



Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

“A garden is like a friendship, ever growing, ever changing, needing love and attention, providing one with joy and happiness.”

www.pggc.org

Club News

Set aside this year’s PGGC events in your calendar:

Holly Day House Tour -
December 2 and 3

Christmas Luncheon - December 7

Floral Design Classes - January 31, February 7 and 14

Annual Field Trip to Bok Tower - February 15

PGGC Standard Flower Show - March 21

PGGC is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc, Deep South Region National Garden Clubs, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and FFGC District IX.

President’s Message

Dear Members,

Can you believe summer is almost over and we are back at it? We have our “Holly Days Home Tour” to get ready for and look forward to. Our Chairs have each chosen the Christmas Carol/Song that they will use for their particular house’s theme. I will let them tell you later in the newsletter what they are and then you can imagine all of the wonderful creations that will be made to ensure another wonderful and popular tour.

We have some excellent programs to look forward to thanks to our V.P. Peggy Stanfield and, of course, we have our annual trip to Bok Tower in February 2023. I am really excited about that as I have never been there, and to add to the pleasure, we do not have to drive as a bus has been arranged and will be included in the price.

We have had several inquiries from people wanting to join our club and I believe a few of them will be coming to the September program with Dolly Tomalinas. For those who have not seen Dolly present a program, you are in for a treat. She always presents wonderful ideas and makes them enjoyable and with humor mixed in. Just think, you may want to create a terrarium with the flower show in mind!

I have been busy this summer trying to tidy up my backyard. It got a little out of hand when was I not able to keep on top of it. I can only last so long out there as I have no real shade and, in this heat, it is quite a challenge. I will get there eventually, I hope.

(Continued on page 2)

Save these Key Dates

Board Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Sept 14 9:30 am

General Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Sept 21
1pm Gather
1:30 Meeting

Coastal Cleanup
Meet at
Fishermen’s Village
Sept 17

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Please congratulate our new Horticulture Chair, Laura Flannelly, and our new Plant Exchange Chair, Debbie Chase, and welcome them to their new positions on the Board. On behalf of the club, thank you both so much for stepping up to fill these openings.

I will finish up now and I look forward to seeing you all in September. Take care and see you then.

Carol Houston, President, PGGC Inc.

Sept 21 General Meeting: Designing Terrariums

The September Meeting will feature Master Gardener Dolly Tomalinas who will demonstrate how to design and plant terrariums including resources for supplies. Dolly will have several completed terrariums on display. Additionally, Mary Yeomans will introduce a new PGGC program 'Focus on Plants' and explain the monthly showcasing of a featured plant at the Punta Gorda Library.



Volunteers Needed! Sept 17 Coastal Cleanup

PGGC will work in partnership with Keep Charlotte Beautiful for the International Coastal Cleanup. This event is organized by Keep Charlotte Beautiful, one of the local nonprofits that PGGC supports.

Registration - Register by sending an email to Susan Miller at susancmiller4@gmail.com. Or call Susan at 910-612-7531. To ensure that you receive a T shirt, include your T shirt size and send your email by Sept 3.

Time - 8 am (We will begin at 8 to skirt the heat!)

Location- Meet in Fishermen's Village parking lot at east end near fitness area.

Bring gloves, insect spray, and water to drink. Sunscreen and a hat are also recommended.

See you then! Susan Miller, Environmental Chair



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Floral Design Class Sign-Up



Back by popular demand, PGGC will offer floral design classes in January and February. These hands on, instructor led classes cover units 7, 8, and 9 which include a review of design guidelines and live demonstrations. Students will then create an arrangement and receive constructive feedback. Here are the details:

When: January 31, February 7 and February 14

Where: Charlotte Community Foundation, Inc.
227 Sullivan St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Time: 10 am (ends approximately at 3pm)

Bring your lunch

Cost: \$55

Limit: 30 participants

Registration: October 20 2022

Registration DEADLINE: DECEMBER 7 (Christmas luncheon)

If you did not take design class units 1-6, you are still eligible to participate in these three units. For details on each unit, contact Carolyn Honour at cdhonour@comcast.net

Carolyn Honour

For those looking for more on floral design, refer to 'Play with Flowers. Learn Basic Floral Design' by Lynn Frank and 'Rhythm in Waterfall Design by Pilar Medellin de Miñarro in the [NGC 2022 Summer issue](#).

Plant Exchange Update

I would like to introduce myself as I am new to the position of Plant Exchange Chair. In 2019 my husband and I moved from Manatee County FL to Deep Creek, Charlotte County. The following year I took the Master Gardener Program but am no longer a volunteer. I am an absolute orchid maniac as you can tell by my email: orchid4deb@aol.com.

We all have our favorite plants and usually they are the ones that grow the best and reward our efforts. For our meeting in September, if you are able, bring a sample of your favorite plant to share. Please remember to tag your plant with a name.

Thinking ahead to October, consider sharing vegetable starter plants you will be using in your fall vegetable garden.

Debbie Chase, Plant Exchange Chair

Volunteers Needed - Home and Garden Show

The Punta Gorda Garden Club has long been participating in the Home and Garden Show at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Convention Center. There will be one more show this year on Saturday October 22 and Sunday October 23 from 10 to 4. We sell items that club members have made along with garden gloves. We also promote our club by distributing information. I will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the September and October meetings. Come join us to represent the club and have some fun.

Cindy Dorety, 2nd Vice President

Microplastics Workshop

Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) is holding a "Microplastics Workshop and Cleanup" on Sept 24 from 9 to noon at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.

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Plant Profile: *Sansevieria Cylindrica*

Sansevieria is a genus of plants that includes many varieties, but the most common is the Snake Plant, sometimes called Mother-In-Low Tongue. The plant on display at the Punta Gorda Library is a Starfish Sansevieria or *Sansevieria Cylindrica*. The original plant was purchased at the Edison Ford Estates Nursery, a great source of plants in Fort Myers.

There are a number of benefits of growing Sansevieria in your home. They are considered some of the best indoor plants to purify air, removing toxins such as formaldehyde according to the NASA Clean Air Study. They are slow growing and can be compact, great for small spaces indoors. There are many species that are attractive and unique, and they are all easy to propagate which makes them easy to share with friends.

Sansevieria do not require a lot of care. They are tolerant of low light to full sun although they can get sunburned in hot noon sun in Florida. They need to be watered every 2-4 weeks or when the top 2" of soil is dry. They do not tolerate very low temperatures well but will survive cool nights if planted in the ground, which they often are in Southwest Florida. They can actually become invasive and take over a garden bed very quickly if left unattended.



Sources: <https://snakeplantcare.com/sansevieria-starfish/>; <https://www.apieceofrainbow.com/snake-plant-care/>

Focus on Plants!

To kick off the 'Focus on Plants!' program, this month's plant profile describes the first plant to be displayed at the library. PGGC has started placing one plant on the counter at the library every month or so. If you have a healthy, unusual plant that you would like to loan for this program, please let Mary Yeomans know. A description of the plant including its origin and care will be displayed with it. Each month the next plant will be brought to our general meeting and then dropped off at the library. Information about PGGC will be available next to the plant for those interested.

Mary Yeomans, Director

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Hooray for the Holly Days Home Tour!

Finally, PGGC is planning a traditional Holly Days Home Tour to be held on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3. This year's theme is "Christmas Carols" and each team has chosen a song around which to decorate their assigned home. The list of chairs, home addresses, and songs is below. Last year the Holly Days Garden Tour was deemed a success, but many guests asked about going into the houses, so hopefully they will be pleased with the tour this year.



Source 123RF

There are a few differences between this tour and the most recent ones as follows:

- The church where PGGC meets monthly will not be part of the tour this year, so only the four homes will be visited by ticket holders.
- The entire club has been divided into four teams rather than five. All members are asked to contribute time as they are able in preparation.
- Everyone should serve as a docent at the assigned home for at least two 3-hour shifts during the two days of the tour.
- No cookies will be served, so members do not have to bake cookies. (Unless you want to treat your team!)
- Water will be available for visitors in coolers/paper cups at each home. (To avoid all of those single use plastic bottles.)
- Poinsettias will be sold at two of the homes and crafts will be sold at the other two.
- The event will be open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm both days. This is an hour earlier than in the past since one stop on the tour has been eliminated so guests may need to be spread out more through the day.

The team assignments were distributed to all members of the club earlier this summer. You may have been contacted by your chairpersons already, but if you have questions, please contact them directly. They will contact us if necessary.

We are very excited about the chosen songs and cannot wait to see what each team does with their decorations. The houses are very different and each offers its own personality to be dressed up for the holidays. Let's make this one another successful home tour!

Cindy Dorety & Betty Moschetti
716 Palm Avenue
The Christmas Song

Vinita Jones & Molly Reifeis
413 Retta Esplanade
Silver Bells

Claudia Chopp & Marianne Bjorkman
401 Retta Esplanade
White Christmas

Gail Edgren & Kathy Sutton
212 Durrance Street
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Julie O'Brien and Mary Yeomans, Home Tour Co-Chairs

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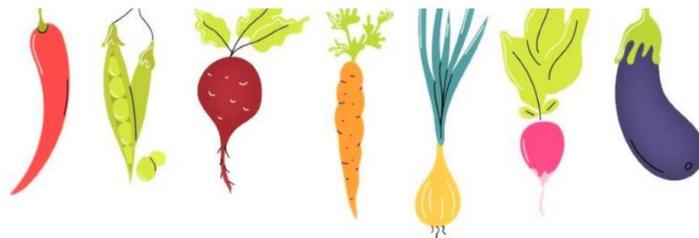
10 Best Vegetables to Grow in Florida

Florida has a unique climate that can be challenging for some vegetables. But don't worry, we've got you covered! Florida has 3 growing seasons - Fall (mid Sept to early Nov), Winter (Nov to Jan) and Spring (late Jan to mid-March). This guide outlines the 10 best vegetables to grow in Florida.

1. **Tomatoes** They're easy to grow and produce bountiful harvests. Plus, there are so many different varieties of tomatoes that you can choose from. Whether you like them small and sweet or large and juicy, there's a tomato out there for you.
2. **Peppers** You can find peppers in a variety of colors, including green, red, and yellow. They add a pop of color to your garden and can spruce up any dish.
3. **Eggplant** In most of Florida, eggplant can be grown year-round. It prefers sandy loam soil and temperatures between 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. **Cucumbers** Cucumbers like to be planted in full sun and prefer loose, well-drained soil. They need to be watered regularly, especially during hot weather.
5. **Squash** Squash can be planted in the spring or fall in Florida. It prefers loose, well-drained soil and full sun.
6. **Beans** There are many different types of beans, but most can be grown in Florida. Bush beans are typically grown in the cooler months when the weather is drier.
7. **Lettuce** All types of lettuce can be grown in Florida, but leaf lettuce often works best since it is more suited to our mild climate and can be harvested throughout the season.
8. **Carrots** Carrots do well in the cool season here in Florida. They will do best when they are grown in deep, well-drained, and fertile soil. They need a lot of water, especially as their roots grow quickly.
9. **Collard Greens** Collard greens need a lot of sun. They need at least 5 hours of sun each day, but the more the better. If they don't get enough sun, your plants will be small and weak.
10. **Broccoli** The best time to plant broccoli in South Florida from November to February. You'll need to find a sunny spot for your broccoli. This vegetable needs at least four to six hours of sun per day.

Carol Houston, President

Source: Bonnie Von Dohre <https://www.kitchenbotanicals.com/best-vegetables-to-grow-in-florida/>



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A Top 10 List of Common Garden Myths

1. **A layer of gravel in containers improves drainage.** Gravel actually impedes free drainage, which causes excess moisture to collect around the roots. Don't expect a layer of gravel to take the place of good potting mix and a container with a drainage hole.
2. **Smelly plants around the perimeter of the garden keep deer away.** In reality, deer¹ are wily animals that quickly learn to step around smelly plants and go directly to the good stuff. Additionally, some smelly plants, like mint, are highly invasive.
3. **Drought-tolerant plants require no water.** All plants need regular water until the roots are established. Even the most drought-resistant plants² benefit from occasional water during periods of hot, dry weather.
4. **Watering lawns at night saves water and keeps grass healthy.** Grass that stays wet all night invites fungal disease and mildew. The best time to water³ is in the morning when grass is able to benefit most from the water, with ample time to dry before evening.
5. **If a little fertilizer is good for plants, more is even better.** Too much fertilizer⁴ can scorch roots and stunt growth. It can also cause rich foliage with no flowers, or lush fruit trees with no fruit. Additionally, excess fertilizer will wash into the ground water, which is bad news for the environment.
6. **Sand improves the quality of clay soil.** Only if you want your soil to be the consistency of mortar, which is great for laying bricks but not so good for plants. Instead, improve clay soil⁵ by adding organic material such as compost or finely chopped bark.
7. **English ivy is a parasitic plant.** Not true. However, English Ivy⁶ does have aerial roots and tiny root hairs that attach to tree bark as it climbs and is highly invasive in some areas. Although it isn't parasitic, it kills by blocking light that prevents photosynthesis for trees, ferns and other wild plants.
8. **Mulch piled against shrubs keeps them healthy and protects roots during winter.** Mulch holds moisture against the shrub's base, keeping it constantly damp inviting a moisture-related diseases. Mulch is also attractive to critters that chew on the bark. Mulch⁷ is great, but keep it a few inches from the trunk.
9. **A bleach and water solution is the best way to sterilize garden tools.** Bleach is a corrosive substance to the surface of garden tools⁸, bad for the environment and irritating to the nose, throat and lungs when inhaled. Rubbing alcohol, Listerine and Lysol are easy to use and relatively safe in small quantities.
10. **Young trees should always be staked.** Movement actually helps young trees grow to be strong and sturdy. If you're planting a tree in a windy area, or if the tree is top-heavy, stake it loosely with soft, flexible material for no longer than six months.

Mary Yeomans, Director

Source: Gardening Know How's Blog: <https://blog.gardeningknowhow.com> URLs for footnotes:

1 Deer: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/pests/deer/deer-resistant-plants.htm>

2 Drought-resistant plants: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/xeriscape/drought-tolerant-gardening-the-cheaper-landscape-alternative.htm>

3 Best time to water: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/lawn-care/lgen/lawn-watering-guidelines.htm>

4 Too much fertilizer: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/soil-fertilizers/fertilizer-burn-in-gardens.htm>

5 Improve clay soil: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/organic/how-to-easily-improve-your-clay-soil.htm>

6 English ivy: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/groundcover/english-ivy/english-ivy-plant-care.htm>

7 Mulch: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/mulch/spreading-mulch-in-gardens.htm>

8 Garden tools: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/projects/cleaning-gardening-tools.htm>

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Beautification of the Garden at the New Punta Gorda Library

Work continues at the "new" library. Weeds and ground cover have been removed, shrubbery has been pruned, and plants have been installed. Mulch was needed here and there, and a "stone river bed" was added to aid in the drainage of the area after heavy rain. The second Monday of the month is our workday at the library. Join us!

Mary Yeomans, Director



Library Garden 'Before'



Library Garden 'After'

Civic Updates

As many of you know from recent media reports, a new development is proposed at PG's City Marketplace. The buyer, if the deal closes as a private sale of land, is GEIS Companies. One of the key items that could affect the completion of this sale is receipt of approval from the City to change the site to Planned Development, which is currently pending as the City review process proceeds. The development itself is, of course, controversial with the big issue being building height. The proposed development would be for 346 rental units, which they hope to keep as very affordable rental units, as well as 60 condos. There would be 436 parking spaces, all at grade, with those for the buildings that face Marion Avenue being on the inside of the parcel so they would not be visible from Marion. Ground floor, especially on Marion, would be used for retail and commercial spaces and there would be canopies over all doorways on Marion. Their projection of height would be 70'-76' at the tallest. They noted that Sheraton Four Points highest point is 86' and that the Wyvern also is higher than their maximum would be. The buyers expressed a strong interest in our community and a desire to become a real part of our community. Their plan is to dedicate a corner at Marion & Taylor for our annual Christmas tree celebration as well as for other community events but the plan does not include any landscaping other than at that corner. Many in our community want to wait for another developer to bring a more acceptable proposal and feel strongly that this development would bring too much density in a small space and create an even bigger parking problem in downtown. There have been quite a few submittals on this site in recent years, none of which have made it through. It is my belief that this development proposal may be turned down by our City Council and is a move that will have strong support from the community.

Elaine LaWell, Civic Chair

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Sept Birthday Wishes

Betsy Mosketti 9/14
Nancy French 9/17
Cindy Dorety 9/22

And many happy wishes!

Sept Hostess Committee

Chair: Julie O'Brien
Frolly Boyd
Lynn Davies
Vera Harris
Judy McQueen
Susan Miller
Susan Summey
Dorrit Tompkins
Agnes West

Gardening Tips

Annuals/Bedding plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color into fall.

See Annuals: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

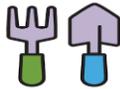
Bulbs: Plant gladiolus every two weeks to stagger blooming. Stake each plant.

See Bulbs for Florida:

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers



Garden Workdays



Volunteers arrive by 8 am. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and bottled water. Always finished in less than 2 hours!

Sept 5 History Park
Sept 12 New PG library
Sept 19 Peace River Botanical Garden
Sept 26 Woman's Club

The Oct 2022 Newsletter deadline is Sept 20. Submit items and/or photos to Mary Hanrahan at mahamherst@gmail.com.

Nature is
painting for us,
day after day,
pictures of
infinite beauty.

John Ruskin | @projecthappiness_org