. Remove seed heads on crepe myrtles.

FLOWERS

Planting: Plant marigolds, zinnias, petunias, and pansies for fall color. Plant bearded iris and lilies for next year's bloom. Sow seed for candytuft, sweet William, Shasta daisy, and foxglove. Divide and transplant iris, daylily, lirioppe, and peonies, after blooming.
Fertilizing: Continue to fertilize roses and bedding plants. Fertilize late summer and fall flowers, such as mums, dahlias, and asters now. Use 1 Tbs. of a granular 10-10-10 per plant.
Irrigation: Water regularly and deeply to 1 inch per week.
Special Care: Prune back large rose bushes for more fall bloom. Inspect gardens for pests and diseases. Control as needed.

PICNIC AND PLANT SALE
June 17, 2013
Lynches River County Park
(Photos courtesy of Janet Bugbee)



Butterfly garden in front of the Environmental Discovery Center



Shelby McCormick shares some information about the butterfly garden



Rain garden beside the Community Building



There were lots of questions about the native plants used in the rain garden