



FAIRFIELD GLADE GARDEN CLUB



2023 NEWSLETTER

From the President:

Good morning Gardeners,

I know we are all biting at the bit and wanting to get out into our gardens. Have you all been looking through the new seed catalogs? My head is usually spinning after looking at all the new plants.

The plant color of the year is Magenta and when I was deciding on the plants for my yard, I am taking that into consideration. For my own annuals this year, I think I will go with Magenta and white with splashes of yellow and blue.

Remember the advice for our landscape plants, don't prune yet. You can do the scratch test on the bark to make sure it is still green under that dark color. I have high hopes that this will only be a small set back and our yards will be beautiful again.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be Lucas Holman. He will be speaking about Landscape Do's and Don'ts. I have heard him speak many times. He is very knowledgeable and I'm sure we will learn some valuable garden facts.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on March 15. Remember to wear your name badges.

Rhoda Hiller

March's Speaker will be Lucas Holman and the topic will be Landscape Dos & Don'ts

Our next meeting date is ***March 15th*** at the FG Community Church



Plant Sale

Be sure your calendars are marked for the

2023 Fern & Geranium sale:

April 17 – 18 at the Cumberland County High School Greenhouse

April 19 – pack and transport day

April 20-21 at Village Green Mall

A number of you signed up at last month's meeting. We still need additional help, especially the 12-2 pm shifts on the 17/18 at the high school and there is an added time of 2-4 pm on Thursday at the mall. Sign up sheets will be available at the March 15th meeting. If you cannot volunteer, be sure to stop by either location and pick up your plants. They are sure to be beautiful again this year.

SHARING TABLE

Let's have fun with our table in 2023 and kick it up a notch! Bring ANYTHING garden themed. This means ANYTHING! Puzzles, books, bookmarks, greeting cards, birdhouses, jewelry, scarves, etc. Of course we will feature your plants, cuttings and garden supplies as usual.

All donations go directly to the Helena Schmidt Scholarship Fund. Hoping for a record breaking year and lots of fun!

Debora Boyle

For our new(er) members, we'd like to get to know you better and for you to get to know us. For those of you who have joined the Garden Club since September 2022, we're going to have a casual get-together. The reception will be held at Room C, lower level of the FG Library/All-Purpose Building, on Friday March 24th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. But, really, anyone - no matter how long you've been with the Club - is more than welcome to join us. If you'd like to attend, call / text / email Sue Niebuhr (440-376-4110, uwesue1@gmail.com) or look for a sign-up sheet at our meeting on March 15th.

Travel Corner:

Coming soon!

March 22nd - "We survived the winter of '23 - so let's get gardening"

Where: Johnson Nursery Tour - 1717 East Spring Street - Cookville

Time: Discussion begins promptly at 10.

Many of you would like to carpool. So let's meet in the parking lot behind

DollarTree at 9:00 am. We will need a few drivers and the rest can ride

along.

Lunch: 11:45 am - Mauricio's Italian Restaurant - 232 North Peachtree

Avenue -

Cookeville

For those of you are unfamiliar with Johnson Nursery, they are 5th generation owned/operated garden center and their family has been in the nursery business for over 100 years. Named one of the top 100 nurseries in the country you don't want to miss this. Sarah Johnson will be teaching us how to trim back our bushes and trees from the '23 frost as well as how to control critters in your garden, and a look at what's new for your 2023 garden. She said many of the plants will be in already so you can peruse their garden center.

A number of you signed up at last month's meeting. *Sign up sheets will be available again at the March 15th meeting.*

UT Garden Volunteer Cleanup

We are working on a date in late April for anyone who is interested in getting your hands dirty by volunteering at the UT Gardens for spring cleanup. Date and time will be coming out soon!

Watch for other exciting tours/learning experiences in the upcoming months!

Last Month

Recycle Center Tour – we had a great tour of the recycle center in Crossville on February 23 and enjoyed lunch at 5th Street MarketPlace. About 11 of us attended the tour and learned a great deal about recycling. Watch next month's newsletter for a recap and some do's and don'ts of recycling. If you have the opportunity to take this tour, I highly recommend it.



Hospitality at our General Meetings

We are currently looking for people to host the Hospitality Table at our monthly meetings. There are complete instructions and if we get enough people to sign up to host, no one will have to do it every month (unless someone wants to 😊). If you are interested in joining this committee or wish to learn more about it please call Kathy Spancake at 570-441-5527 or email her at kathy.spancake@gmail.com.

What Does Rain Have to Do With It?

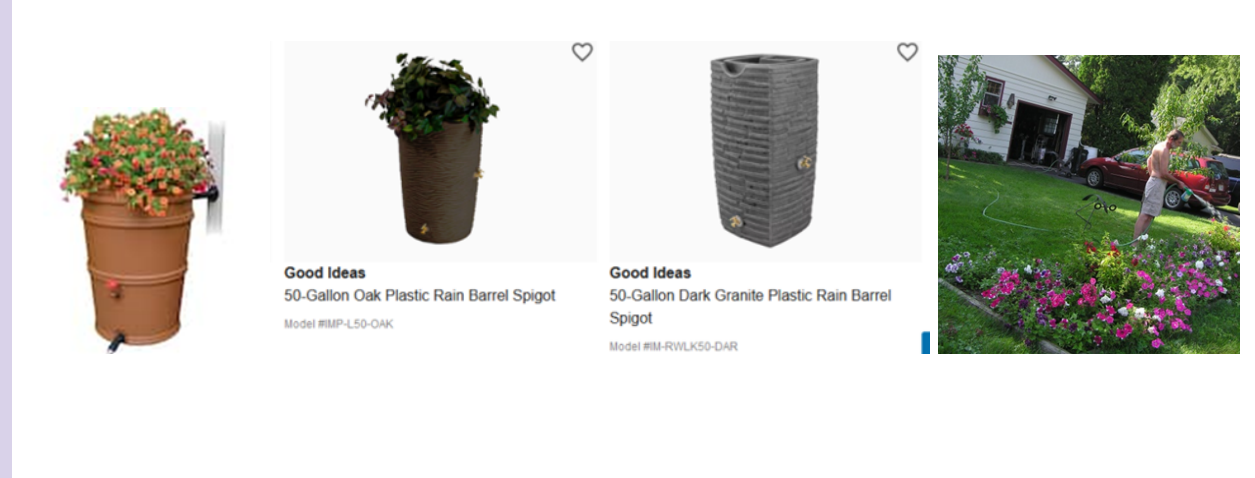
By Suzanne Wade, FGGC Environmental Committee

Our community is interesting when it comes to rain, one week too much, the next week too little. Your neighbor's rain may be a problem for you and your rain runoff might be a problem for your neighbor.

The wonderful thing about rain is that your plants love it, the slightly acid quality is exactly what plants love. The water from your home is highly processed so we can drink it and plants hate the chlorine that has been added. So how can you hang onto some of it for later use? The best way that I have found is with a rain barrel. They are generally about 50 gallons in size and attach to a downspout. I personally would only have one with a diverter. Since a rain barrel typically fills up completely with a little as two tenths of an inch of rain, you need a way to safely pass the rest of the rain storm. A diverter will do that. There are several types of diverters available and many rain barrels come with them.

Back in Wisconsin I had five rain barrels and found if I used an in-line pump I could quickly water all of my hanging pots and flower beds. I've included a couple of pictures below to show you some examples of rain barrels, and my husband using the in-line pump.

Have questions? Just ask me at the Garden Club meetings, I love talking rain barrels. I bet for those in Fairfield Glade one question you will have is: are they approved by the ACC. David Bramlett, ACC Inspector says yes, but they should be towards the back of the house and fit the style and color of your home.



Soil3 Big Yellow Bag Compost Promotion:

Soil3 is an organic humus/compost which can be used on lawns, raised beds, and garden beds with no other soil additive. It does not require fertilizer during the growing season. It helps to retain water with no mulch required.

The **Big Yellow Bag** – 1 cubic yard (27 cubic feet) will be delivered to your driveway. The soil can be stored in its re-sealable bag and used over several months' time. Other bagged soil bought locally may be a little less expensive but some are not for lawns and need to be mixed with garden soil for raised beds and mulch is recommended for water retention.

Plus if you use the link or code below you will receive \$5 off regular pricing!

As an added bonus the Garden Club will earn \$15 for each product ordered which will go into our Scholarship Fund. And, for returned empty bags a Big Yellow Bag will be donated to the Plateau Discovery Gardens.

Go to www.Soil3.com for more info; make sure to enter **Promotion Code FGGC2023** in order for the Garden Club to get credit for the sale. You

can also go to the <https://shop.soil3.com/discount/FGGC2023> link which automatically applies directly to our promotion code.

Why Are Mushrooms Growing In My Garden?

Mushrooms in lawns and gardens provoke varying reactions, ranging from disgust at unsightly fungi sprouting through bark mulch to enchanted delight at a fairy ring gracing the yard. (Or in my case a chance to take pictures of them.) Regardless of your response, you likely want to know, why are mushrooms growing in my garden? Where did these mushrooms come from?

If you find a large number of mushrooms in your garden or lawn, you've likely had some wet, humid weather recently, or perhaps the area is well irrigated. In addition to the moisture, the fungi are also probably taking advantage of a good source of decaying organic matter, like old roots, tree stumps, leaves, or even bark mulch.

What causes mushrooms in my lawn and garden?

Mushrooms release tiny spores that travel through the air and germinate in favorable conditions like those mentioned above. Once they land, these spores send out long, thin filaments that eventually form visible masses called mycelia, which decompose the organic material and absorb some of the nutrients.

The mushrooms that you see emerging in your garden are actually just the above ground fruiting bodies of below ground fungi. In fact, these fungi often live in the soil for several years, only producing mushrooms when the conditions are just right.

Are mushrooms in my garden bad?

Mushroom growth is not bad for your garden; in fact, mushrooms can be beneficial and are often a sign of a healthy lawn or garden! In decomposing organic matter, mushrooms increase the availability of nutrients to plant roots, thus contributing to rich, healthy soil. Think of them kind of like the fungal version of an earthworm.

What to do about mushrooms in the lawn or garden?

When you see mushrooms in your garden, rejoice! They indicate healthy soil and help break down nutrients to feed your plants. However, if you dislike the appearance of these beneficial fungi, know that the delicate fruiting bodies tend to be short-lived and will quickly disappear on their own. You can also remove mushrooms by hand or run over them with a lawnmower. If you catch them early enough, you can prevent the spores from spreading.

Of course, getting rid of the entire organism is nearly impossible, with its spreading mycelium, and doing so would harm the surrounding soil and plants. Just as plucking fruit from a tree won't harm the tree, removing mushrooms from the soil won't kill the fungus that produces them.

How to prevent mushrooms in a lawn?

As mentioned above, removing mushrooms soon after they emerge will prevent them from sending out spores and spreading to other areas of your outdoor space. In lawns, mushrooms are often associated with overwatering or poor drainage, so addressing these conditions may help prevent the appearance of mushrooms. Irrigate only as necessary and aerate the soil for improved water penetration.

Are the mushrooms that grow in the lawn poisonous?

Because so many different types of mushrooms grow in lawns and gardens, some will be poisonous and some not. A few are even fatal. Never eat wild mushrooms unless you are a hundred percent certain what type they are and whether they are edible.

Will mushrooms hurt my plants?

Nope! In fact, mushrooms are beneficial to plants because they decompose organic material and make the nutrients within it available to their root systems. The presence of mushrooms indicates healthy soil.

Is it a good idea to kill mushrooms using a fungicide?

Fungicides are not recommended for eradicating mushrooms. Not only are they largely ineffective, but there are no approved fungicides for yard mushrooms. Plus, your plants need the mushrooms!

To find out more about mushrooms, here is the link to the above article:

https://www.backyardgardenlover.com/why-are-mushrooms-growing-in-my-garden/?fbclid=IwAR1_PuVpbeLd4QHDapjnFUYLzh0uae7MKdsGRmy_G0tGXQrzYcq5xsVAg9o

Weather Policy:

Since it's the middle of winter, now is the time to review our **inclement weather policy**. On the morning of the meeting, if there is snow or ice on the roads or parking lot, it is the member's choice – your choice – whether to come to the meeting or not. If you are uncomfortable with the conditions, don't come out.

It's that simple. If the Leader Board decides to cancel the meeting, notification will be posted to our website (www.fggardenclub.com) or an email will be sent. Our priority will always be to keep our members safe.

Submissions for publication in this newsletter should be emailed to Kathy Spancake at kathy.spancake@gmail.com by the 28th of each month.

Website - fggardenclub.com
fggardenclub@gmail.com

email -

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

attachment(s): February 2023 General Meeting Minutes