



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Remembering Rose

Longwood Head Start Center students (from left) Shirley Hanes, Kevin Gause and Matthew Miller help create a rose garden at the center in memory of Rose Jinwright, a center employee who died April 16. On May 3, a brief memorial service was held, with the Rev. M.C. Herring, Hospice counselors Carolyn Gillestie and Nan Chandler, and Head Start personnel participating along with Jinwright's daughters, Tiffany and Nicole, and other family members, said lead teacher Willie M. Stanley.

Who Knows Something About Lisianthus?

Dear Plant Doctor: Could you tell me about Lisianthus? Are they hardy and will they grow in my yard? What is the best soil and fertilizer for them? Any information you could provide would be appreciated.—*Bolivia*

ANSWER: Readers, I need your help. Do any of you know about the culture of lisianthus? *Lisianthus nigrescens* is an annual flowering plant native to South and Central America. Nearly 10 years ago I visited a friend that was trying to grow lisianthus in a greenhouse for cut flower production. He was not successful. However, I have not seen this plant in culture anywhere else since that time. I could find nothing about the culture and growth of lisianthus in my standard reference sources. Is anyone growing this plant in their garden?

I will forward any information received regarding the culture of this plant to you.

Dear Plant Doctor: I have hundreds of white flies around my gardenia. I have tried malathion and soapy water but with little or no success. I love gardenias. What else can I do to save my beautiful plants?—*Southport*

ANSWER: The Citrus Whitefly (*Dialeurodes citri*) is a terrible pest of gardenia. In addition to causing severe damage to the plant from directly feeding on plant juices, the Citrus Whitefly exudes a sweet "honey dew" that drops down on leaves below and encourages the growth of the sooty mold fungus (*Capnodium citri*). Sooty mold fungus will soon turn all the leaves of your gardenia black. This blocks light from the leaf and will soon weaken your plant, thus making it more susceptible to other insects and diseases.

The Citrus Whitefly is extremely difficult to control. For severe infestations consider pruning back your gardenia before you treat with insecticides (be sure to destroy or burn prunings). Controlling this pest on a large bushy gardenia is impossible! Malathion will kill whiteflies but you must be persistent. Other products that will kill whiteflies include Orthene, Dursban, X-clude and Pyrenone. Depending on the weather, eggs of the Citrus Whitefly hatch in 6



to 21 days; that means you treat your plants every 7 to 10 days for at least a month to get any kind of control.

Dear Plant Doctor: Worms are getting into my canna lilies. The new shoots get eaten up while still rolled up. What can I do to kill these pests?—*Shallotte*

ANSWER: Some insect problems can be controlled without heavy-duty insecticides. This is one of them.

I expect you have one of the canna leaf roller species, either the canna leaf roller (*Calpodex ethlius*) or the lesser canna leaf roller (*Geshna cannalis*). If you take several "worm" samples to the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service office in Bolivia, then positive identification can be ascertained. However, with either species, the control is the same.

The worm can be easily killed by gently "pinching" the infested rolled leaves. The application of Dipel or like pesticide inside and on all cannas will prevent the development of serious worm damage on plants not affected by this insect and prevent further damage on those plants infested with the insect. Dipel is a prepared formulation of a bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, that is toxic to feeding canna leaf roller caterpillars (and other caterpillars that ingest the material as well). Application may be necessary every 2 to 3 weeks during the early spring.

In the late autumn, after cannas have gone dormant, cut off and remove all dried plant matter, mulch and other surface organic matter. Replace old mulch with fresh compost, leaf mold or pine straw mulch. Repeat this process every winter. This should totally eliminate any future problems with the dreaded canna leaf roller!

Send your gardening questions or comments to the Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia NC 28422.



PHOTO BY MARTHA HANNON

Yard of The Month Cited

Georgia O'Malley of 69 Calabash Drive received the May Yard of the Month award from the Carolina Shores Garden Club. Two large boxes of pansies at curbside draw visitors into a well-established yard of assorted shrubs and palm trees.

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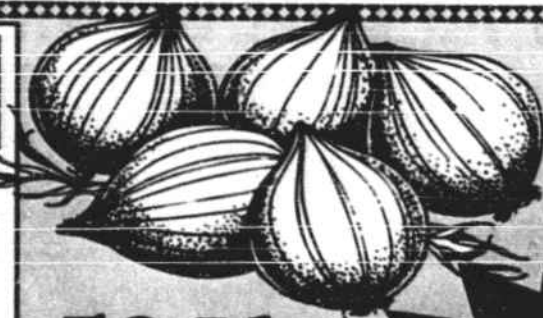
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