

Dodging bullets, winning awards, sourcing for Saskatoon



TROPICAL PLANT INTERNATIONAL EXPO

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TROPICAL TOPICS

COMING UP THIS WEEK:

"Dodged a Big Bullet"
Get Your Free IMF Guide
Houseplants from Farwest
Sources for Saskatoon?
Don't Forget NIPW

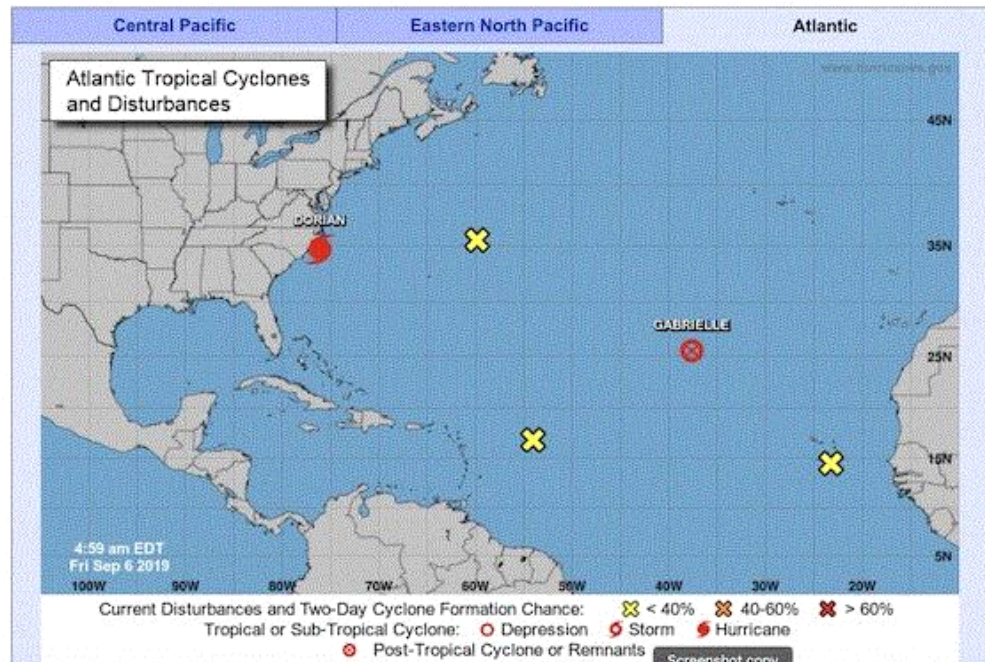


"Dodged a Big Bullet"

That's how FNGLA CEO Ben Bolusky described the near-miss by Hurricane Dorian. I checked in with him to see what, if any, damage had occurred. He was happy to say that no industry damage occurred. Whew! "Many are saying Florida dodged a big bullet," Ben wrote, "yet we believe it's more apt to say Florida dodged a fistful of big hand grenades!"

What's super important, though, is that organizations such as FNGLA, the Florida State Emergency Response Team and a whole bunch of others were quick to get information out to growers and the public about storm preparedness, shelters and so on. "Growers invested a lot of costly time to prep their greenhouses, shadehouses and nurseries as they know it's best to be prepared than surprised," Ben wrote. So true. I figure that each time an operation goes through the procedure, they learn how to prepare faster and more efficiently. The storm may have been a blessed bust, but I am sure growers who battened down the hatches learned a thing or two from the exercise.

Other than Dorian on the Carolina coast, a quick look at the Atlantic shows little storm formation. If you haven't already, bookmark [THIS NOAA LINK](#) to keep an eye on developing storms.



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Get Your Free IMF Guide

Pest and various pathological problems getting you down? Or I should say, throwing off your production schedule? Ball Publishing has just the thing—the brand-spanking new 2020 *GrowerTalks Insecticide, Miticide and Fungicide Guide*, known lovingly in-house at the *IMF Guide*.

GROWERTALKS



Brought to you by the good folks at BASF, this guide is updated each and every year with the latest chemicals (all of them, not just BASF products!) on the horticultural market and what they are used for. And it has actual editorial content, too, from the likes of Dr. Ray Cloyd, Dr. JC Chong, Paul Pilon and BASF's Jen Browning.

If you're growing, you're gonna need the *IMF Guide*. How to get it? Growers will get a free print copy in with the September issue of *GrowerTalks*, or you can find the digital version [HERE](#). If you have a need for multiple copies (maybe you have multiple chemical-applying people on staff), contact colleague [Allison Westbrook](#) and she'll send you some for a nominal fee.



Houseplants from Farwest

It's good to see that even at a shrub/nursery/landscape-heavy show such as the Farwest Show in Portland, Oregon, houseplants are catching the eye of retailers. The show, which happened last month, produced two Retailers' Choice Award winners that happily fall into the houseplant category. Good news for you! And as Retailers' Choice Award winners, you can bet retailers are going to want them! Here they are, so you can ramp up production:

***Pteris cretica* Cretan Brake** ***Albolineata* fern.** Ferns are back in style, thanks to the indoor

plant craze. This fern—a variegated variety with a cream-white center and white lateral veins radiating into dark green fronds—can be used as a table fern and in European dish gardens, and it can also be used as an annual in the landscape. www.casaflora.com



***Pilea microphylla* Variegata.** Another fern! Well, it's commonly called the Tricolor Artillery Fern, and this one is unusual for its very tiny leaves that are green and white with a hint of pink. It's a mounder and is great for indoors, as a patio plant or even in the garden. Grows 3-6 in. and spreads a foot. www.littleprinceoforegonnursery.com



NOTE: This pilea was featured earlier in my *Buzz!* e-newsletter and I have since heard that it's not available from this nursery. Anyone have any source suggestions? I've already had several inquiries.

Sun Parasol
FiredUp Coral



Sources for Saskatoon?

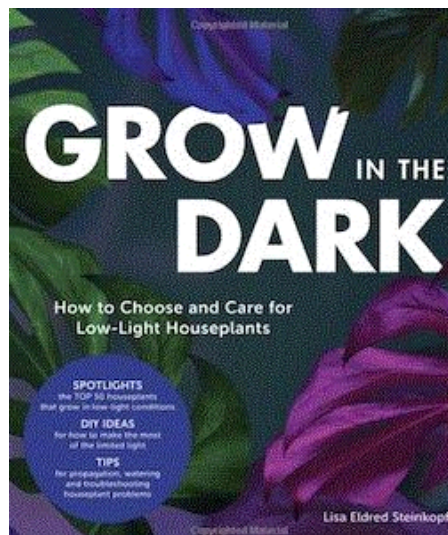
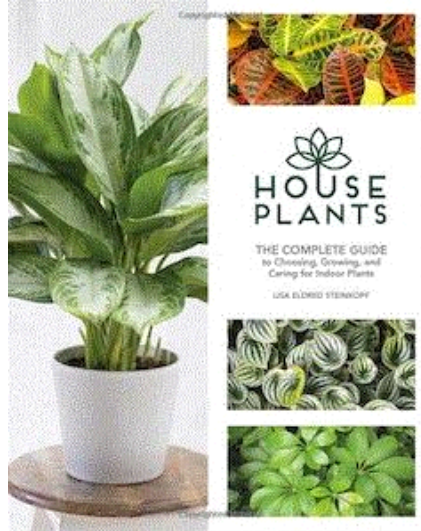
Heather Drysdale, parks greenhouse supervisor for the city of Saskatoon, wrote in looking for sources for new and interesting tropicals to expand the collection in their civic greenhouse. She's looking for plants that might take longer to get to "useable" size in their northern climate.

Heather writes, "[Your] e-newsletter highlights many American growers, greenhouses and nurseries who have impressive varieties; however, cross-border ordering for plants can be tedious, time-consuming and expensive for a smaller greenhouse like ours, not to mention possibly damaging for the plants due to longer transit times and border delays."

Any suggestions? Maybe you can hook Heather up with your own supply, or let her know who you use. In either case, she would be grateful for the information! You can get to her through me—drop me a line about it at ewells@ballpublishing.com.

Don't Forget NIPW

National Indoor Plant Week is coming up September 15-21. What are you doing to promote indoor plants—above and beyond what you do everyday, of course? Looking for an idea of what can be done? Well, the [Houseplant Guru](#) and horticultural author Lisa Eldred Steinkopf will be partnering with Costa Farms, I believe, to have a giveaway each of those days. The items up for grabs are copies of her books and some houseplants! It'll all be done via social media channels (here's her [Facebook](#) feed for starters).



Give you any ideas? What do you plan on doing? Want to partner with someone? Jot me a [NOTE](#) about it and I'll get it in my next *Buzz!* newsletter to let the retailers know all about it.

Suggestions, comments, questions or news to share? Just drop me a line at ewells@ballpublishing.com.

Ellen Wells
Editor-at-Large
Green Profit

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