



## Fairfield Glade Garden Club



## 2023 Newsletter

### ***From the President***

Good morning on this rainy Monday.

I hope all of your yards and plants have not suffered too much from our week of high temperatures and no rain. Without an irrigation system, I would have nothing left but stems.

Most of you know that I am all about pollinators. I love the hummers and the bees. I found an interesting chart about when to take our hummer feeders down and I thought it should be shared. I have had a tough time remembering when I should put the feeders up and when to bring them in. I have been using my calendar to track the first sightings for a point of reference.

## Highest Hummingbird Activity Time



I have also been reading some interesting articles about bee swarms. If you see a cluster of honey bees on a tree branch, a post or the side of a building, please call a beekeeper. There are several in our area. Do not spray them with water or use insect spray on them. They cluster around their queen and she is usually in the center for protection. They are only taking a little break and trying to find a final home. A bee keeper has the proper equipment to remove and contain a swarm. Without these valuable insects, we will have no food. My dad was a beekeeper and I have gone with him many times to get a swarm of bees. It is fascinating to watch them but please get a professional and do not kill them.

We are looking forward to our Member Only Event at Oak Lawn Farms. Let's try to make a new acquaintance that day. We have so many interesting people in our Garden Club.

Have a great week,

Rhoda Hiller

***There will not be a meeting on September 20th.***

Our October 18th meeting at the FG Community Church will feature Don Hazel as our guest speaker.



#### POINSETTIA SALE:

The poinsettia sale is the second of our fundraisers for the year - proceeds are divided between our Helena Schmidt Scholarship Fund and the CCHS Greenhouse Maintenance Program and are given to deserving students in the Crossville area towards their college education. Also, the CCHS students grow our plants as a curriculum and are graded on them. Watch for an article in the papers as the sale grows closer highlighting the students responsible for the plants.

The year-end fundraiser Poinsettia sale is confirmed as follows:

Monday, December 4th – 8:30 - 2:00 pm - Cumberland County High School Greenhouse

Tuesday, December 5th – 8:30 - 2:00 pm - Cumberland County High School Greenhouse

Wednesday, December 6th - pack and move from the greenhouse to the Village Green Mall and set up

Thursday, December 7th - 7:30 am - 5:00 pm - Village Green Mall

We cannot do this without the help of our volunteers, and signup sheets will be available for each day at the October Garden Club meeting. The schedule is typically a 2-hour shift. As a volunteer your responsibility is to:

- help the customer pick out their plant(s), and bring to payment table
- help carry the plant(s) to the customers car
- re-arrange plants as needed to keep the area stocked and at the mall we need to sweep the floors on occasion

Any questions on the plant sale, contact Darlene Petersen  
- [petersendarlene@hotmail.com](mailto:petersendarlene@hotmail.com). We look forward to another successful year!

### ***From the Travel Committee:***

The final 3 trips of the year are all completely full, therefore we cannot take any additional reservations, nor can we take any additional cancellations at this point. Should you be unable to attend for some reason, it will be up to you to find someone to take your place as we cannot issue any refunds. Buses and locations are all confirmed.

I am beginning to look and plan trips for the 2024 year so watch for upcoming trips.

Darlene Petersen - [petersendarlene@hotmail.com](mailto:petersendarlene@hotmail.com)

Friend of the UT Gardens, Crossville...

**The Cumberland County Master Gardeners are offering 28 different Fall Bulb items for sale.** All proceeds benefit their local gardening education programs. You can learn more about this sale at <https://www.ccmga.org/fall-bulb-sale>. You can learn more about this non-profit educational organization by checking their website at [ccmga.org](http://ccmga.org)

The sale will run through October 15th. If you have questions now or after you order, you can send them via email to [tngardener@frontier.com](mailto:tngardener@frontier.com)



*Look what I dug up by Nathy Hill*

## **What To Do With Hostas In Late Summer & Fall – Fall Hosta Care!**

Late summer and early fall are actually the perfect time for working with hostas. Whether it's cutting back spent blooms and foliage, dividing oversized plants, or even moving plants to a new space – by getting plants in shape before the cold of winter, you can set the stage for great growth next year.

### **Caring For Hostas In Late Summer & Early Fall**

By mid-fall, hosta plants usually begin to slowly lose their luster. Their long bloom stems become bare and brown. In addition to dying bloom stems, their once leafy, green, overflowing foliage starts to yellow and brown off as well. Even worse, the foliage becomes a target for pests, who can decimate it quickly.

Once all of this begins to happen, there is no ability for the plant to repair its foliage. When a plant reaches this point, it is time to take action and cut it back.

### **The Importance of Removing Foliage**

So why is cutting back so important? For starters, decaying stems and leaves make for some pretty unsightly flowerbeds. But even more importantly, leaving the rotting foliage in your beds allows pests and disease a perfect place to find a home.

But cutting back plants early also allows you the chance to divide and transplant any hostas that have become overgrown. In addition, it is also the perfect time for moving or planting any transplants to new areas or beds.

Although these chores can be done in the spring as well, dividing and transplanting in the fall is the better choice. It allows the hosta crowns time to establish before winter, and sets the stage for full growth the following season.

### **Cutting Back Hosta Plants**

The good news is, cutting back hosta plants couldn't be easier. The loose foliage and stems cut easily with garden shears or even a sharp pair of scissors. Simply lift up the foliage, and snip the plant to within a few inches of ground level. Now that the plant is cut back, it's time to determine if your hosta needs to be divided.

### **Cutting Back, Splitting Back & Dividing**

As stated prior, fall is the perfect time to dig up and divide overgrown hostas. Plants whose roots have become too large will not only bloom less in subsequent years, but become more susceptible to pests and disease.

When a hosta plant grows too large, its roots become crowded. As this happens, it has more and more difficulty absorbing both water and nutrients from the soil. That, in turn, results in a weaker plant that can struggle to grow and bloom.

A good rule of thumb for hosta plants is to divide them every 3 to 5 years. If your plants have become overly large and are having trouble blooming, now is the time to dig them up and divide!

To divide overgrown plants, start by first cutting all of the foliage back withing a few inches of the ground. Next, remove the plant by digging around the outer edges and lifting the plants roots out. Don't worry if you slice or hit a few roots in the process. Hostas are actually quite resilient and can handle a bit of damage.

Once the plant is out of the ground, simply turn it over and slice it into equal divisions. The larger your starts, the larger the hosta will be next season. Finish by replanting into the soil – always adding a bit of compost to help give the roots a bit of nutrition as they set.

### **New Fall Transplants**

Just a quick note on late season transplants. Depending on the weather, new divisions and transplants may send up new shoots before winter sets in. This is completely normal and does not hurt the plant in any way.

It simply means that the roots have become well established in the cool, fall soil. A hard frost or freeze will eventually kill back the new growth, and the plant will head into dormancy for the winter months.

One thing you should not do in the fall is fertilize your hosta plants. Fertilizing can promote too much growth, especially if the temperatures happen to stay warm. Instead, as you will see below, you can provide a bit of slow-growth nutrients with compost

### **Mulching For Winter Protection**

Once plants have been cut back and any divisions and transplants needed have been accomplished, it's time to give the plants a protective layer of mulch before winter.

The fall mulching of hosta plants is one of the most underrated chores of all, but it really can make a big difference in keeping perennials strong. Mulch helps insulate the plant's roots against temperature swings. Swings that can cause excessive freezing and thawing that can injure or even kill off plants.

In addition, mulching also helps keep competing weeds and weed seeds from blowing in and taking over.

For fall mulching, begin by putting a light covering (1 inch) of compost over the crown of each plant. Next, place a two to three inch layer of traditional mulch all around the plant.

Why the compost? Not only will the compost provide a bit of insulation, it also acts a slow release fertilizer for plants come next spring. It is especially helpful for new divisions and transplants to have added nutrients come spring.

Here is to putting your hosta plants to bed for winter with the proper fall hosta care, and enjoying healthy blooming plants next spring!

For more information from this article check out the following

link: [https://thisismygarden.com/2022/08/hostas-in-late-summer/?fbclid=IwAR3ohq98V5ZxdaZ\\_TEHPMUI7SuSganbGyAdLZ02qlmsK-4uUI5BwetLKR-w](https://thisismygarden.com/2022/08/hostas-in-late-summer/?fbclid=IwAR3ohq98V5ZxdaZ_TEHPMUI7SuSganbGyAdLZ02qlmsK-4uUI5BwetLKR-w)

***Scholarship winner letters:***

Hi Irene, Thank you for reaching out! I really appreciate the generous scholarship. I spoke to Robin a few weeks ago and told her I had the opportunity to graduate a semester early which will put me graduating in December of 2023. Tennessee Tech is saying they need confirmation from you all that it is okay to apply my whole scholarship amount to the fall semester. I have an email for the confirmation to be sent to which is [cventers@tntech.edu](mailto:cventers@tntech.edu). Please let me know if you have any questions and again thank you so much for the scholarship! Have a great rest of your week.

Thanks,  
Kallie Hale

Dear FFG Garden Club members,  
I want to thank you again for the Scholarship.  
It will be a huge help to me with my college expenses. I truly appreciate each and every one.  
Thank you and God bless!  
Jaxon Reed

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

Website - [fggardenclub.com](http://fggardenclub.com) email - [fggardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:fggardenclub@gmail.com)