Garden Club of Stuart November Newsletter 2026

So far this year, we have survived the heat of the summer and the unexpected punishing rains and floods of autumn. Hopefully now we will enter the cooler weather of late fall and winter and turn our attention to helping our plants recover from those natural phenomena and go forward with introducing new plants, namely vegetables and herbs.

Let us look at recovery. While rain is very good for our plants, an excess is not so good. I was in my yard last week with a friend and we stopped at a Podicarpus hedge. I couldn't remember the name of it to tell my friend and went to my trusty app,' Picture This'. It came up with name immediately but told me the plant looked sick, so I checked to see why. I had to laugh when it read "Over watering". Actually, it looked healthy enough to me… not like my Gardenia bush that had yellowed leaves. My first thought was to fertilize but happily I decided to look it up and found that was not the best approach. According to AI, the most important thing is to get excess water out of the roots, restore oxygen to the soil and avoid stressing the plants further.

1. Drainage: Check containers and remove as much water as you can or move plants to a dry area with bright light and good air circulation. Do not repot unless mix is completely waterlogged and cannot drain. Roots need oxygen and if left in sitting water will suffocate.
2. Foliage: Remove leaves that are mushy or rotting, as well as fallen debris around the plant. Rinse mud off with clean water. Leave green leaves alone. Avoid heavy pruning until you know which stems are actually dying.
3. Individual plants. Check the growing habits of plants to determine further needs, especially cacti and succulents.
4. Fertilization: Wait until you see new growth.
5. Saltwater: Remove as much saltwater as you can by rinsing and flushing thoroughly. Watch for brown leaf tips and damage.

6. Recovery: Plants may take several weeks or even months to totally recover. Do not assume a plant is dead just because it loses leaves. Be patient and vigilant

Vegetable gardening should be started in November or December, in a landscape or in pots. I came across an excellent article published by the National Gardening Association. "A Primer for Getting Started" and begins with a rationale of "Why Garden?" and then lists what is important to know when you start a vegetable garden. It is an exceptional article that is well worth looking into. (garden.org.)

Now on to GCS business. There are several events coming up. Further information is available on various websites.

1. The **Veterans' Day Parade**, Wednesday, November 11. Hopefully many of you will come to walk/ride in the parade. Dress patriotically, decorate a hat, give out information on the GCS, candy, and flags. Last year we had a fun time, and everyone looked so festive. This year there is an added incentive of $25 to the Circle with the most % of participation. Kim Wildenberg, chairman for the event, sent information to all members via email (11/3). Re- check your email for specifics.
2. **Garden Expo**, Memorial Park, February 27, 2027. It's not too early to start propagating plants for this event, in fact it is a perfect time. Last year we raised over $600 that was used to pay for awards, hopefully we can double that amount this year. Most plants can be propagated by taking cuttings and putting them in water or soil. Coleus is a prime candidate. Just fill a large pot with potting soil and stick the cuttings in… 5 or 6 in one pot, which can be transplanted as they root. My coleus plants are huge right now and need to be trimmed, but not one cutting will be wasted. Begonias, Crotons, Cordylines, vines and various shrubs can also be propagated in this way. (As of today, I have 48 Arelias rooted and ready to grow -on, as well as several begonias). Other plants can be divided and propagated. (Liriope is a good example). If everyone propagated just 5 plants, we would have over 500

plants to sell. As you can see, I love propagating and sharing plants. Please call me if you have any questions or need help with doing this.

3. **Flower Show,** *"Reflections Thru Time: 1890s to the Present'* March 19 &20, (Karen Bonney, Chairman). This is our 'Giving Back' to the Community. The schedule is posted on the Website (gardenclubofstuart.org.) and may be downloaded. Sign-up sheets for design (Donna Baker), artistic design (Rana Holbrook), Photography (Kim Wildenberg), dish gardens, and collections (Ali Hooker), will be available at the meeting. Read the schedule before the meeting and determine in what you are interested. For **Horticulture**, all plants, except Arboreals, (6 mos. prior) must be in the exhibitor's possession at least 90 days prior to the Show (about December 13) so there is time to buy new plants to be entered in the show. Please read the schedule carefully to make sure what you buy is on the schedule. Every effort has been made to include a variety of horticulture but unfortunately there is not room for everything.

A motion to present a change in the bylaws was made at the November 2 Board Meeting. The change will be read to the general membership at the November 9 and December14 meetings, and will be voted on at the December meeting.

Please check the following websites for more upcoming events gardenclubofstuart.com., districtX.org., and ffgc.org. Also, information for upcoming events is on the back cover of the GCS yearbook and will be announced at meetings. Our next meeting is December 14. God bless you and happy gardening.

Mary Neal, President