



## Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

May 2014

Please contribute to *The Garden Gate*. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email [lauriebrown54@gmail.com](mailto:lauriebrown54@gmail.com) When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Liliales  
Family: Liliaceae  
Genus: Fritillaria  
Species: F. imperialis

### President's Message

Fritillaria imperialis also known as Crowned Imperial Lilies and Kaiser's Crown are tall showy tropical-looking spring-blooming plants. They command attention with their regal bearing and crown of bell-shaped flowers. They bloom in April and May at Our Place.



Each bulb produces one 3 to 4 foot stem. The base of each stem is graced with whorls of glossy green wavy lance-shaped leaves. Above the leaves, the maroon colored stem shoots leafless upward to form a whorl of downward facing flower buds and top-knot of leaves.

The wild form of crowned imperials is usually burnt-orange in color. They are native to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Himalayan foothills. They thrive in full sun and prefer a well-drained soil. Cultivars in shades of red, orange, and yellow are available to purchase.

Each stem can produce up to ten large bell-shaped flowers. When looking up into the bells of the burnt-orange variety, 6 silvery-white glistening 'eyes' outlined in maroon-black look back. The inside of each petal is heavily striped in dark orange.

Crowned imperials can withstand numerous spring frosts. After a heavy frost the plants will collapse to the ground. Within a few hours they have picked themselves up and stand upright again. Frost rarely damages the blooms.

When disturbed the plants emit an unpleasant odor. Rodents and deer steer clear of these plants. However, the Scarlet Lily Beetle finds them fine fare. |

have not heard that this liliaceae predator has arrived in Bonner County.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarlet\\_lily\\_beetle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarlet_lily_beetle)

As the blooms fade, the flowers lift upward and form attractive seed pods. The leaves brown and the plants go dormant in June. I cut the seed heads for decorations, mulch the bulbs with their now dead stalks by laying them down still attached to the bulb, and plant zinnia seeds. The zinnias quickly hide the dead stalks.

Where the stem emerges from the bulb a depression exists. It is suggested the bulbs be planted on their sides to prevent rot when water pools in the depression. All of my bulbs are planted upright and rot has not been an issue for my bulbs.

These beauties are hardy, showy, and one of my favorite spring bulbs. Jan

## May Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:

[http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening\\_Montzonesep01.html](http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonesep01.html)



### **Zone 3**

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees

- Plant cool-season lawns and permanent ground covers
- Feed and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines before buds swell
- Plant tender shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

### **Zone 4**

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded winter- and spring-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant permanent ground covers

- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Set out herbs
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant container roses
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs and vines
- Apply dormant spray to shrubs and vines
- Plant tender shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant container roses
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Apply dormant spray to shrubs and vines
- Plant tender shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant balled-and-burlapped trees
- Plant trees in containers
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

## BCGA Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2014

Present at meeting: Gail Swan, Gray Henderson, Penny Barton, Linda Gjording, Mikey Haven, Patti Pietron, Penny Goodman, Jon Bair, Bonnie Pick, Marjory Clements, Butterfly Burke, Ann Warwick, Jan Wilfert.

President Jan Wilfert called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

April minutes: motion by Gray H, seconded, passed, approving April minutes.

Treasurer Report: Checking Balance \$1742.55. TMG account balance \$33591.53. Payment of \$2500 for the Beanstalk Bench paid in full.

Between Meetings:

Janae Dale continues to work on writing job descriptions for officers for the organization By-Laws.

Spring Fundraiser: Weather appears to be inclement, set up planned for inside Sears; set up Friday, May 9, at 8 am. Sale starts at 9 until 5. Saturday, sale from 9 to 5, then take down.

### Zone 5

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded winter- and spring-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant permanent ground covers
- Plant cool- and warm-season lawns
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables

Home Horticulture classes: Gail Swan advises future facilitators to prepare the handouts in advance of classes, as the printer is not fast, and often there are multiple pages to be printed and collated. For future facilitators, there is a detailed check list of preparations for Home Horticulture classes that details what needs to be done for a successful class.

Bonner County Fair: Bonnie Pick, chair. Bonnie would like a co-chair. Theme for 2014: "The Land of Awes." Meeting to be scheduled for planning.

Facebook Opportunity: Special treatment and more exposure available for \$5 per day. Motion by Penny G to try four days for \$20, seconded by Patti P. Motion passes.

#### Requests for Participation:

Community Garden, Elissa Wadds. Needs volunteers. If you would like to participate, contact Elissa Wadds.

Radio request: Susan Prez from KRFY would like to interview BCGA on May 20. Waiting for further information.

Valley Vista wants to put in a garden. We will refer them to Rotary's "Interact Club" for youth.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton, chair. needs several gardens in Hope or between Sandpoint and Hope. Tour will feature gardens on the east side of the lake. Tour scheduled for Sunday, July 6.

Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. Business of the Month for April, BCGA for volunteer organization. Attended by several members to receive the certificate and use of a banner for a month. Sandra Gevurtz framed the certificate in an attractive frame.

Home and Garden Show, Ann Warwick, Chair. Took place in April. All went well, we received an award for "Friendliest Booth." Many members made this possible--we had continuous booth attendance and seven great presentations. Idea for next year--put a large poster at entrance to the Fairgrounds building giving the times of presentations.

Get your Spring On, downtown business event April 26. BCGA's Jan Wilfert, Vicki Johnson, , and Ann

Warwick were on hand to help folks make cards from "pounded flowers." Marge Clements stopped by to say 'hi' and create a pounded flower card.

Farmer's Market: Beanstalk Bench dedication on May 3. Tom Brunner unveiled the Trisha Murphy gift to the city in Farmin Park, opening day of the Farmer's Market. Members attended, and the booth was managed by Sandra Gevurtz, Vicki Johnson, Deborah Steffen, and Jan Wilfert.

Potlucks: Next scheduled is June 26, at Butterfly Burke's home. Barbara Pressler and Jenna Bertus will host a potluck on July 6 and 7 to welcome the visit from the Boise Idaho Gardeners Association. Patti Pietron will host a potluck in September. We could use some more.

IGA Visit: Penny Goodman will be in Boise during Mother's Day weekend and will contact President Dan Evans to say 'hi'. Jan Wilfert chairs this event. The visit will take place July 5 through 7, 2014. The group wants to learn more about how our organization operates.

Beanstalk Bench Model: Question: What to do with it? Tom Brunner gave us a small model of the bench when he proposed building it. It was used to illustrate the project at several venues during the process of approval. Penny Barton was given the bench model, as she was closest to Trisha Murphy.

Meeting adjourned, 10:40 am.

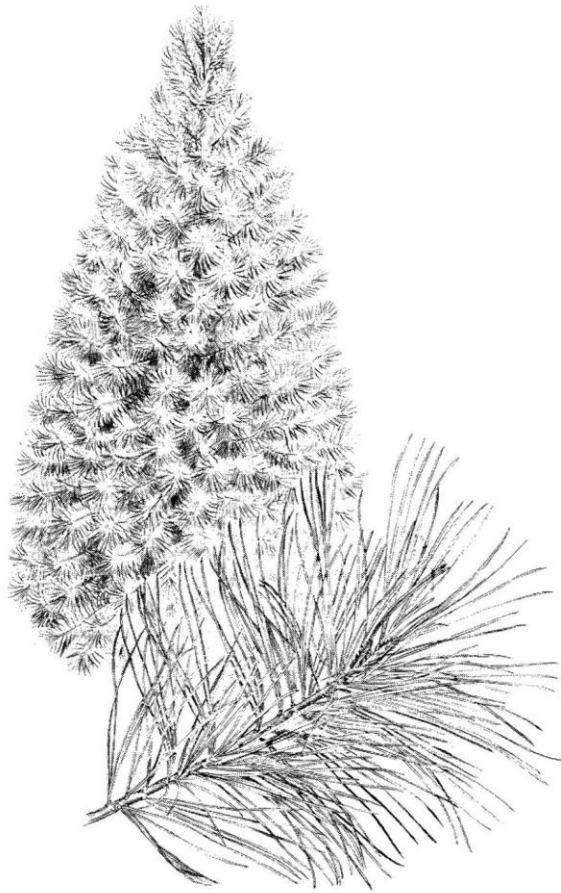


*Fritillaria* bulbs

## Pine Needles

From Janae Dale, a link to an article about using pine needles as mulch. They aren't too acid after all!

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2702/>



and Deborah and Charlie Steffen provided the setting for another event in February.

We have several summer potlucks scheduled. Butterfly and Tracy Burke will host a noon gathering on Saturday, June 28. We are enjoying a visit from the Boise Idaho Gardeners Association from July 5 through 7. Potlucks during this visit will be at Barbara Pressler's home, and at Jenna and Dave Bertus' homes on July 6 and 7.

Patti and Carl Pietron will host a potluck in September. Anyone who would enjoy a garden visit from the membership contact Ann Warwick at 263-2844 or via email.

## Potluck Garden Visits

Potluck garden visits have been a popular part of BCGA for several years. Members volunteer to host each event, which gives us an opportunity to see one another's garden projects, gather ideas to take home, and enjoy camaraderie with other members. BCGA provides tableware and tables and canopies if needed. Members bring food, beverages and extra chairs.

We have had two potlucks, both in winter with snowshoeing offered for those who wanted to get outdoors. Bob Blair and Cindy Hayes hosted in January,



42 Crown imperial