

# THE GARDEN GATE



Lemon Bay Garden Club 480 Yale Street, Englewood, Florida

[www.lemonbaygardenclub.org](http://www.lemonbaygardenclub.org)

March 2017

## Plant Diseases

Submitted by Penny Rieley, Conservation and Environment Chair

Unlike insects, which - along with the damage they cause - are easy to see, **plant diseases** can lie in wait, then suddenly ruin a whole stand of plants - sometimes permanently.

Three things are needed for a disease to take hold: a pathogen, a host and the right environmental conditions. Minus any one --- no disease; all three --- you have trouble.

To diagnose a plant disease, you have to identify the **signs and symptoms**. A **sign** is the actual evidence of the disease. It could be a rust spot on foliage or a sticky ooze of bacteria in a fruit. A **symptom** is the plant's reaction to the disease, such as abnormal growth or discoloration.

Diseases are caused by one of three pathogen types: **viral**, **bacterial** or **fungal**.

**Viruses**, tiny submicroscopic organisms, enter a plant's vascular system through wounds caused by weather, pruning, cutting, grafting or insects. They invade plant cells and produce symptoms including leaf yellowing, distortions, ring spots, mosaic patterns, deformed growth and flower color breaks. (Interesting fact : In the 1630s in the Netherlands, viruses in tulips caused flowers to grow in color combinations and patterns never before seen. The price of tulip bulbs sky-rocketed as everyone wanted to own some of these exotic new plants.) Viral diseases show no signs and, unfortunately, they have no cure. Affected plants must be removed from the garden, bagged up and thrown in the garbage. Never put affected plants in a compost heap. To prevent future problems, plant resistant cultivars in a different location, keep gardens as weed- and insect-free as possible, and disinfect tools after use.

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**Bacterial** diseases are caused by microscopic, single-celled organisms that release their toxins in a plant. They are spread by water, wind, birds and insects; they also need a wound in which to enter a plant. Symptoms include abnormal growths like cankers, galls and scabs, as well as wilts, leaf spots, specks, blights and rots. Oozing often signals a bacterial infection. Controlling insects helps prevent bacterial spread. A spray of Bordeaux (a mix of copper sulfate, lime and water- all environmentally- if not pest-friendly) is a good control. Good sanitation, dry air, crop rotation and removal of infected plants keep bacteria at bay.

**Fungal** infections account for nearly 85% of plant diseases. Fungi are parasites which feed from plants because they can't make their own food. They invade plant cells as tiny spores dispersed by wind, water, animals, soil, tools and contact with decaying plant material. Symptoms of fungal infection include leaf spots, curling, galls, rot, wilt and cankers. Usually fungus is noticeable - like mold or mildew. These diseases are usually easily controlled by fungicides - plain sulfur compounds being inexpensive and environmentally-friendly. Water carefully and remove infected debris to keep fungus away.

### Flower Show Reminder...

#### A Standard Flower Show - "A Day at the Zoo"

Friday, March 24, 2pm - 5pm  
Saturday, March 25, 10am - 3pm

### New Membership Application

At the March meeting every member will be asked to complete a newly revised LBGC Membership Application. This is being done to provide current, accurate information for the 2017-2018 Yearbook. A current list of areas of interest and talent and experience will aid in establishing committees for the coming administration.

Members who do not attend the meeting will receive an email with the application attached, along with directions for returning it.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this issue.

### Dues Reminder...

Dues for 2017-2018 of \$40 will be collected at the **April** meeting. The deadline for payment is April 17, 2017.

More info to come in the April Garden Gate.

### March Field Trip

There will be a field trip to the Succulent Society and the Culverhouse Community Garden on Monday, March 20.

Attendees will meet at the Clubhouse at 8:15am and depart at 8:30am, carpooling where possible. Estimated return time is 3pm.

Please sign up at the March meeting or call (631.949.6464) or email (bgundlach@gmail.com) Betty Gundlach.

### New Member Orientation

An orientation is scheduled for Friday, March 17 at 11am for new members who will then be installed at the April meeting.

**Please volunteer** to be a mentor for a new member. This is a wonderful way to make a new friend and help her/him become familiar Club activities.

## End of Year Luncheon

The end of year luncheon will be held at the Boca Royale Golf and Country Club on May 1, 2017 concurrently with the final members meeting of the year/season.

During this meeting new Club officers will be installed and will begin their two-year term in office.

Cost of the luncheon is \$22 and reservations must be received by April 21. Checks should indicate your menu choice and be made payable to LBGC. They can be given to Nancy Brostek at the March meeting or sent to Nancy at:

Nancy Brostek  
107760 Trophy Rd.  
Englewood, FL 34223

### Menu

#### Sautéed Crab Cakes

Served with Cajun remoulade, rice pilaf and veggie

#### Grilled Salmon Filet

Served with rice pilaf and vegetable medley

#### Chicken Marsala

Served in a light wine sauce, rice and veggie

Remember to write your menu selection on your check.

Questions can be directed to Nancy Brostek (941.474.6639) or Carol Hartley (941.474.3123).

## Junior Gardeners

We need walkers for our annual Butterfly Walk with the Englewood Elementary second graders who will be coming to the Club for lunch on Friday, March 31. We will pick them up at the school, walk them to the Club where they can look at our gardens and then enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by Nancy Brostek. Nancy has agreed to feed the members as well! There will be a signup sheet at the meeting. At least 15 people are needed.

## Come Play with Us!

Join us working in our gardens every Friday, 8:30 till 11:30 - enjoy light refreshment while we chat afterwards....

Join us in the clubhouse crafting and creating handmade greeting cards every Friday, 9:00 till noon - bring a sandwich and enjoy chatting with the crafting team afterwards...

Lemon Bay Garden Club  
480 Yale Street - PO Box 1176  
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