



HENDRY HERALD

JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER
of the AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW hendrychapterhibiscus.com OCTOBER 2020

Gardening is not simple or easy, no matter how hard commercials and television shows try to persuade us. Gardening is not a weekend job but a lifetime experience, like raising kids, falling in love or learning a new language. Plants and wildlife teach us about our world and ourselves, and the more we learn about them through research and experience and time spent with them, the easier gardening becomes — because “easy” means knowledge gained over time, as well as a healthy dose of being able to shrug it off.
quoted from HOUZZ

South Florida Edition What to Plant and What to Do in OCTOBER

Valuable information from UF/IFAS

THINGS TO PLANT

Bedding Plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden.

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results.

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try are dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro.

Vegetables: Plant crops now that will grow and produce through the winter months. This includes beet, English pea, carrot, garlic, and onion.

THINGS TO DO

Lawn weeds: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied when nighttime temps drop to 55-60°F for several consecutive nights

Fertilize ornamental trees and shrubs: This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time.

Fertilize lawns: For bahiagrass and centipedegrass lawns use a fertilizer (not a weed & feed) that contains controlled-release nitrogen for longer lasting results. Choose one with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates a need. This is the last lawn fertilization for the year.

Strawberries: Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Water daily until plants are established.

Fertilize Palms: Fertilize palms this month with 8-2-12+4Mg.

Oleanders: The oleander caterpillar is a year round resident in South Florida. To control without harming beneficial insects, prune off infested leaves or spray with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

Twig girdlers: Small branches falling from oak and hickory trees may be the work of twig girdlers. To control, clean up and destroy fallen branches, which may harbor young twig girdlers

THOUGHTS ON NATIVE AND NON-INVASIVE EXOTICS

Everyone should be the lord and master of their personal garden plan, but the minimum requirement should be that the plan benefits wildlife, and does no harm to the soil, and ground and surface water runoff. Try some non-invasive “exotics” that have a special benefit for butterflies and birds and use them to produce extra leaves, flowers and fruits **that are not otherwise provided by “natives.”**

Bill Dunson, PhD Emeritus Prof of Biology, Penn State University Boone, NC and Englewood, FL

CONGRATULATIONS TO CRATERS & FREIGHTERS

For some years now, Craters and Freighters has been a sponsor in our annual Hibiscus Show and Plant Sale.

This year the organization is celebrating their 30th anniversary.

The site in our area is located in Cape Coral on Pine Island Road and has been around for 18 years.

This location is owned by Gary McKinley. C & F have 60 locations nationwide.

They ship fragile and expensive items with great care mainly for commercial customers but also specialize in shipping large, fragile and expensive items for individuals.

If your Aunt Tilly in Ohio passes away and leaves you her antique Thomas Chippendale breakfront, Craters & Freighters will crate it up and deliver it to you in perfect condition. They are the best.

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS and many more years of success. Thank you for your sponsorship!

Autumn is on the Way! RIVERLAND NURSERY

Hello friends! Fall is just around the corner, and with it comes a significant color change in our landscape palette. Plants we've almost forgotten about are starting to come to life again, and it's a great time to begin planning on adding a few more colors to your garden.

We of course have favorite fall and winter bloomers, and below is a brief list of our top picks: (click on each to learn more)

- [Seminole dombeya \(Florida hydrangea\)](#)
- [Brunfelsia pauciflora \(Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow\)](#)
- [Muhlenbergia capillaris \(Pink muhly grass\)](#)
- [Senna alata \(Candlebrush\)](#)
- [Clerodendrum ugandense \(Blue butterfly bush\)](#)
- [Stromanthe sanguinea \(Stromanthe triostar\)](#)
- [Callicarpa americana \(Beautyberry\)](#)



Many fall and winter bloomers can attract welcomed visitors to our landscape like butterflies and hummingbirds. We love to encourage folks to plant pollinator-friendly plants whenever possible.

We will be hosting a great class on incorporating fall color into your landscape this month. See below for details and be sure to register online! If you have questions about how you can add seasonal color to your garden, call us at 239-693-5555, or e-mail info@riverlandnursery.com.

Soaps, Detergents, and Pest Management

*The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is thankful to UF/IFAS Extension faculty Dr. Adam Dale and Dr. Matthew Borden for their publication *Managing Plant Pests with Soaps*. For further information, please reference this publication and contact your county Extension office or the UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office if you have any questions.*

In 2020, public health concerns led to a boom in home vegetable gardening, and in questions about appropriate pesticide use. Credit: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS.

Today more people than ever recognize the importance of using pesticides wisely, protecting pollinators, and managing gardens with low-impact strategies (like integrated pest management). Soaps come up often in conversation on these topics, especially in ones about low-impact or organic pest management.



In English, we use the word "soap" to refer to a number of products: hand soap, dish soap, castile soap, laundry soap, and insecticidal soap, to name a few. They may share a name, but these "soap" products are actually very different. Still, because people are familiar with soaps' use in the kitchen, laundry, and bathroom, many feel safe using them in the garden, too.

To protect consumers and the environment, soaps designed for use as pesticides are evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They are registered as insecticidal soaps and their labels contain directions for use, precautionary statements, and instructions for storage and disposal. They also list relevant environmental, physical, and chemical hazard warnings, such as "hazardous to aquatic invertebrates." As tempting as DIY recipes can be, ingredient

and concentration inconsistencies make these concoctions an unknown danger to yourself, your plants, and the environment. Below are some common misunderstandings about soap and detergent use in home gardens.

Misunderstanding #1: Dish soap is a natural, safe alternative to pesticides.

The label is the law. Instructions for use are found on the label of all cleaning products. Credit: Procter & Gamble



Research shows: Dish "soaps" are not true soaps; they are detergents, synthetically produced and chemically designed to be powerful cleaners.

Cleaning products (including detergents like Dawn®, Joy®, and Palmolive®) have labels that explain how they may safely be used. As with all other chemicals, the label is the law. If the instructions do not include garden or pesticide use, then the product was not intended to be used in that manner. It may even be dangerous to do so.

Understandably, companies package cleaning products in ways that help their consumers feel the product will be safe and effective. Advertising for these products often includes words like "gentle" or "natural," along with images of fields and flowers. Make no mistake — no matter how attractively packaged, detergents are not appropriate pest control for organic or conventional gardening.



Misunderstanding #2: Soaps are mild; they don't hurt plants.

Follow product use directions to avoid leaf burn.
Credit: University of Maryland Extension

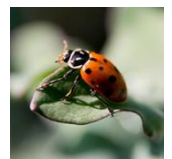
Research shows: As discussed above, most dish soaps are actually detergents. To do their job well, they must be powerful enough to strip oils and other lipids from man-made surfaces.

Plant leaves are covered with a layer of waxy lipids. This waxy cuticle layer protects them from losing water and from viruses, bacteria, fungi, and other pathogens. Even when watered down, detergents cut through these protective layers. The result is often damaged, dry, crispy leaves.

Even true soaps can damage plants depending on which active ingredients they include. Most soaps intended for hygienic uses are made with sodium hydroxide. This ingredient is a powerful, modern lye. The sodium in this formula can cause significant damage to plant tissue. Insecticidal soaps, on the other hand, are intended for use on plants. They are made with potassium hydroxide, which can be used without damaging plant tissue.

Misunderstanding #3: Soaps kill the bad bugs without hurting the good bugs.

Soaps affect both the good bugs and the bad bugs. Check for beneficial insects before you apply any form of pesticide. Credit: UF/IFAS



Research shows: Soaps and detergents don't discriminate between good bugs and bad bugs. The ingredients that damage soft-bodied insects and mites also attack beneficial insects and fungi. Insecticidal soaps, although designed for use on plants, also damage pest and beneficial insects indiscriminately.

When it comes to our gardens, we know that insects can be helpful, harmful, or harmless. No matter which pest control option we choose, protecting the good bugs will require education and effort.



Mixing cleaning products, even for outside use, is always a serious risk to your health. Credit: UF/IFAS
Concentration matters

Similarly, home recipes for insecticidal soaps are inconsistent in the rate of application (the amount of soap relative to the amount of water). Some recipes recommend one teaspoon of soap per quart of water; others call for a whole quarter of a cup.

Properly registered and EPA-approved insecticidal soaps are usually only 1-2% soap by volume. This rate minimizes damage to the plant but is still effective as a pest control. Labels also include important information about plant species that are sensitive to the product's ingredients. Regardless of the formula, plants under drought stress, in excessive humidity, or in heat above 90 degrees Fahrenheit should never be treated with soaps.

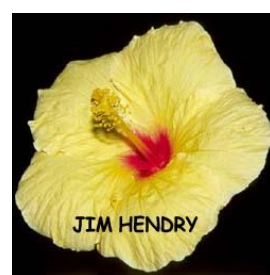
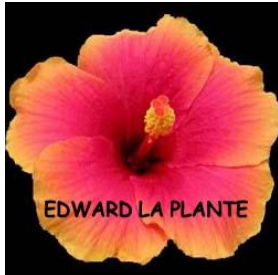
Regardless of which product you choose, always read the label first — before you buy and before you use.

If you have questions about soaps or pesticide use, please contact your county Extension office or the UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office for more information about pesticide safety.

"EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HIBISCUS BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO ASK"

barbaramo@earthlink.net

For our next issue of the Hendry Herald, we are asking you to submit to Barbara a question you have about hibiscus. We will run Q & A in the November newsletter. In our group, we have many knowledgeable growers and hybridizers and we will get the correct answers from them.



**SPEAK IN SUCH A WAY THAT OTHERS LOVE TO LISTEN TO YOU.
LISTEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT OTHERS LOVE TO SPEAK TO YOU**

Weeds are simply plants in the wrong place, but invasive plants are harmful to Florida's ecology.

Invasive Plants

Air Potato	Melaleuca
Australian Pine	Mexican Petunia
Brazilian Pepper-tree	Nandina
Camphor Tree	Old World Climbing Fern
Cat's Claw	Surinam Cherry
Chinaberry	Tropical Soda Apple
Chinese Tallow	Wedelia
Cogongrass	Wild Taro
Coral Ardisia	Wisteria

Invasive Sword Fern
Japanese Honeysuckle

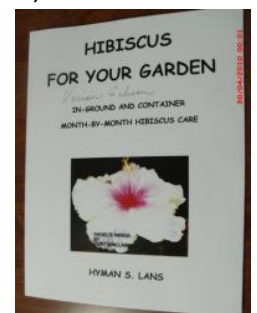
Kudzu - this horrid plant is an experiment gone bad. Imported to hold banks, it has no natural enemy and is covering trees and native plants from Carolina to Florida. The vine kills all vegetation under it



HY'S WAY FOR OCTOBER

- (1) Check plants at least weekly for pests/disease
- (2) Examine both sides of leaves
- (3) Determine what pest is present - a 10 power magnifying lens helps
- (4) Use a systemic control as preventative. Bayer Tree Garden Granule
- (5) Sooty Mold is not a disease. It is an indication of pest. Get rid of pest, wash leaves with stream of water.
- (6) **Correctly fertilized plants resist pests better**
- (7) Prune dead blooms and branches

HY LANS was our resident hibiscus advisor. Hy passed away in June of 2013 but his advice lives on. Our chapter has a book published "HIBISCUS FOR YOUR GARDEN" that contains all the advice Hy offered over the years. \$10





Hibiscus are everywhere. Recently, members CLINT & DEBORA OSTER'S granddaughter Pearl visited the Missouri Botanical Garden. She recognized the hibiscus that her great grandmother "Omi" always talks about. She was amazed by their size. She said "Omi's flowers are never this big".

AHS CONVENTION & 2020 SOTY

Due to the unforeseen conditions, the 2020 American Hibiscus Society's convention to be held in Tampa has been rescheduled for June 24-27, 2021. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel. All members of the society are invited to attend.

The AHS President's committee and the Board of Directors also announced the the Seedling of the Year, SOTY, winner for 2020 will be recognized in the upcoming Seed Pod.

STEPHEN BROWN - News-Press 9/20/2020

Q: My hibiscus buds are dropping off. I opened one up and saw worms. Seven of my 15 hibiscus are having issues. What can I use to salvage the plants? reader from Naples

A: These are hibiscus bud midges, *Contarinia masculipennis*, a small fly that lays eggs in masses into the open tips of young flower buds. Within 24 hours the eggs hatch into maggots that move into the bud to feed. In five to seven days, the maggots grow to about 1/2 inch long and begin to exit the buds in which they have been feeding. They will drop to the ground and burrow into the soil to pupate, meaning to develop into adult flying midges. The adult midges will in turn lay eggs on other young flower buds. The adult resembles a mosquito and survives for only four days.

Buds damaged by midges fall to the ground before they can develop and bloom. Hibiscus bud midges are present year round but their population peak during the summer months. The midge can also be a serious pest of dendrobium orchids and less so in tomato, pepper, and plumeria flower buds. Some insecticides can be applied as a foliar spray against the maggots as well as a soil treatment to target the pupal stage. Be sure to read and follow the instructions on the label of all landscape insecticides.

SOME EXCITING NEWS!

WHAT: EMAIL/VIRTUAL HIBISCUS PLANT SALE

WHEN: Orders must be placed before Thursday, October 15

TO DO: Check web site for available plants. Make your order either by email to charlotteharff@comcast.net -use credit card or mail check to Charlotte OR use postal mail and enclose order and check, mailed to Charlotte Harff, 1301 SE 20th Court, Cape Coral FL 33990

PLANTS: Plants will be delivered to JACK & CHARLOTTE'S house on Saturday January 16 for you to pick up. For further details contact Charlotte (239)222-7038 or Jack (239) 738-3796.

You are welcome to share plant order forms with whomever you wish.

The price for 3 gallon plants is \$25 each and 4" containers \$10

More information is available on our web site

www.hendrychapterhibiscus.com Photos are available at

sunfirenurseries.com, and will be on our website soon under

"hibiscus" "year – 2021" Only those plant varieties shown on our plant order form will be available to order.



Hello Everyone! Just a reminder that entries for the October MINI SHOW are due 8 PM on Sunday Oct 11. That's just a few days away, so get those pictures taken of the beautiful blooms in your yard and send them in!

3 categories: Single, Double, and Mini You may enter 1 bloom in EACH category. Pictures need to be taken timely-no old photos. Minis need to be shown with a ruler showing the size (5" or under).

Send your photos to Beth Meehan at BethMG2020@gmail.com

JEH CHAPTER 2019-2020 MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We want to take this opportunity to present the 2019-2020 "Member of the Year Award" to..... **Barbara Oster!**

Barbara; The Great Communicator – has excellent Communication skills through thought, word, and deed!

She is an Idea Person – She asks more questions when answers are not readily available; and she starts another web search when more information is needed plus - she is an excellent listener. Barbara is a Primary information Source, if she doesn't know, she will direct you to someone who does.

Barbara is the composer, editor, and publisher of the JEH Chapter monthly Newsletter. Barbara is well read, and has many sources for the articles she publishes. She was the right person for this job when the Covid 19 Pandemic hit.. We were able to keep our membership in the loop and still maintain social distancing!

She is JEH's Primary E-mail Communicator.

She is also a thought provoker who throws out suggestions to be evaluated, discussed, and many times adopted as new or changed procedures.

Barbara provides us a comfortable and roomy home studio to gather, and to hold our Board Meetings.

The whole Board unanimously voted in January, 2020, to present Barbara with a wall plaque to add to her many other awards, and a \$100.00 to be used as she so chooses. Thank you Barbara for these and many other things you do behind the scenes to make our Chapter such a great success! JACK BERNATZ

IN REPLY: Thank you for this honor. I hope to live up to your kind words. No handshake for us and we took our masks off for the picture! barb



PRESIDENT'S LETTER from JACK BERNATZ

Welcome to the Fall of the Pandemic and 2020.

I certainly hope that We are on the backside of the Covid19. I hope that all of you are following the protocol of personal hygiene and social distancing. Typical of getting more comfortable and hearing positive things re: the end of the plague, we become less concerned, which leads to relaxing our known safe habits, and procedures. With most of us labeled compromised, and extremely vulnerable, let us remain most vigilant until we get an "all clear" from our experts. That may have to contain a vaccine!

We, "The Board" are following recommended cautions, cancelling those events that remain unhealthy for us to attend. We are continually evaluating information provided us regarding the status of all of our events & meetings.

I would encourage you to participate in the virtual "Mini Show"! Please participate, show us your blooms. Send pictures to Beth Meehan. Three categories, Single, Double, and Mini. Mini's need to be shown with a ruler showing the size of 5" or under. Participation is the determining factor in evaluating whether we will continue the virtual Monthly "Mini Show"!

We also encourage all of you to take part in Virtual Plant Sale!! Involve your Family, friends, and acquaintances! We must hurry and get our order from each of you, on or before Thursday, 10-15-20. We have to have our order into BBF, our grower, by Friday, 10-16-20 in order for them to grow the plants to be delivered Saturday, 1-16-21.

Our website (hendrychapterhibiscus.com) has an order form, list of plants available, hover over the picture of the bloom and it will reveal the plant name. Fill out your order form and get it to Charlotte Harff, write a check, or call Charlotte at 239-222-7038, and give her your Credit Card info and she will run it through our "Square Account". It's really works well, and is very secure.

We look forward to receiving orders from all of you. It's a wonderful way to freshen the look of our gardens. Keeps us active in our chapter and following our vision of spreading the beauty of Hibiscus throughout our community.

Stay Safe!, Remain Vigilant! Jack

ANNOUNCING THE 2020 SEEDLING OF THE YEAR
as chosen by the
AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY PLANT EVALUATION COMMITTEE



5th place
REMEMBERING COLBERT
Dupont Gerlich



4th place
CHANDRAMATHI
Pushpa Suresh



3rd place
NEW ORLEANS BLUES
Sandra & Wally Barr



2nd place
KENDALL'S WATERCOLORS
Janelle & Todd Alvis



SEEDLING OF THE YEAR
X-DIVA
Don Florus

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The board of the James E. Hendry Chapter has voted to cancel the Holiday gathering that was planned as a luncheon at the Edison in their party room because of the pandemic. With so many of us not wishing to gather in an indoor area, NANCY has looked into securing the pavilion at Lakes Park where there is ample outdoor room to social distance. A tentative date of 12/12/2020 has been set with each person supplying their own picnic lunch.



We would like your feelings on attending. We all miss our meetings, I'm sure. If we have this get-together, some activities appropriate to the CDC guidelines will be planned. Please let us know your feelings. barbaramo@earthlink.net



editor, barbara oster

