



Garden Club Officers

Long Bay Garden Club officers for the 1993-94 year are (from left) Jean Russ, treasurer; Doloris Evans, first vice president; Birdie Frink, president; Kathleen Parker, second vice president; and Virginia Winfree, secretary.

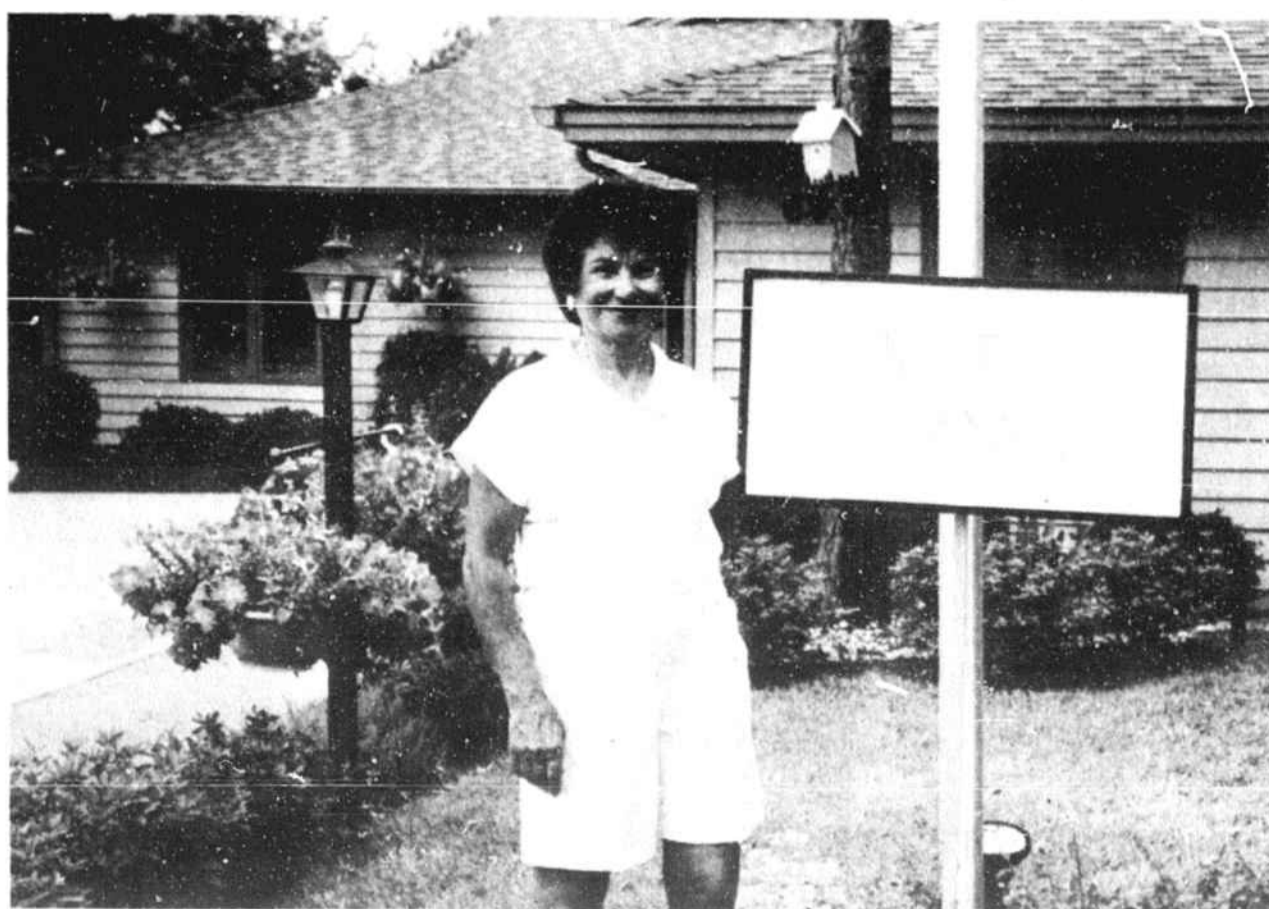


PHOTO BY PATTI MATHENY

Sugar Sands Winner

The colorful hanging baskets of petunias and variety of other well-cared-for plants won the June "Yard of the Month" honor for Louisa Cilento. Cilento lives in the Sugar Sands section of Sea Trail Plantation. The award is given by the Sea Trail Beautification Committee.

How To Kill Bermudagrass

Dear Plant Doctor: I have a nice lawn of centipedegrass. However, this year I have this grass (sample enclosed) coming up all over the place. I have sprayed it with Roundup but that doesn't get the roots. It just comes up in another place.

Could you please tell me how to get rid of this weedy grass? Thank you.

Answer: The grass you enclosed is known by many names: devilgrass, wiregrass, couchgrass, and quickgrass but most of us know it as bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*). For nearly 100 years, bermudagrass was considered to be the worst grassy weed problem in row crop agriculture. This native African warm season grass has a deeply penetrating rhizome (underground stem) that can often be found 8 to 12 inches deep and is nearly impossible to pull or dig up. I routinely see bermudagrass growing in the cracks of asphalt in parking lots and roads.

In my experience, Roundup (glyphosate) is highly effective in controlling bermudagrass. Plant death, after exposure to this herbicide, will usually take 2 to 3 weeks. This disadvantage to Roundup is that it will kill any plant that comes in contact with the spray. Roundup is one of the most effective herbicides for killing bermudagrass on the market.

Another herbicide that will selectively control bermudagrass in an established centipedegrass lawn is Vantage (active ingredient: sethoxydim). Vantage will kill all other grasses (including sandbar and bermudagrass) except centipedegrass 2 to 3 weeks after proper application. Centipedegrass is mostly resistant to the herbicide effects of Vantage.

Follow all label instructions and precautions when applying any pesticide.

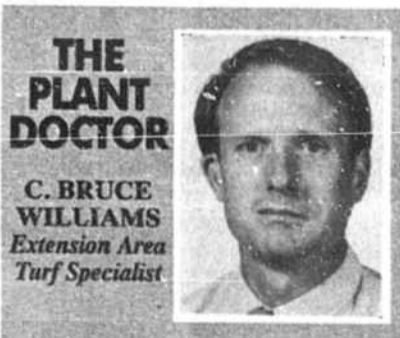
Dear Plant Doctor: I have an ornamental variety of pomegranate that only has one or two blooms. The foliage looks very healthy.

Can you give me some ideas why my plant is not producing blooms?

Answer: The pomegranate (*Punica aratanum*) has been cultured for its strange fleshy seeded fruit and beautiful flowers for thousands of years. A favorite summer drink component, grenadine, is made from the juice of pomegranate fruits.

For prolific flowering, the pomegranate must have full sun, a fertile, moist, well-drained soil, and be routinely pruned. Flowers are produced on new growth; therefore mid-winter or very early spring pruning is best.

Assuming your plant is a mature



THE PLANT DOCTOR
C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
Turf Specialist

specimen, excessive nitrogen fertilizer, shady conditions, phosphorus deficiency or a combination of factors could cause poor blooming without severely affecting the growth or appearance of the foliage.

Dear Plant Doctor: I have had the soil for my centipedegrass tested in 1990 and applied lime and fertilizer as instructed. I now have a good stand but in some spots there is a whitish color and I believe it is a fungus. What can I apply to take care of the fungus?

I also have some red tips that are dying. What can I do to keep the red tips from dying?

Thank you for any information you can send me about these problems.

Answer: Take a sample of sod (6 inches by 6 inches) of the area that appears to be fungus-infected to your local Cooperative Extension Service office. If agents in the office cannot identify the problem, request the sample be sent to the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic at N.C. State University. Once the fungus problem is identified, a fungicide or other corrective measures can be taken to correct the situation.

Do yourself a favor and remove all your diseased red tips. I suspect your plants are dying from entomogenous blight. Although plants can be saved with routine sprays of fungicides, treatment is expensive and time-consuming. I am sending you information for disease treatment for your lawn and red tips. Good luck.

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