



President's Message *Caroline Alderman*

Brrrrrrrrrr!

We Avid Gardeners face many challenges throughout the year from Mother Nature. I've lived here 27 years and can attest that although we do, on occasion, dip below freezing, we seldom have to deal with several days with lows in the mid 20s...a hard freeze. Our usual solution, bringing pots inside is reliable, but what if we have large specimen plants in huge, heavy pots...not an option to bring inside.

My Macgyver Moment

On Dec.30th, facing a grim forecast, I knew that my usual and very successful method of protecting my plants was probably not going to be enough. I usually push (can't lift them) the plants against the house, for extra warmth



and then cover and tent with lots of sheets.

As I pondered, I looked out and saw my neighbor's holiday light extravaganza and

voila! A cartoon light bulb appeared above my head. What about Christmas lights? Thus began my grand science experiment. I strung

old fashioned small bulb lights over the plants

and then covered as usual. It worked! when the danger passed and I

began uncovering, I could feel noticeably warm air around the

plants...and this weekend, I had a very tropical hibiscus tree, gerani-

ums and crown of thorns, blooming on the deck!



My euphoria was short lived. I am now lighting and covering again because more

freezing temps are forecast, but this works and may help you in future years.

Our wise horticulture experts have provided guidelines for dealing with the aftermath of the freeze. Read and heed their advice found here in TAGTalk..PATIENCE! It may not be as bad as we fear.

Caroline

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, 1/19/18

Spring Lake Pavilion

Please note:

This meeting will begin at

9:00am

Guest speaker: Maggie Engstrom from

Sweet Bay, Beaufort.

New Concepts in Floral Design

Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It



Our November program this year was a new event for our club. It was a Holiday Program/Silent Auction Fundraiser named Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It. Each member was asked to bring an item to be put in the silent auction and to also invite a guest to come along to shop.

Due to the great support and efforts of our club members, our fundraiser was far more successful than we had ever expected. Our members Made, Baked, Sewed, and Grew such great items that we made a profit of \$1,702.00. What a great way to spend(\$\$) a morning! We got to eat great refreshments, bid on wonderful items, and socialize with our friends for 2 hours. Then we got to take home the goodies that we had won in the auction!

Many thanks to all our members.

Olivia Ford
VP Programs.



HORTICULTURE ...



This has been a most interesting few weeks. Ice and snow then more ice for 6 days making driving a real challenge. Lots of plants were damaged by the low temperatures, but *do NOT prune them back until mid February* lest they put out new growth which may be killed by further freezes.

Read catalogs or go online to order seeds and plan beds. Clean up flowerbeds, and dig in compost or commercial soil additives. Finish planting bulbs for spring bloom and mark them with golf tees to avoid disturbing when planting annuals later. If squirrels are a problem, try sprinkling red pepper. Take 10 inch cuttings of hardwood of trees and shrubs you wish to propagate. Dip in rooting compound then carefully insert into pencil holes in peaty soil and keep well watered until they can be moved into pots or transplanted in late spring.

Diane Middleton, Master Gardener
dcmgard@aol.com
 843-342-5884



Sandy Stern and Liz Van Alstyne made the best of the situation !

Plants damaged by freezing temps and ice?

Consider this article from the University of Florida IFAS Extension intended for gardeners in Florida's Panhandle, who's climate is similar to ours...



After a freeze, see if your plants are dry. Even injured plants need water.

Plants, however can be greatly damaged if the temperature drops suddenly. They have no time to acclimate to the freezing temperatures. Plants are damaged when ice crystals form the plant cells. The crystals expand, rupturing the cell walls and preventing the plants from maintaining shape. If severe, this can kill tender plants. On hardier plants, damaged foliage will appear wilted and curled down. In a few hours or days, it will darken and turn black. Flowers and buds may die, blacken, and drop to the ground if exposed to cold temperatures. Damaged flowers will not develop into fruit. Young branches and new growth are especially susceptible and may also blacken and die.

After freezing temperatures occur, remove damaged leaves and flowers as soon as they turn brown or black. This will help prevent diseases from attacking the plant. Pruning should be postponed until cold temperatures are no longer expected and new growth begins to appear on the plant. This is to make sure that live wood, which appears dead from losing its leaves, is not mistakenly removed from the plant. Cold damaged wood can be detected by examining the cambium layer (under the bark) of the plant. If it has black or brown discoloration, it is damaged and should be pruned back behind those points.



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Protect your plants from cold temperatures during the next cold front. Do this by moving potted plants indoors and covering tender landscape plants with a protective covering. Protective covering can include old bed sheet, pieces of material or fabric, and cardboard boxes. Be careful not to let the protective covering touch the plants. The surface of the covering will become as cold as the air temperatures and may damage any tender leaves it come in contact with. Also, don't forget to remove the covering the next day when temperature raises this is important so the plants do not "bake" in the warmer temperatures. Plants placed near the house, lights, or other structures, which shelter them from wind, will be more protected than those fully exposed to the cold air.

Whatever you do, even if your landscape ornamentals have already suffered some cold injury. Do not relax your guard more frigid weather may be on the way. So, be prepared to keep your prized plants, as warm as possible, each time the weatherman predicts freezing temperatures. Plants should be fertilized in the spring, to encourage new growth. Try not encouraging any new growth, until all frost danger has passed.

Author: Roy Carter - rlcarter@ufl.edu

ALSO, CONSIDER THIS INFO FROM OUR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGENT AT CLEMSON

BARBARA H. SMITH CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
Consumer Horticulture Agent
Home and Garden Information Center
135 Old Cherry Road
Clemson, SC 29634
[\(864\) 656-9999](tel:(864)656-9999) or [\(888\) 656-9988](tel:(888)656-9988)

If there is cold damage to plants, it may take weeks or several months for it to show up. I wouldn't recommend pruning anything now because if there is a warm spell, the plant will send up new growth. Then, if there is another cold spell (I hope it won't be like this one!), then the freeze can damage the plant further. If there was considerable breakage of limbs on a plant, I would recommend that you go ahead and remove the broken branch.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have further questions.

From the Univ. of Mississippi Extension Service:

Watering plants before a freeze can help protect them from cold injury. Soil that is well watered absorbs more heat and then reradiates heat, helping to increase the elevated temperature around the plants. However, poorly drained soils result in plants that have weak and shallow roots, which are more susceptible to cold injury. Use mulch to help retain soil moisture.

Check the water needs of plants after a freeze. After very cold temperatures, water that is in the soil may still be frozen and unavailable to the roots. If plants are transpiring (losing water from their leaves) and water is unavailable to the roots, plants may dry out. To provide water for plants, apply water to thaw the soil and the ice.

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To determine if your fruit plants have been damaged by the cold temperatures, wait several days after a freeze and remove several flower buds from the plants. Use a sharp knife or razor blade to cut a cross section of the bud's top. If there is any discoloration in the bud, the bud has been damaged and will not produce fruit. Damage may be localized, however, and not all buds may have been damaged. Check several buds from different areas of the plant to get a better assessment of the damage.

Pruning in late summer or early fall can result in new growth that is more susceptible to cold injury; so avoid pruning at this time of year. Wait to prune plants until new growth appears in late winter or early spring. Cold damage will be more apparent, making it easier to remove the damaged portions of the plant. Severely injured plants may not break bud in the spring and may take on an overall weak appearance. Branch tips are more likely to suffer cold injury than older wood.

To determine if wood has been injured by the cold, check the cambium layer (layer directly under the bark). To do this, carefully scratch through the bark layer or carefully slice through this layer with a knife. Healthy, undamaged cambial tissue will be green; damaged will be brown or black. Prune this wood below the discoloration.

Links to Fact Sheets:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pdf/hgic2359.pdf> Storm and Weather Damage

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pdf/hgic2350.pdf> Cold Damage

Time to re-evaluate ?

This is a good time to look over your landscape and consider how you use tender tropicals. We sometimes get carried away with these wonderful plants and fill our landscapes with them - only to see extensive damage or loss when the kind of freezes we had this month occur.

Keep in mind that our climate is subtropical, not tropical, and occasional severe freezes are part of gardening here. In particular, when it comes to larger plants like tropical trees and palms that can be a huge job to remove, always consider hardiness when making your choices.

Mantra of the Lowcountry Master Gardeners...
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<p><i>The right plant in the right place</i></p>
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JANUARY'S HEALTHY RECIPES FROM ANNA BROECKER

Happy, healthy New Year!

HEALTHY COLESLAW / CHOPPED SALAD

3 cups finely chopped cabbage

1 cup finely chopped carrot

OR

Bagged coleslaw

Optional to add: chopped red, yellow, and green bell pepper
finely chopped kale

DRESSING

3 tbsp. vinegar

2 tbsp. sweetener (agave nectar preferred)

2 tbsp. milk (plant based milk preferred)

1 tbsp. mayo (or veganaise)

1/2 tsp dill

1/4 tsp sea salt

Mix dressing well until smooth

Add all together and serve

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need 2 volunteers to take over as *Hospitality CoChairs*

Ideally, one would be someone who has been a member for a few years who is familiar with the Coffee Hour before the meeting. This is also a great opportunity for a new member to get involved, as you would have a co-chair to help cover the duties when one of you is unavailable due to travel, illness etc.

The duties (for one of you each month) entail:

Sending the "Hospitality Guidelines" (already well written) to the group who signed up for that month.

One of you arriving at Spring Lake at 8:30 to make coffee and assist as needed. You would also direct cleanup by the group after the meeting.

Keep track of paper products, coffee, cream, etc and replace as needed for the next month.

Attend the monthly Board Meeting (2nd Friday, 9:30 AM, Spring Lake)



FUND RAISING

TAG will have an exciting garden item to sell at our booth at the West Lowcountry District Meeting on March 21 at Palmetto Hall.

Jane Alexander & Dodi Eschenbach plan to offer a selection of herb and wildflower seed bombs all decked out in a neat pottery container. Each herb seed bomb is a colorful ball while the wildflower packets are shaped like colorful butterflies! It is all neatly packaged and tied with ribbon. Perfect for gift giving!

We'll need help putting these packages together. A workshop is planned for March 1 from 10-12 at Spring Lake. To sign up to help please email either

Jane - diamondsun50@hotmail.com

Dodi - dhesch1999@aol.com



Also, notable: The fundraising team - Jane & Dodi - will offer for sale Nadine Korosi's jewelry at every meeting going forward. Members are urged to bring cash or checks and be ready to shop!

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING CHANGES

Program Chair, Olivia Ford has advised us that, due to unforeseen events, it has become necessary to switch the scheduled programs for February and March. Therefore, programs will be as follows:

FEBRUARY: *How to Turn a Functional Table into an Exhibit Table*

MARCH: *New Colorful Succulents*

Hostesses will remain with their originally assigned month.
See your Program/Member Directory for detailed descriptions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need 2 or 3 volunteers to help Liz Van Alsne convert the TAG Library of books and such into a Virtual Library on the Website.

This is a flexible Get Together and Get the Job done...not a regular monthly commitment...many hands make light work.

You will go through the current library and distribute the materials there...offering them to TAG members and finally donating as the committee decides.

For the New Virtual Library, you will gather recommendations from the members of garden related internet sources. These may include newsletters, blogs, catalog sources etc that will be helpful to members, because they are recommended and used by members.

Working with Christine Thumm, put together a Virtual Library for the Website and update occasionally when more sites have been recommended. You DO NOT need tech skills...Chris will supply that expertise.

We are a Member Participation Club. All of us are expected to help in big or small ways to make TAG great. Please consider helping with these current needs.

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843-415-6809



Carol Sevelowitz
sevelcss@gmail.com
843-715-2248

Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the second Sunday of each month.