



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER
of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com **FEBRUARY 2022**

May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

SHOW SEASON IS UPON US - This is the schedule as of January 2022

Calendar 2022
Show Dates for 2022 Season

SUNSET, Tampa State Fair.....February 12th
MATHEWS-FALLMAN, Good Shepherd.....	February 19 th
MATHEWS-FALLMAN, Seminole.....	March 12 th
MATHEWS-FALLMAN, Kiwanis.....	March 26 th
MATHEWS-FALLMAN, Mead Botanical.....	April 9 th
NEW ORLEANS.....	April 10 th
CONRAD-SUNRISE, Mount Botanical.....	April 23 rd
SPACE CITY, Pasadena, TX.....	April 24 th
JAMES E. HENDRY, Ft. Myers.....	April 30th
RED STICK, Baton Rouge, LA.....	May 1 st
LONE STAR, Sugarland.....	May 7 th
HARRY GOULDING, Punta Gorda.....	May 8 th
MIKE BERNARD ACADIANA, Lafayette, LA.....	May 15 th
MATHEWS-FALLMAN, Good Shepherd.....	May 21 st
AHS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Lafayette, LA.....	July 7 th -July 10 th

Show Dates

Frank Sullivan, 2nd VP
Phone 561-596-8071

Show Directors

Carolyn Cormier-Stoute
Phone: 337-896-5405

JUDGES TRAINING COMPLETED FOR 2022

We conducted our annual judges training class on Sunday, January 9th in Fort Myers for the James E. Hendry Chapter. The following members were present and passed the test: Terry Martin, Paul Zinszer, Jill Breslin, Barb Yekel, Paul Yekel, Emilia Maitz and Kay Janssen.

AN EXCITING FEBRUARY 13th MEETING

WE ARE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW! The group is going to stage a mini mock show with all of you bringing blooms to exhibit. If you don't have blooms, you will be given some to exhibit. Our new judge members will judge the blooms and give awards. Show entering and etiquette will be explained. Great experience for all members, especially those of you who have never entered or even been to a show.

Plan on attending with or without a bloom and win top table awards! Meeting is FEBRUARY 13th. Meeting will be held at the Berne Davis Garden Council Building, 2166 Virginia Avenue in Fort Myers. Doors open at 1:30. Come and enjoy light refreshments and some good company.

PLANTS, GARDENING and 2022 RESOLUTIONS

Happy 2022! If you are a resolution maker (or not!), it's beneficial to think about how the new year will unfold. If you share your life with plants, consider these ways to make the new year more meaningful and enchanting.

Become More Mindful If you raise indoor plants, you already know their power. In addition to enhancing your decor, they also keep you connected to the green world outside. And they remind you that the world is a place of growth. Because of this, your houseplants can help make you more mindful.

Stress Less Multiple studies reveal that being in the proximity of plants reduces stress, increases productivity, and even helps you heal and sleep better.

Move More The act of gardening is like a cool cross-training program where both you and your yard get fitter. Spend time in your garden, weeding, digging, planting, raking, hoeing, for 30 to 45 minutes a day, and you'll burn 150 to 300 calories.

Improve Your Health Studies from around the globe prove that being around plants improves overall health. Even your relationship with your houseplants can change your world view. When your plants put on new growth, it's a sense of renewal.

Cheer Up Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) may explain that nagging, nonspecific malaise you feel in the winter. Some simply call SAD "winter depression." Even if you don't actively feel the symptoms, the lower light levels and shorter days can make even the sunniest personality a bit darker

Live Better with Houseplants Plants are more than just pretty faces. Did you know indoor plants can remove toxins from the air in your home and actually help you concentrate better? from COSTA FARMS

JANUARY 9, 2022 JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER MEETING

President Jack Bernatz was called away on a family emergency so Wanda Schmoyer conducted the meeting. All attendees were welcomed and new members were introduced. Cindy and Bill Nance are from Missouri, Connie Postl is from Minnesota, and Al McMeekin is from South Carolina.

The Pledge was recited.

The Installation of new Board Member Cathy Dunn was completed by Beth Meehan.

Cathy Dunn was our guest speaker talking about "Research". She is a Master Gardner, first in Indiana then in Florida. She does articles on a variety of topics for the Fort Myers News Press, The Hendry Herald, and Cape Coral Breeze. The title of her presentation was: "Research = Curiosity + Observation". She feels that you can find patterns in things in which you are interested. Trial and error is research.

Stephen Brown, a guest columnist for The News Press, receives lots of insect, plant, tree, etc. questions daily. Cathy was very much interested in learning from him. He would give her some of the questions he received, she would write an answer, and then he would critique her response.

How should one conduct garden research? You need to be careful, a Google search needs to be as specific as possible. Always use UF/IFAS in the search to get top information. Be careful of the source, it may not be applicable to your gardening needs. She suggested that if you are interested in a pesticide application reference, what you find may need some conversion to figure the correct amounts. Cathy suggested creating Bookmarks Folders to be able to find sites more easily. Stephen Brown's column has lots of great information. She shared some good apps that she uses: "Plant Identification" and "Leaf Snap". Naples Botanical Gardens and Marie Selby Garden in Sarasota both have excellent information. Cathy recommends the Master Gardner Program. "Research is a life-long activity. It's fun and rewarding, NOT BORING."

Winners of the Mini-Show:

Double:	Marianne Charlton	HOLLY LOTT
Single:	Sweet Pink	RICHARD WALTER
Mini Double	Firecracker	NANCY KOPP
Mini Single:	Hawaiian Salmon	NANCY KOPP
Seedling - TIE	unnamed	MICKI DOUGHERTY
	Chloe's Crush	JOYCE YATES

The February 13, 2022 Chapter Meeting will be a Mock Show. Everyone will learn how to enter blooms. EVERYONE will enter a bloom. If you don't have one, some chapter member will give you some.

Wanda announced that J.E. Hendry Chapter needs volunteers to set up on April 29, 2022 (Friday) and work the sale on April 30, 2022 (Saturday) at the First Assembly of God, 4701 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers.

February 4th and 5th is the Strolling Art Walk. Our club has been assigned a window. The street will be closed to traffic at 4:00 on Friday (4th) and the display must be finished. There are 23 clubs and societies in the Garden Council. Ten of those clubs will be competing in the People's Choice Award. Sue Lawson said there will be a 10X10 tent and our Club's information can be displayed. Lots of blooms are needed by 1:00.

Martin Estep, an active member, passed away the day after our sale at the Edison Gardens.

We have two gardens to maintain: Berne Davis and Lakes Park. We need member volunteers' help. The Lakes Park garden was planted about 20 years ago.

Plumeria seeds were donated by Holly Lott. Free plants were given out to Raffle winners.

The meeting was adjourned. **SUBMITTED BY JOYCE YATES, Secretary**

HY'S WAY FOR FEBRUARY

PRUNING YOUR HIBISCUS

When To Prune: In Southwest Florida, the time to prune hibiscus is **late February**. You do not want to prune when a frost is likely. The frost can kill tender new growth. Remember, **blooms grow on new growth**, not old growth. Pruning results in more branches which results in more flowers. Pruning allows you to shape the plant.

Pruning is not a black art. It is simple-when you know how.

- (a) Prune at the right time.
- (b) Prune to an outward pointing bud. This is directional pruning.
- (c) Cut away all dead, all crossing and weak-looking wood.
- (d) Make all cuts clean and smooth. Use a clean sharp pruner.
- (e) Do not leave stubs above a bud as the stub will decay.
- (f) Remove all horizontal branches within 4 inches of the ground.
- (g) You can remove a third of any branch (leaving at least two nodes) without hurting the plant.

How To Prune:

- (1) Remove all dead wood. Using a fingernail or small knife, scrape away $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the brown outer bark of a branch you are not sure about. A live branch will be bright green underneath the bark; if the branch is brown or light tan the branch is dead. Remove the dead part of the branch down to where it is green.
- (2) The general rule in pruning hibiscus is to cut the plants back one-third all over. You can leave a few old stems intact that will provide a few early blooms.
- (3) Prune at a node. So what is a node? It is a definite bump on

the surface of the stem where a branch is growing or had grown. The best node is one that has a leaf growing from it. If all leaves have already fallen off, just choose a node pointing outward and up. Be sure you cut $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the node at a 45 degree angle to shed water. (4)

Remember that blooms occur on new growth and not old growth. Pruning causes new branches and therefore more blooms. After pruning, apply a foliage fertilizer in $\frac{1}{2}$ the suggested label strength.

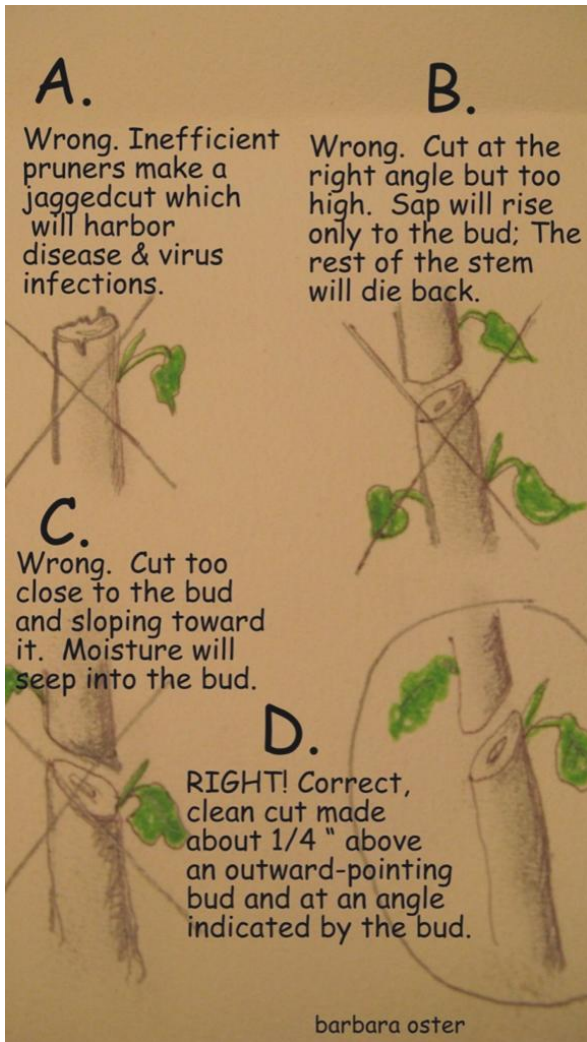
- (5) Very old bushes with old hard wood, large thick branches and small flowers need rejuvenation by drastic pruning. You may need a pruning saw. Saw them off two feet from the ground on a slant outward. A whole new plant, bushy and with more flowers will result.

After pruning do not overwater. Because of the loss of leaves, the plant cannot cope with excess water. Also, be careful to not over fertilize until the plant has grown leaves.

ANOTHER EXCELLENT ARTICLE ON PRUNING by Robert Gerlich, S.J.

Cutting Back Damaged Plants

Undoubtedly, if plants were in exposed positions during particularly cold weather outside they may be lost. But it is also quite possible — indeed likely — that many hibiscus planted in the ground are only “mostly” dead. Branches lower to the ground might have received enough ground warmth to have survived, and it is not uncommon for plants to re-sprout from below the ground. That being said, let me caution you not to be too hasty about cutting back your outdoor plants. Our natural impulse as gardeners is to “repair” the visual damage as quickly as possible. Generally, this means cutting back or replacing plants. But one can be too quick to bring out the clippers and shovel. As you undoubtedly have witnessed, hibiscus leaves sag and wilt after exposure to cold. They will recover quickly, however, if the cold has not been too prolonged or severe. Brown leaves on the other hand will not. Once the leaves shrivel and turn brown, they are dead. Eventually they will fall off on their



own. But if you feel that the dead leaves make the plants look too unattractive, just pick them off. Pruning plants back too soon after a freeze risks cutting off viable wood. Just because the leaves are dead, one should not assume that the branch is dead as well. Once warm weather returns, a live branch will sprout out again. And, with a bit of time, a new flush of leaves will cover the plant. Areas that do not produce new growth are dead. Once the plant has leafed out, it is easy to determine just how far down one needs to cut back.

Another reason not to cut back too quickly is that cutting back encourages new growth. A plant that has been pruned releases chemical signals that promote growth. In general this is a good thing. But new growth is especially sensitive to cold weather. It sometimes happens that a late frost will damage newly sprouted leaves, further delaying the recovery of the plant or even critically weakening it. In short, if you have damaged plants in the yard, wait until you see some signs of new growth before pruning the plant back to viable wood.

But is there any justification for cutting back now? Yes, there is. It is much easier to cover a plant that is one foot tall than one that is six feet tall. And we just might have a late freeze or frost, requiring us to cover plants once again. Moreover, it is probably pretty clear which plants have frozen all the way to the ground. Waiting to cut back in these cases does no good, and having to view the unsightly plants only adds stress to an already stressful situation. Should you decide to cut back now, “guesstimate” how much of the plant you need to cut back by scratching the outside bark of a branch. If the layers below the bark are brown, the area is dead. If it is light green, it is not entirely dead, but probably dying. Keep working your way down the plant until you reach healthy green tissue.

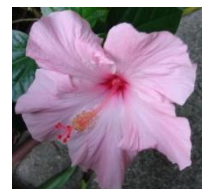
Spring Hibiscus Pruning

If you are fortunate enough to have had your hibiscus in a greenhouse or in a warm garage or carport, you may be looking at a tall, gawky plant with few leaves and long branches. You now have a choice -- let the plant fill out and bloom or prune. Let me offer this consideration to you fortunate few . . . Hibiscus are tropicals and in tropical climates they may be pruned at any time of the year. Here in our more temperate climes, major pruning generally occurs during Spring. Of course, hibiscus plants can be lightly pruned throughout the growing season into late Summer or early Fall. This promotes summer blooming, as hibiscus bloom only on new wood. Moreover, light pruning by pinching back the branch tips, or tip pruning, during the growing season encourage a more dense growth habit. Nonetheless, as a rule, springtime should be the only time for rejuvenation pruning. This entails a major cutting back and shaping of the plant to prepare it for the blooming season. ***The trick is to cut the plant back early enough so that it has the maximum amount of time to recover before the show season begins.*** If one waits too long, it could be mid-summer before the plant starts producing blooms and then the heat becomes a problem. If one prunes too early, the new growth can be easily damaged by a late frost or a sudden cold snap. I usually suggest that people keep an eye on the weather reports. If it looks like an early Spring, prune early. If the weather follows a cold pattern, then wait until it is a bit warmer. In general, I tell people that, for the greater New Orleans area, the best time to start spring pruning is during the period between the blooming of the Japanese magnolias and the flowering of the azaleas. That’s a window from mid-January to mid-February. Remember, this is only a “rule of thumb.” Of course, you can prune later than mid-February, and sometimes work schedules make that necessary. But the later you prune, the fewer blooms you will have early on in the season. Should you choose to do a major pruning on your plants, it is helpful to leave at least one or two branches intact on your rarer cultivars.

That way you will have some scion wood to share. Be sure not to overwater your newly pruned plant. With the decrease in foliage, it needs less water. Too much water will stress the plant, and likely suffocate the roots. Cold, damp and oxygen-poor soil encourages the growth of fungus and not hibiscus! Before pruning hibiscus, make sure your pruning shears are sharp and clean, preferably sterilized with alcohol gel, Clorox or some other disinfectant. This is important to prevent the spread of any disease agents from affected branches, should any be present.

Keep them growing,
Robert Gerlich, S.J.

COPIED FROM AN OLDER ISSUE OF THE NEW ORLEANS NEWSLETTER





Hibiscus Flowers Not Flowering? Scout for the Hibiscus Bud Weevil

Hibiscus bud weevil research plot receiving irrigation at UF IFAS TREC. Lourdes Mederos

Sent to us by

Chris Oster, Lab Manager Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida | Gainesville, FL 32608

About 35 species of native hibiscus in the United States offer residential, business and public landscapes an abundance of flowers. Those flowers offer many shades — from white to pink to yellow to red. They also attract hummingbirds, butterflies and dragonflies.

A pest known as the hibiscus bud weevil is infesting tropical hibiscus cultivars. These are not Florida native hibiscus species. Growers and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Sciences – Division of Plant Industry (FDACS-DPI) have isolated the pest in nurseries and are working to prevent the spread of the pest in other areas that include residential landscapes.

Scientists at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) are researching the biology of the bud weevil and developing management strategies for nursery growers.

While scientists at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center continue collecting data, they have good news for residential landscapes and nurseries. The most recent fact sheet published on Ask IFAS provides nursery owners, homeowners and gardeners with highlights on how to identify the pest, which hibiscus varieties appeared to be most vulnerable and resistant to the pest and what to do if you encounter the hibiscus bud weevil in your landscape.

We have observed that in south Florida nurseries, pink and yellow hibiscus varieties appear to be more susceptible to this hibiscus bud weevil than red and other varieties,” said Alexandra Revynthi, an assistant professor of entomology and nematology at UF/IFAS TREC. “The pink variety, commonly known as the ‘Painted Lady,’ and the yellow variety, ‘Sunny Yellow,’ are reported to be more susceptible, while the red variety or the ‘President Red’ is reported to be more resistant to the pest.”

Adult weevils feed on buds, stems and to a lesser extent, on leaves of the hibiscus. The females lay eggs in flower buds, and larvae develop inside the bud, causing the bud to drop prior to flowering. Symptoms include holes in stems and unopened buds and cause the bud to drop in high pest densities. There are no visible signs if feeding damage occurs on the leaves, said Revynthi.

“We also know that the pest is isolated to Miami Dade County and the problem seems to perpetuate in the nursery where it can establish and reproduce,” said Revynthi. Meanwhile, no samples have been collected by UF/IFAS Extension county offices from parks, residential or business landscapes, she said. “This is good news for consumers and nurseries because it means the pest is isolated and it ultimately keeps it restricted reducing the potential for spread,” she said.

Consumers can do their part by scouting the shrubs. Simply checking for the pest and symptoms, and reporting them to your local county Extension office, will help control the spread in your landscape and others while helping scientists determine any changes in the movement of the pest.

Florida leads hibiscus production nationally, and most nursery production occurs in south Florida. About 20 to 25% of plants sold from Miami-Dade County are hibiscus, where the market value of ornamental plants was \$697 million (farmgate price) in 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

.NOT HERE YET. HOPEFULLY THEY CAN IRRADIATE THE WEEVIL BEFORE IT REACHES SW FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA <http://www.ufl.edu/>



February What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants:

Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia.

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for

establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus.

Groundcovers: Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers.

Vegetables: Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze.

What to Do

Lawns: Fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides longer-lasting results

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 week

Shrubs and palms: Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts.

Lawns: Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a "weed and feed") to lawns late this month to prevent germination of warm-season weed seeds. Apply when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 days. Timing is important for good control.

Avocados and mangos: Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide.

Citrus: Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree.

Garden Club of Cape Coral presents its

14th Annual

March In The Park

A Juried Plant Sale

Saturday, March 12, 2022

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Jaycee Park

Local Vendors, Plants, Garden Art,
Thrifty Treasures. Opportunity drawings,
Food, Kids Booth & FREE workshops!



Jaycee Park:

4125 SE 20th Place, Beach Pkwy, East off Del Prado Blvd S.

For more info: *Ginny Huffer* (239)257-2654

PO Box 152022, Cape Coral, FL 33915

www.gardensclubofcapecoral.com Vendor@gardensclubofcapecoral.com

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JACK BERNATZ

Hello to all, Hope all of You have a Happy Valentine Day!

2022 February, I certainly feel like the pace of passing days has reached "warp speed" and no signs of slowing down.

Our January General Meeting was very successful. Cathy Dunn our guest speaker, shared some of Her mastery of conducting research, some of which was learned while working with Stephen Brown, very well-known columnist in our community. Cathy's presentation "Research=curiosity+Observation. Cathy suggested how we should conduct our garden research. Asked us to be careful, that a Google search needs to be as specific as possible. Always use UF/IFAS in the search to get top information. Thank You Cathy.

The board is actively addressing the pros & cons of our most recent events and busy setting up events for the following year, to take our learned experience and apply it to our new year. We are asking that if anyone has a suggestion for the improvement of any of our activities, please make them known. If you wish to remain anonymous pass it on in a note for our suggestion box.

We welcome new members Cindi & Bill Nance from Missouri, Connie Posl from Minnesota, and Al McMeekin from South Carolina!

We are wishing all of You, a Happy New Year, and we hope 2022 will be Your best year yet!

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Hope to see You all soon,

JACK



CATHY'S CHRONICLES



Minx Miticide/Insecticide

You may remember that Matt Martindale discussed Minx, a new miticide/insecticide at our October meeting. He stated that he has found it to be a superlative product for suppressing aphids, whiteflies and thrips. I immediately perked up when he discussed this product, because I was experiencing a bad whitefly infestation on one of my hibiscus and repeated use of other products had proven unsuccessful. And while doing the research for this article, I realized why that was happening! Read on for more details.

I came home from the meeting and did some research on Minx and found pretty quickly that it was only sold in large quantities; the smallest container I could find was one quart of concentrate and it cost \$87!

With help from Google, I was able to find a supplier for Minx in very small quantities. It takes only ½ teaspoon per gallon of water to make up the Minx mixture, so I didn't want to purchase enough to make gallons of Minx to treat a greenhouse full of plants, which is the situation that faces growers like Matt and dictates the way the product is sold. The supplier I found was on eBay: Bacon's Select Products in Jacksonville, FL. Here is their company description: *"We are a mid-sized hydroponic farm in NE Florida. We've been in operation for over 10 years and have lots of experience with about every problem – from insects and plant fungal and bacterial diseases to nutrient deficiencies. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. A lot of what we use we buy in large quantity – so check us out from time to time as we add more items that we think might be useful to the hydroponic grower. If you don't see something that you need, ask us! We probably have it."*

I realize that not everyone uses eBay, so I contacted the owner, Freddie Bacon, and explained that our members might be interested in buying products, but they may not be eBay users. He said that you can just contact them via their website, and they will be happy to help you!

Here is their website: <https://baconsselectproduce.com/about/>

If you are an eBay user and would like to check out their offerings, their seller's name is bsp.su-61

The Minx directions specify that the product will control all types of mites, leafminers, aphids, thrips and whiteflies. Repeat applications may be made at 7-day intervals for up to 3 weeks. Direct contact of the Minx spray can kill aphids, thrips and whiteflies. *You must discontinue use after 3 applications so that the bugs do not develop immunity to the Minx formula.* After 3 weeks you can then use insecticides with 'modes of action' different from Minx for up to three weeks, again at one-week intervals. Insecticides have 4 modes of action: nerve and muscle targets; respiration targets; midgut targets, and growth and development targets. Most insecticides available to home gardeners contain nerve poisons, but these insecticides work in different ways to affect the nerves (i.e. paralysis, nerve synapse interruption, inability to digest food). Abamectin is the active ingredient of Minx, and it acts as a nerve poison. Insecticides that do not target the insect's nervous system include Imidacloprid (Captain Jack's), Acephate (Orthene), Diamides (Sevin), or Borates (Captain Jack's).

Even if you don't want to experiment with Minx, it is useful to understand the science of rotating various insecticides so that pests don't become immune. When insects that do not carry resistance genes are exposed to insecticides they die; this allows insects with resistance genes to survive and reproduce which creates more resistant insects. Since many insects can complete a lifecycle in a month or less, it's easy to see how quickly resistant insects can proliferate. If you have used a particular pesticide repeatedly you may have found that it is not as effective over the long term – and now you know why! You can use the same pattern of using one product for 3 weeks and then switching to another product for another 3 weeks. Keeping our beautiful hibiscus pest free is a challenge - I hope that this information will be helpful in your pest management efforts!

CATHY DUNN, Master Gardener, author

IT HELPS IF YOU IMAGINE SPELL CHECK/AUTO CORRECT AS A TINY LITTLE ELF IN YOUR PHONE WHO'S TRYING SO HARD TO BE HELPFUL BUT IS IN FACT QUITE DRUNK



SOME OF THE WINNING BLOOMS FROM THE JANUARY 9 MEETING



RICHARD WALTER



NANCY KOPP



HOLLY LOTT



JOYCE YATES & MICKI DOUGHERTY
WITH THEIR SEEDLINGS!

**MEETING - FEBRUARY 13
MINI MOCK SHOW
BLOOMS WILL BE JUDGED
BRING YOUR BEST BLOOMS
OR
GET BLOOMS AT THE DOOR!
SEE WHAT SHOW JUDGING IS ALL ABOUT!
DOORS OPEN 1:30 2166 VIRGINIA AVE. GARDEN COUNCIL BLDG.**