

HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB

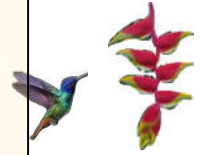
MAKING HOLLYWOOD MORE BEAUTIFUL ONE GARDEN AT A TIME!

DECEMBER 2021

Member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs – <http://ffgc.org> – Deep South Garden Club - www.dsgardenclubs.com
National Garden Clubs, Inc., www.gardenclub.org, and Deep South Region



HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center
3rd Tuesday of the month
NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Agave attenuata

The Hollywood Garden Club wishes all our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been over a year since we have met, and we miss you all. Hopefully the new year will bring us all together again sharing knowledge and plants.

AGAVE, *Attenuata*, (foxtail agave) is monocarpic, means it dies after flowering once. In its last years of its life which can be 15 to 20 years old it produces a long flowering stalk with yellow flowers from June to July. After blooming, the main plant dies but produces seeds and rhizome suckers. Grown in part shade and sun in drought conditions. Also comes in a

variegated variety. Toxic sap can irritate the skin.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Judy Bates, Mary Ann Cannone, Judith Cao, and Ann Kurtzman

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [Hollywood Garden Club](http://hollywoodgardenclub.com) <http://hollywoodgardenclub.com>

What would you like to see in our newsletter?? Email pictures from your garden or other suggestions to mtabela@comcast.net
Membership in Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is open to all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

Recommendations for our South Florida Gardens

DESERT CASSIA – (*Senna polyphylla*) It is a very popular landscape tree due to its small weeping form, attaining a height of 6-15 ft. and a spread of 6-10 ft. wide. It is also drought and moderately salt tolerant. Great tree for Xeriscapes. Blooms on and off all year with 1-inch yellow flowers. Host to the Sulfur Butterflies as well as an excellent nectar source. Voted plant of the year in 1999 by the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association.



RED FOUNTAIN GRASS – (*Pennisetum setaceum*) “RUBRUM”. – Is an ornamental perennial grass used for its red foliage and showy plumes. Grows 2 to 3 feet tall in full sun. With an ocean breeze it can show movement in the garden. Comes in a white variety.

PHOENIX ROEBELENII PALM – Pigmy Date Palm is one of the most popular small landscape palms. Can be single-stemmed or in clumps of 2 to 4. Height is 12 to 15 feet with a spread of 6 to 8 feet. Fertilized with 8-2-12+4 several times a year.



BUNCHING ONIONS
(*Allium fistulosum*)

This perennial bulb can last several years by just harvesting the outer leaves. One of our favorites to cook with and eaten fresh.



THINGS TO DO LIST FOR DECEMBER 2021

PRUNING – If you prune now you will stimulate growth that can be damaged by a cold snap. Do not prune shrubs that flower in spring only their dead branches. Cut off old blooms. Plants should be allowed to become dormant, so they are ready for the cold. Winter begins on 12-21-20. Get outside and enjoy some of Florida's best gardening weather.

TROPICAL PLANTS - The cold can cause older leaves to drop off. In case of frost, bring orchids and container plants inside. I water everything before it gets to be 32 degrees to keep the heat in the ground. During freezing temperatures, be prepared to cover your plants with cloth sheets or quilts, not plastic. Some plants can be placed in the bushes out of the north wind. Amend the soil now with compost, garden soil, lots of leaves and mulch to keep the heat and moisture in and the weeds down. The secret of success lies in good soil. Mulch lowers the PH. between 5.8 and 6.5 is the best, Hollywood has 7.5 or higher with mostly micronutrient deficiencies. My soil is 7.8. Recently, I have found scale on my crotons so look yours over. Wipe them off with your hand and then wash them off with the hard spray of water. Check in one week. Caterpillars are the immature stages of moths and butterflies. Pick them off by hand or leave them for the birds to eat.

PROPAGATION – Sometimes it is best left until warmer weather. Cuttings can sit in wet soil and rot this time of year. It never hurts to try your luck though. You can root some cuttings in a glass of water on the windowsill or dip the ends in fungicide and place them in a 4-inch pot. When the roots show at the bottom of the pot, transplant them into a pot that is 2 inches larger with Miracle Gro Potting Mix or put them in the ground. Most cuttings wait for warm weather to root.

PLANTING – You can never have too many flowers. Plant your garden with plants. If you purchase the right plants, your garden can provide fruit, perfume from flowers, sightings of birds and butterflies. Spoil yourself and buy something you have never had before. Turn the plant sideways and count the stalks to make sure you have the bushiest one. Flowers, trees, seeds, bulbs, onion sets, vegetables and any plants you want, can be planted now. There is no such thing as garden failures, only lessons. Keep mulch 12 inches away from the trunks of trees and bushes. Pine bark mulch keeps its color longer than others. Plant native trees and large plants around the perimeter of your yard for protection from high winds.

VEGETABLES - Most vegetables and herbs need 6 - 8 hours of sun a day. Plant them in large pots so you can move them around. I like recycled 15-gallon black pots. Try earth boxes and large bags if you have not had success with your veg. plants in the ground. Find someone who is growing Everglades tomatoes and ask for some seed. Rain or shine is not a problem for this plant to produce, just squeeze seeds into the soil. It also reseeds itself. Do not compost your weeds. Your pile does not get hot enough to destroy the seeds. Throw them away. A good tomato is not cheap, and a cheap tomato is not good.

FRUIT IN SEASON – Avocado, banana, carambola, citrus, sapote, papaya, sapodilla, pineapple, roselle, mulberry, and Strawberry tree. Growing your own fruit is like printing money. Keep a notebook, journal or calendar to remind you what happens each month in your garden. Keep the receipts of the named plants in a file so you will know the varieties planted.

WATERING – Adjust irrigation based on rainfall. Water once a week in the morning. Do not let any plant sit in water for more than one hour. Your plants do not like to go to bed with wet feet. Root rot can become a problem with cacti, succulents, bulbs and many annuals when it is too wet. Some plants grow better with rainwater or well water, rather than city water. East of I 95 wells can contain salt. Adjust sprinklers so they don't hit the base of your trees. If your water pressure is low, they might be clogged, take off the sprinkler heads at the end of the lines and flush out the algae and dirt.

BLOOMING –Bougainvillea, geiger tree, mussaenda, allamanda, orchid, willow in the Everglades, cassias, ixora, shrimp plant, Christmas cactus, kalanchoe, penta, periwinkle, marigold, impatiens, petunia, geranium, pansy, wax begonia, dragonwing begonia, blue daze, angel trumpet, Florida hydrangea, snapdragon, buttercup, crossandra, crown-of-thorns, ginger, desert rose, heliconia, ruellia, hibiscus, thryallis, bird of paradise, rose, golden senna, West Indian shower, salvia, firespike, scarlet red cloak, Hong Kong orchid, Turk's cap, firebush, porterweed, torenia, lantana, crinum lily, chenille, melampodium, garlic vine, alder, plumbago, clerodendrum and poinsettia. Visit your nursery for more.

SUSAN BERRY, President of the Hollywood Garden Club, Master Gardener, Advanced Florida Master Naturalist, Certified Landscape Designer, Certified Gardening Consultant <http://www.hollywoodgardenclub.com>