

## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It's May, it's May and the last two months just breezed by. KWGC's grand opening at the end of February was a GRAND success and we are so thankful for the overwhelming support we have received from the gardening community.

Randy Lemmon from KTRH GardenLine talk show visited Kingwood Garden Center in April. If you missed the event, we have autographed copies of his book *Gulf Coast Gardening*, containing his sage advice, on sale for \$17.95.

We are getting the word that the speakers and seminars are something we should add to the calendar on a regular basis and will be planning the next event in the near future. We are also hearing positive comments about the changes at the Garden Center. We think the addition of the Garden Bar has added a nice touch (no, we don't serve margaritas) but if you have an ailing lawn, leaf or blossom, bring a sample to the Garden Bar and Toni or Yvonne will help you out.

Bob and Nancy have been working with Marilyn Butler of Hi-Neighbor Club and were pleased to see the beautiful blossoms on the Magnolia Tree at the dedication and tree planting "honoring those who serve". Bob was also a featured speaker at the first annual Humble/Kingwood Home and Garden Show.

Lots of plants are arriving daily. We have a wide variety to choose from-both indoors and out. And, if you want to accessorize in your garden or outdoor room there is plenty to choose from in the gift area; an assortment of chimes, flags, plaques, containers and garden gifts.

Blaze and George are still enjoying the Garden Center. George is moving slowly these days but still enjoys your visits and affection.

We look forward to your visits and comments on the changes we've made. Thanks for your support!



Randy Lemmon signing *Gulf Coast Gardening* and getting some eyes on gardening issues at KWGC on April 15th



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Coleus



What marvelous color coleus brings the garden! There are so many new varieties that they are too numerous to list. Some are for shade, but new varieties are also for sun. (They can be used in shady locations too, but are not as colorful).



NOW'S THE TIME  
SEASONAL CALENDAR

**ALERT!**

*Take All* and *Brown Patch* are active in St. Augustine Lawns! Use F-Stop, Eagle Fungicide or Actinovate to curb and kill fungus.

**MAY**

**MOTHER'S DAY**

**MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> ROSE SALE**

**MEMORIAL DAY**

**MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

- Prune azaleas, if required. Fertilize with Turf Magic ACG food for the second time. Schedule one more feeding before August. If you have not yet fertilized, try to get in three feedings by the end of July.
- Spray camellias for tea scale with NEEM if temperatures are below 90° F. If temperatures are above 90° F. spray late evening. Fertilize with the Turf Magic food you used on your azaleas.
- Feed hibiscus every three or four weeks with Nitro-Phos Hibiscus Food or Nutri Star Hibiscus Food. They are fertilizers specially formulated for tropical plants. This plant food can be used on gerbera daises, bougainvillea, mandevilla and other tropical shrubs and vines.
- Feed roses with Fertilome Rose Fertilizer or NUTRA.
- To keep bugs off, prevent black sooty mold, and have greater summer blooms, feed crape myrtles every month with Fertilome Rose Food and treat with Bonide Sytemic Granules.
- Plant caladium bulbs.

- **Mother's Day is May 13th.** Select a gift from KWGC's gift area.
- Feed the lawn with a slow release nitrogen fertilizer, like Kingwood Garden Center's Premium Lawn Fertilizer, a 19-5-9 slow release fertilizer. It has a ratio near 3-1-2 or 4-12 as recommended by Texas A&M.
- Continue to plant annuals for summer color particularly vinca, portulaca, purslane, salvia, zinnia, begonia, coleus, impatiens, lantana, nicotiana, blue daze, celosia, copper plant, verbena, dianthus, dusty miller, and gomphrena.
- Plant perennials such as; plumbago, gerbera daisy, sedum, columbine, coreopsis, bush daises, shasta daisy, gaillardia, lambs ear, penstemon, pentas, purple coneflower, pineapple sage, verbena, and yarrow.
- Finish planting summer vegetable garden. Vegetables such as okra, peppers, beans, squash, melons, corn, cucumbers, and pumpkins (for Halloween) like the hot weather.
- **Memorial Day is May 28th.**

**JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY**

**JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**SUMMER BEGINS**

**JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>**

- When mums finish blooming, pinch off blooms and pinch stems to encourage branching and future bloom. Water often and watch for insects.
- Be alert for chinch bugs. They usually appear when weather gets hot and most likely will begin near driveways or side walks which give greater heat to the soil. Diverse treatment with Nitro-Phos Bugout, Surrender Bifen Lawn & Perimeter Insecticide (for longer interval treatment) and Turf Ranger provides the most effective results. Use Nematodes for organic control.
- Watch for insects. Frequent spraying may be required.

- **Father's Day is June 17th.** Remember to pick up a gift or gift certificate from KWGC
- Water azaleas and camellias by a deep soaking once a week or as required. You can still give azaleas their final of three feedings, if you have not already done so.
- Keep beds well mulched to insulate the plants from the heat and to discourage weeds.
- Watch for powdery mildew on roses, crape myrtles, zinnias, euonymus and lantana. Treat with Fertilome, Rose Pharma and Fertilome Systemic Fungicide.
- **Summer Begins June 21st.**

## BEDDING PLANTS THAT TAKE THE HEAT

Trials conducted in Florida by bedding plant growers have given us a few plants that are proven to look good all summer through sustained heat and high humidity with intermittent heavy rains.

Plants that remain attractive and resilient during summer months include some familiar but under-utilized plants. Advances in breeding and selection of various bedding plants have resulted in new offerings for use in the landscape. Many "tried and true" plants are also "new and improved", which in many cases means plants with improved heat tolerance or longer summer bloom periods.

### **Celosia**

This annual is known for its outstanding summer performance. It has a unique flower, a variety of heights and spreads, a wide range of floral and foliage colors. One favorite is "Apricot Brandy". It looks dramatic in mass plantings. "New Look" has bronze leaves and rich orange/red plumes. The "Castle" series are semi-dwarf and the "Kimono" series are very dwarf. Celosia comes in the plumed varieties and also the cockscomb varieties.

### **Portulaca (Moss Rose)**

For ground cover that comes in several colors, nothing surpasses portulaca. The "Sundial" series holds its flowers fully throughout the day.

### **Nierembergia (Cupflower)**

This exceptional summer ground cover fills the same niche as Alyssum. "Mont Blanc" has small white flowers with a yellow center. It works well as an edging for beds and an accent in flower boxes and can survive winter months. "Purple Rove" has deep purple flowers with golden eyes.

### **Salvia Farinacea**

Few plants take the heat better than mealy cup or blue salvia. The height and graceful spikes of blue salvia bring a soft, soothing charm to the garden.

### **Lisianthus (Eustoma - Texas Blue Bell)**

This plant is ideal for summer gardens, especially in dry areas. Pinch back dead flowers to encourage branching. Must have a well drained area.

### **Torenia (Wishbone Flower)**

These flowers appear in a wide range of colors; blue, rose, pink, and violet. These plants are not conspicuous from a distance, but attract a lot of attention close up. They take partial shade, need adequate water and good drainage. The "Clown" series performs well.

### **Gazania**

While good for hot dry areas, gazanias also tolerate frequent watering provided the site is well drained. They are vigorous plants and last a long time in the landscape.

### **Vinca (Periwinkle)**

The standard annual for hot summer plantings, vinca flowers prolifically with bright colors that contrast with

the dark green foliage and is ideal in mass plantings.

Vinca have a reputation for being susceptible to disease. Providing a healthy root environment is the key to overall plant vitality. Over watering is frequently the culprit when a bed of vinca goes into decline. Vinca tends to be tenacious in the landscape when provided a well drained, peat free, raised bed and restricted irrigation.

The new generation in series such as "Cooler", "Heatwave", "Tropicana", and "Pacifica" are more compact in habit, earlier to flower, and have better basal branching than the "Little" series used years ago. The new series have bigger flowers with overlapping petals.

### **Dahlberg Daisy**

This plant offers appeal as a groundcover. It's delicate leaves have a lemony fragrance. The plant is covered with tiny, bright, yellow, daisy-like flowers. It fills the same plant design niche as Nierembergia.

### **Abelmoschus (Musk Mallow)**

This shrub-like bushy plant is one of the sturdiest and most reliable of the larger plants in the summer landscape. It produces large hibiscus-like flowers that last only a day, but will withstand heavy rainfall and heat without suffering a loss in appearance.

### **Zinnia Augustifolia (Mexican Zinnia)**

This plant is perfectly suited to summer months due to its heat tolerance. "White Star" and "Orange Star" with their spreading habit have been used successfully for years. "Crystal White", the new comer and All American Winner, is a departure from other varieties with a more dwarf, compact spherical shape.

### **Ornamental Basil**

Herbs should not be overlooked as a way to add texture, fragrance and culinary aspect to the garden. Basils are particularly tolerant of heat. "Spicy Globe" produces a compact, bright-green, sphere shaped plant. "Purple Ruffles" add height as well as a dark purple hue to the garden. Many other herbs are heat tolerant, such as marjoram, thyme, and oregano.

## LOOK WHAT WE HAVE FOR

- Gift Baskets
- Garden Accessories
- Chimes
- Garden Tools
- Books
- Hats
- Gift Certificate

*Mother's Day is May 13th*  
*Father's Day is June 17th*



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KWGC NEWS

MAY/JUNE 2007



KWGC  
 COOKING CORNER

**Habanero Mango Salsa**  
**From Chiletos Taqueria**  
**Santa Barbara, California**

- 5 habanero chiles, stems removed
- 2 tablespoons chopped white onions
- 1 pound fresh mango, chopped
- 3 tablespoons golden raisins
- 1/8 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 fresh lime

Cover chiles with water in a sauce pan. Add onions and simmer until chiles are softened. Add mango and the raisins. Heat the mixture and just before it begins to boil, remove from heat.

Place the chile mixture in a blender, add the turmeric, and puree. As it is blending, pop the top and squeeze the lime juice into the salsa, being careful not to breath the fumes.

Yield: 1 1/2 to 2 cups  
 Heat Scale: Hot!

**15% OFF**

Moms and Dads Day Coupon

Kingwood Garden Center

Valid: 5/11/2007, 5/12/2007, 5/13/2007 &  
 6/15/2007, 6/16/2007, 6/17/2007