

Forest West Garden Club Newsletter

September 2005



A Message from Suzanne:

September 13 is just around the corner and I, for one, am looking forward to seeing all our gardening friends, sharing quips, exchanging tales, and catching up! We begin the year with a backyard tour of gardens and a pond. Surely it will inspire us to spruce up, re-landscape, or add to our own. Charlotte and Stacy worked hard to come up with programs that you all requested this year and several members from our own club will be presenting! We are so very lucky to have such talent in our club.

There are many opportunities for each of us to contribute to the club and to our community through gardening. Please consider how you can make a difference. I guarantee it will be personally rewarding. This can be done with hosting a meeting, contributing refreshments, actively working on a committee, and supporting the club's efforts to raise monies for all our endeavors. It takes all of us to be successful so at the September meeting, if you would like to step up and add your name to any of the above, please do. Any suggestions you might have for us, please let us know. (Please bring your checkbook for your dues, \$15.00). See you then!



Check your messages in early September for time---6:45 at Mary's.

Regional Reminders from the National Gardening Association

<http://www.garden.org/home>



Ready Soil for Bulbs

Take a few minutes to assess your garden for adding bulbs, and if you plan to order dutch bulbs, make a list. Tulips, hyacinths, grape hyacinth, dutch iris, daffodils, narcissus, and amaryllis will appreciate compost in their beds now for planting this fall. October is sooner than you think.

Divide and Replant

Some perennials must be divided in summer for best performance next year. Shasta daisies will overgrow their space and stop flowering if not divided every other year. Every third year, divide Louisiana iris, Easter lilies, cannas, lirioppe, ajuga, and Shasta daisies.

Plant Fall Flowers

Garden mums and fall asters are arriving at the garden centers and should be planted right away for maximum enjoyment. Keep them watered and groomed. They blend well with calendulas, which you can grow from seed or small plants, but only as an over-wintering annual in our region.

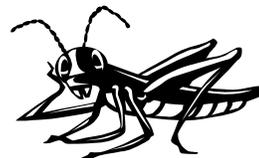
Chirping crickets are back!

by Kimberly Engler, Program Specialist-Urban IPM

This time of year, the sound of field crickets chirping tends to become annoying while trying to sleep at night. An occasional cricket found around the home does not present a serious problem. However, when hundreds flock to lights at night, covering streets and sides of buildings, this causes outdoor outings to become unpleasant.

Ways to reduce cricket populations: Prevention is key!

- Mow lawns, cut weeds, and remove garbage from around structures.
- Raise garbage cans off the slab and place them away from buildings, since crickets are attracted to food in these containers.
- Remove potential harborage sites such as bricks, stones, and rotting wood from around structures.
- Caulk and seal cracks and crevices, especially around windows and doorways.
- Use sodium vapor yellow lights instead of white, neon or mercury vapor lights.
- Chemical control
 - Baits containing hydramethylnon can be used to control crickets. These baits should be applied outdoors, next to the structure. Also, liquid insecticides can be sprayed around outdoor entryways, such as doorways or windows. Examples of liquid insecticides include permethrin and cyfluthrin.



September Plants of Interest



chrysanthemum -- aster
salvia -- lantana
basil -- pineapple sage
calendula -- zinnia
ginger lily -- cosmos
rudbeckia -- sunflowers

September Gardening Chores

-  divide and transplant iris
-  prepare vegetable beds for fall plantings
-  prune and fertilize annuals and perennials
-  remove spent foliage from perennials
-  groom and lightly prune roses
-  fertilize roses for the last time this year
-  fertilize lawns (ask your local county extension agent or a knowledgeable nursery employee what is best for your particular type of grass)



Handy Garden Tips

<http://www.yougrowgirl.com>



Cheap Plant Tags: A good use for old plastic Levelor blinds is to cut them up into smaller pieces with an angle on one end and use them as plant markers for seed trays and for markers in the garden.

Useful Bushel Baskets: Bushel baskets are very handy for gardeners. They are so handy in the garden clean-up area and can be lined with a plastic bag for a cheap and easy planter. Most of the time the garbage guys leave them behind (although not always!) You can also go to your local greengrocer and buy them there -- who wants to pay retail which is about \$7-8? The grocer charges \$1-2 they generally last 2 seasons.

“Late Summer and Fall Perennials”

Talk by Dr. William Welch, Master Gardener Event

This is a great time of the year to add more color to the garden and enjoy for months to come. Dr. Welch highlighted several plants for us, here on the Texas Gulf Coast that are proven winners.

- ❖ Philippine lily- long, white trumpeted flowers. Grows 6 to 7 feet tall, needs shade in the afternoon. Can grow from seed or bulbs in a greenhouse; great for cut flowers.
- ❖ Shear salvias now, just a little for repeat bloom.
- ❖ Rain lilies- repeat bloomer, makes a wonderful border, white.
- ❖ Coral vine- dark pink, freezes to the ground, prefers sandy soil.
- ❖ Turk’s cap- sun or shade, drought tolerant, long bloom season, disease and insect resistant.
- ❖ Blue Plumbago- blooms now until a freeze.
- ❖ Society garlic- blooms spring thru fall.



“Late Summer and Fall Perennials”

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Continued...

- ❖ Lantana- try the trailing native which is purple, the orange/red is heat resistant, yellow is a tough one.
- ❖ Oxblood lilies- well adapted, abundant red blooms.
- ❖ Cassis splendida- blooms October, November, and December. Freezes but returns. Very easy to grow.
- ❖ Copper canyon daisy- likes it hot and dry.
- ❖ Mexican mint marigold- easy to grow.
- ❖ Joe Pye Weed- native, attracts butterflies
- ❖ Cuphea micropedulum- dependable, can divide or make cuttings, attracts hummers.
- ❖ Lavender- needs raised spot and no wet feet.
- ❖ Thyme, Lamb's ear, dill- replant for fall.
- ❖ Castor beans- purple flowers, freezes, but poisonous
- ❖ Roses- give them a light pruning, light fertilizer. Fall blooms may be better than spring.

