



# HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER  
of the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW [hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com) JANUARY 2020

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

A WARM SMILE IS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF KINDNESS

WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That is why it is called the present.

"He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but **rejoices** for those which he has."

-Epictetus

**JANUARY 18th 2-4 pm**

**PLANT SALE at Salvation Army, 10291 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers**

The beautiful tropical hibiscus you've always wanted but could not find at Home Depot, Lowes or Wal-Mart will be for sale. **500 hybrid hibiscus will be available**. ...small for \$15 and large for \$30.

**Special pricing for members. Small - \$10 and large - \$25**

### HY'S WAY FOR JANUARY



**Do not prune hibiscus until the last week in February** except for damaged or diseased branches. Pruning results in new growth and new growth could be killed by a frost or cold spell in January. Remember, **blooms arise on new growth**, not old growth, so you don't want to kill new growth by pruning too early. February notes will contain pruning information. Keep watch on your plants at least weekly.



### JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH - WINTER?

Is a frost expected? Trim plants and mulch heavily. Cover with trashcans, newspaper, blankets, etc. Be sure no plastic is touching the leaves. Do not fertilize until frost is over. Clever idea-use Christmas lights for warmth around plants.

Hibiscus Maintenance by Sandra Theall

In case of a freeze, in ground hibiscus should be cut down and a trashcan turned upside down over them, flush with the ground. If temperature dips to 32\*, water soil and leaves. Let dry. Cover and use heat lamps if available. Remember to uncover and turn off heat when temperatures rise. Cut back on fertilizer in the cool months.

Hibiscus Hints by Buddy Short

**It's only January - we're not out of the woods yet**

# How to Diagnose Your Plants Nutrient How to Diagnose Your Plants Nutrient Deficiency

Learning Garden's tips, tricks and articles are presented by BGI Fertilizers. THOMAS SCANNELL

If you suspect your plant is lacking vigor, color or appears weak and growing abnormally, chances are nutrient deficiency is the culprit. It is necessary to examine the specific symptoms and the growing environment. Soil, water and tissue testing will not only confirm the cause but will also recommend corrective actions. BGI recently introduced diagnostic testing and recommendations to address these very issues our customers may face.

Nutrient deficiency symptoms are broadly categorized by location on the plant: old growth and new growth.

## OLD GROWTH:

- Nitrogen Deficiency: Uniform yellowing of entire surface of older, lower leaves.
- Phosphorous Deficiency: Lower older leaves appear purple or dramatically smaller and greener.
- Potassium Deficiency: Lower leaves exhibit chlorosis (yellowing) or marginal necrosis (death) that may occur along the entire leaf surface.
- Magnesium Deficiency: Interveinal chlorosis on the older leaves usually beginning along the margin.

## NEW GROWTH:

- Iron Deficiency: Uniform interveinal chlorosis on upper leaves and new growth.
- Manganese Deficiency: Symptoms are almost identical to Iron deficiency. Interveinal necrotic spots may form as well.
- Boron Deficiency: New shoot (Meristem) growth will abort, fall off and cause abnormal growth habit and distorted branching.
- Calcium Deficiency: New growth foliage exhibits marginal necrosis and chlorosis. Leaves often become misshapen.

Diagnostic soil testing not only confirms the deficiency, or in some cases the toxicity problem, you can become proactive and avoid future nutritional problems. It can also indicate potential pH problems, where adequate nutrients might be in the soil but are unavailable.

In South Florida, even though soil nutrient levels may be adequate, Iron and Manganese still are often the deficiency culprits. This is because our high alkaline soils and ground water cause these nutrients to become insoluble and unavailable. Please note they are essential micro nutrients. This means they are absolutely necessary (essential) but in lesser amounts (micro). A soil test and corrective pH application would resolve the deficiency problem.

So to all of our plant Doctor diagnosticians out there; if you detect a problem, diagnose the symptoms and take corrective action. Even better, like the men and women that grow professionally, take periodic samples and avoid poor growth and sickly plants all together.

After it's all said and done, it's true but trite: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I like to think of it as preventative health care, i.e. avoid the hospital at all costs!

Get your soil tested today.

We at BGI wish only the best success for you and yours!

Take care, Tom, BGI Fertilizers

**GENERAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 12, 2020**

Meeting to be held at the usual Berne Davis Botanical Garden/Garden Council Building, 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers with blooms entered beginning at 1:30. Short business meeting at 2:00 and an interesting program following.

# JEH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - GREAT FUN!



The party was underway. Ready for gifts and food!

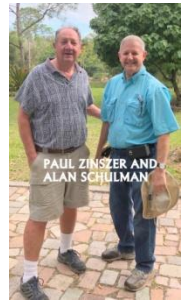


**JUST A FEW  
OF OUR  
PARTY  
CELEBRANTS!**

## INTERESTING NEW MEMBER

Recently a gentleman, **ALAN SCHULMAN**, contacted our President, **JACK BERNATZ** about buying a large quantity of 3 gallon hibiscus for a project he runs in Punta Gorda. It is called History Park and has buildings of historical interest plus some wonderful gardens. ALAN did buy many hibiscus plants and is having them planted in History Park. He also joined our chapter. ALAN found us through our website.

[hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com) Check out the latest. Our webmaster, CHARLOTTE HARFF keeps us up to date.



## NEW MEMBERS LYSSA LOTT & JOYCE YATES LEARN TO START SEEDS.

**LYSSA LOTT** and **JOYCE YATES** visited **MICKI DOUGHERTY** on Nov. 16 for a lesson on nicking seeds and setting up seed trays. Lyssa left with cuttings from Micki but the "mother-load" of cuttings took place during a visit to **FRANK HEFFERNAN'S** home on the 24th of November prior to Bonnie & Frank's listing their beautiful home for sale to start their new adventure close to Kennedy Space Center. Lyssa's enthusiasm reached a new level since starting her hibiscus seeds the week earlier. Lyssa left with more cuttings and had an in-depth lesson on pruning and cuttings. She made several return visits to Green Thumb Hydroponic Store in Fort Myers to help with all her new "cuttings".



Our happy new members, **JOYCE YATES** and **LYSSA LOTT** busy at work on their hibiscus seed trays on November 16th, both report SUCCESS!

Article submitted and written BY **MICKI DOUGHERTY**

## REGISTERING BLOOMS

There have been many emails and versions of registering blooms to the International Hibiscus Society recently. If you are interested in registering blooms, please contact Micki Dougherty at 862-226-2085 for the latest information.

---

### South Florida Gardening Calendar

---

#### January What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana.

**Bulbs:** Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Some examples include Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus

**Herbs:** Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints.

**Vegetables:** Many vegetables can be planted this time of year. This the last month to plant Irish potatoes, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard, and turnips.

#### What to Do

**Landscape:** It is a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start

**Irrigation:** Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce **Shrubs and trees:** Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form.

**Arbor Day:** Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the 3rd Friday of January) by planting a tree in your yard or community.

**Crapemyrtle:** Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant, if desired. Hard pruning is not required.

**Cold protection:** Bring sensitive plants like orchids inside if a frost or freeze is predicted. Thoroughly water and cover sensitive plants in the landscape 12–24 hours before a freeze.

**Pests:** Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom.

## MESSAGE from PRESIDENT JACK BERNATZ

Hello, and a Happy New Year to All.

I would very much like to thank all who helped in the preparation and execution of our Christmas Holiday Party. The food was excellent, the time allowed to mingle and mix with all who attended seemed adequate. The gifts distributed by Wanda, Marsha, Jill, & Nancy were received, shared, and swapped, along with everyone receiving an Exotic Hybrid Hibiscus. Gift giving was followed by a sing along orchestrated by our own James Dougherty with the addition of Jewish Folk Songs sung by our Members from Marco Island, Elliot & Rivka Mascoop & Eta. Wanda added gifts to officers and board members of the Chapter.

I personally enjoyed the casual atmosphere of the dinner, allowing plenty of time to traverse the room and chat with new members and catch up with others not seen for a while. I think it was a wonderful event and hope that it will remain an annual event. I think we have completed a basic blueprint of how to have a Christmas Holiday Party.

Thanks again to all that helped to close out 2019 with a wonderful gathering at Famous Dave's.

Look forward to seeing you next year, starting at our General Meeting 1-12-20. **JACK**



## TIPS ON CARING FOR POINSETTIAS from DRIFTWOOD

### THE POINSETTIAS THAT YOU GOT OVER THE HOLIDAYS CAN LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER CHRISTMAS NEXT YEAR

Euphorbia Pulcherrima ZONE: 9-11 Frost will kill OUTDOORS: Full sun to light shade  
INDOORS: Cool bright light location. Don't plant outdoors till danger of frost has past the last week of February.

Upon purchasing for indoor use, take care not to break stems as they are very brittle and break very easily. Water when the top of the soil feels dry to the touch and do not let it stand in water.

If you choose to plant your Poinsettia outside, pick a full sun to light shade location. Poinsettias grow quite quickly in our Florida landscape and they should have new growth pruned up to around the end of August to keep them full and bushy. This process also encourages more flowers come winter.

Poinsettias are considered toxic to some degree. You or your pet may get a belly ache but not a lethal one. As with all houseplants or plants in general, children and pets should be taught to never eat or place any plants in their mouths.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 12** - Chapter meeting. Bring questions. As always, expert members will be on hand to give advice. "What should I do with the plants I buy at the plant sale?" Also Wes Rowe, an expert on setting up a vegetable garden, will tell you how to do one here.

**JANUARY 18** - Plant sale at the Salvation Army Building, 10291 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers. Set-up time, 10:00 am. Come help set-up and get first choice of the hibiscus you want to buy. Remember, members get a \$5 per plant discount after the venue is ready for the public. Public 2-4 or until all the plants are sold (plants have sold out fast in the past).

**FEBRUARY 8** - First hibiscus show of the year at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. If you are interested in entering blooms, come to our January 12th meeting and learn how to transport your flowers, how to display them and learn what the judges look for when judging your blooms.

## THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger. I will go through this day with my head held high, and a happy heart.

**I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds.** Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for her and how much she means to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and his Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever! *Anonymous*



COOL BREES



MARIANNE CHARLTON



VOILA!

# 2020

## A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL

barbara oster,



editor