



FAIRFIELD GLADE GARDEN CLUB
2023 NEWSLETTER



Website - fggardenclub.com ----- Email - fggardenclub@gmail.com



From the President

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone made it through the Christmas season and through our very cold weekend. I am from the north and these temperatures are the reason I moved south. We love living here and a couple days of cold will not convince us to move further south.

On a bright note, the seed catalogs started arriving yesterday. I always convince myself that Spring is just around the corner when I am looking through the pictures of new plants for my yard. How many of you are planning new beds or new landscaping ideas for your yards?

We have some interesting speakers lined up for 2023. We can enjoy our monthly meetings, have a morning snack and receive some information about our surroundings.

Hope to see you at the meetings.

Rhoda

Membership Renewal for 2023

The renewal membership forms were mailed on December 17th. Hopefully you have received yours by now. Please take a moment to verify your information, making corrections where necessary, and fill in any missing information. Check any and all committees that you would like to learn more about. Please mail the form and your \$15 check to FGGC Dues, PO Box 1589, Crossville, TN 38558 as soon as possible.

Our next meeting will be January 18th at the FG Community Church

Refreshments anyone?

The refreshments at our January meeting will be provided by the Leader Board. Please remember to sign up at the meeting to bring goodies to future meetings!!



THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER



Felicia DaBell of DaBell Farms will be the guest speaker at our January Meeting. She will be speaking to us about Medicinal Herbs.

2022 Poinsettia Sale

Congratulations

to all who worked at the plant sale or baked food table or who bought poinsettias or baked goods the week after Thanksgiving!! From the sale of plants, baked goods, donations and contributions from Bird Dog Marketing we were able to add \$3,327 to the Helena Schmidt Scholarship Fund!!! WELL Done!

From the Conservation & Environmental Committee:



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Blustery Weather: Hold the Salt!

Up on the Plateau winter ice is often more problematic than snow, but what if you have to get out, or if your dog needs to heed the call of nature? How can you keep your pet and you safe? Here are a few suggestions:

- Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32°F or more—don't waste money on deicers. Reserve deicers for ice, not snow.
- All salt is not created equal. Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but it doesn't work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you'll use less and it works in colder temps.
- You should also be careful about your deicing choice if you have pets that go outside. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), and calcium chloride (CaCl₂) are all less toxic than basic rock salt, and there are some completely chloride-free products if you're willing to spend more.

Read the label on the ice melt product so that you know exactly what you are spending your hard-earned cash on. If the bag doesn't say otherwise, it's probably sodium chloride. Some products claiming to be "green" or "pet safe" are simply chloride compounds. You can check the ingredients to see if you are paying for pretty packaging of rock salt. If there's no ingredient list on the package, don't buy the stuff.

Simply wearing traction cleats that fit over shoes can provide confidence and safety for walking, jogging, or hiking on packed snow or ice. Products

like Cimkiz, Linn and Yaktrax are popular solutions for safely walking and hiking.

There are important environmental reasons to avoid using salt or sand too, as they contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it's spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it's on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water.



Caring for Poinsettias

Our fellow member and friend, Bonnie Willis, shares this tip about caring for Poinsettias. "If your plant has a lopsided stem, clip it off. Seal the cut on the stem with a match and quickly put it in a bud vase with water. Blooms should last for days."



Look What We

Up by Nathy Hill

7 Things You Need to Know Before Using Terracotta Pots

1. It Helps to Know a Bit About Terracotta

Terracotta's enduring popularity is centuries old. One of the biggest reasons is that you can find it anywhere in the world, it's the most commonly found clay in the soil on every continent, and not only is terracotta plentiful, but it's inexpensive to make and easy to work with.

2. It's Okay If Orange Isn't Your Color.

The natural hue comes from the high iron content of terracotta, usually between 5-10%. The iron oxidizes during the firing process giving it that "rusty" orange we all know so

well. But some folks avoid using terracotta because they don't like the orange color. Terracotta is easy to paint and makes the perfect blank canvas for turning your gardening into a fun DIY project.

3. Porous Clay is Your Friend – Mostly Terracotta allows the soil to dry out quicker, meaning even if you get a little heavy-handed with the watering can, your plant will probably be fine. Terracotta pots also have a drainage hole, so your plants won't sit in water. Between the quick-drying porous clay and the excellent drainage, it's rare to have a plant growing in terracotta develop root rot or other diseases that occur in damp soil.

4. Pre-planting Terracotta Prep: The first thing you will need to do before planting in terracotta is to soak it. Terracotta is naturally porous, so if you put moist potting soil into a brand new, dry terracotta pot, it's immediately going to pull all of the moisture out of the soil. Fill your sink or a bucket with water and put your terracotta in to soak. Leave it overnight or for twenty-four hours.

For years the old tip was to put a stone or a piece of broken terracotta over the drainage hole to prevent soil from washing out of the bottom. Instead, put a paper coffee filter in the bottom. Not only does this keep the soil in the pot, but it allows the water to drain out slower so the roots can soak up more of it.

5. Protect Your Furniture: As terracotta pots and saucers are both porous, if you use them indoors, you need to put something under them to protect the furniture.

6. A White or Green Patina is Normal: After a while you'll notice the pot starts to develop a white, crusty film on the outside. This is completely normal. Some folks even prefer this patina as it gives the pots a characteristically aged look.

It's simply the minerals and salts in your water and fertilizers filtered out by the clay. If you don't like this look, you can minimize it by using rainwater or distilled water.

7. Cleaning Terracotta – Don't Worry, It's Not Hard

To clean crusty, stained terracotta, remove the plant and the potting soil and let the pot dry out completely. Use a stiff-bristled brush to scrub out as much dried-on dirt as possible.

Next, you'll need to soak the pots in a vinegar and water solution or water and a few drops of liquid dish soap. Let the pots soak overnight, and then give them a good scrubbing with a brush or scouring pad. Rinse the pots well, and they're good to go. However, if you're growing a different plant in them or the previous plant had pests or a disease, you will need to disinfect your pots with a mild bleach and water solution. Because they're porous, all that surface area is great for fungi and bacterial spores to grow.

Soak your pots in a bucket or sink with water and a ¼ cup of bleach. Don't let them soak for longer than an hour, and don't use more bleach than that. If left for too long or used in larger amounts, bleach can weaken and wear down your terracotta. Let the pots air dry, and they will be ready for your next gardening project.

For further info on terracotta pots here is a link to the article I "Dug Up". https://www.ruralsprout.com/terracotta-pots/?fbclid=IwAR0Kb_CRsjZYakP-l6m0ShvISSChy2FqWcnbSRMLY3rMA1xnZ65gt-BWF9g

Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year and Happy Gardening!

Leader Board Meeting - Friday before General Meeting - 9:00 am

General Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of month - 521 Snead Drive - 9:30 am

Coffee & Socializing - 9:00 am - Bring your own coffee mug

September - off site meeting - December - no meeting

Attachments:

November General Meeting Minutes
2023 Leader Board