

Denton County Master Gardener Association



THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY PAT MOYER, PRESIDENT

Greetings once again to our great DCMGA interns and veterans and to the wonderful community we serve.

It's mid-May as I write this, and many of you may have heard the collective sighs of relief from our Plant Sale and Garden Tour project managers. I'm sure the Garden Tour homeowners are now breathing a little easier, too. The weather was perfect for both events, and the member involvement and community participation were both outstanding.

Plant Sale project managers Pat and Don Edwards and Garden Tour project managers Candy Bennett, Georgiana McCoig, and Karen Roberts did a super job. It's impossible to describe the details involved in executing each of these events to ensure a favorable experience for our guests. This year's program managers were successful on all counts and we owe them a true debt for their efforts.

WHAT'S
GROWING ON

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- 03 Project Spotlight
Children's Garden
- 04 Help Desk Q & A:
Tomatoes
- 05 Meet a Member:
Sharrie Ely
- 08 Got Bugs?
- 10 Feature Article:
Herbs

CONNECT WITH US ON THE WEB
<https://dcmga.com>

Buds from the Board (Cont.)

Now, we turn our attention to the Denton County Vegetable, Fruit, Herb and Flower Show (aka "The Veggie Show"). It's June 16th near the Bayless-Selby House on the grounds of the Denton County Historical Park & Community Market. This is a wonderful opportunity for community outreach in the spirit of competition for the best produce and/or flowers in Denton County. All Denton County residents (including DCMGA veterans and interns) are encouraged to submit entries. Program managers Pam Hawkins and Kaye Gross will need some help to run the show, so, DCMGA members, please sign up to assist them with your service.

See you all at the next General Meeting on June 13th. It's a road trip to the Eden Hill Winery just north of Celina. Stay tuned for more details.



Photo courtesy of Steve Simpson

DCMGA Plant Sale
volunteers prepare to greet our guests.

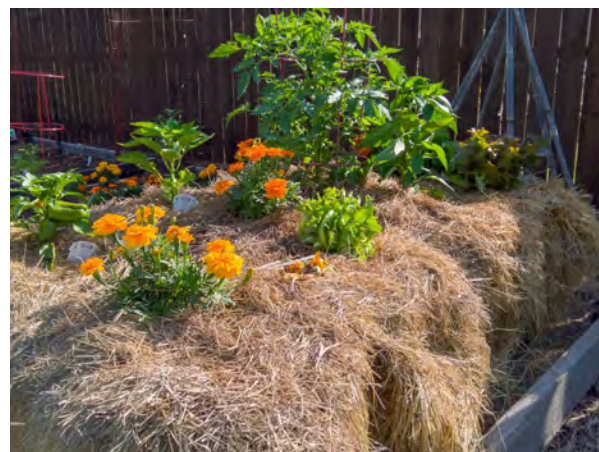


Photo courtesy of Steve Simpson

Garden Tour Guests

learned about Hay Bale gardening at Nana Jean's Garden Rooms.



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Wells

Last Year's Veggie Show Winners
included Thiago, Bibi, & Daniel Arenas.

TOP GARDENING TIPS

June

Continue planting warm season annuals & perennials.
Mulch bare soil to suppress weeds & retain moisture.

Mow more frequently & at a higher height.

Leave grass clippings to recycle lawn nutrients.

Remove aphids & spider mites with water blasts.

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

The Children's Garden

BY KATHY RAINEY

Located at the Fair Oaks Senior Independent Living Community in Denton, the Children's Garden provides hands-on learning to children and their families. Together, they learn how to garden – from planting seeds to harvesting. Master Gardeners present a session on “how to plant seeds,” teaching the participants how to read the seed packet to gather important information such as the recommended type of soil and the required depth of planting. The children also learn proper transplanting methods – how to gently take plants out of their containers, how to plant and water transplants, and how to look for bugs eating them.

Family members enjoy the hands-on approach at The Children's Garden as well as the ability to come to the garden as their schedule permits with no required pre-registration. Especially rewarding is the multi-generational approach to the garden, as Fair Oaks residents join the children to work in the garden. Some residents are not able to participate with the planting, but the children and their accompanying families have an opportunity to plant vegetables at those individual residences. Those residents who are more homebound are grateful for the plants and happy to see the children.

The Children's Garden hosts a variety of vegetable plantings, so there is plenty to harvest throughout the season including carrots, radishes, potatoes, lettuce, spinach, peas, beans, broccoli, kohlrabi, kale, squash, tomatoes, cucumber, chard, peppers, and herbs. So far this season, the children have harvested radishes, lettuce, broccoli, kohlrabi, kale, and spinach. Harvesting the vegetables is a favorite activity; sometimes the produce is eaten before it reaches the harvest basket.



Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Carney

Inspecting
the growing vegetables for bugs.

A highlight of the growing season is participating in the DCMGA Vegetable, Fruit, Herb & Flower Show (commonly known as the Veggie Show), and the garden is planned and planted with that date in mind. On the day of the show, the children and their families take turns harvesting the garden, after which they head to the show location to register their entries. After the Veggie Show, the residents at Fair Oaks are free to harvest the remaining vegetables throughout the summer.

Master Gardener volunteers describe the garden as full of energy and life, and they joyfully recount the excitement on the children's faces as they delight in the discovery process of growing a garden. The children are filled with wonder when they see the head of a broccoli growing; they keep their eye on the green tomato, hoping it soon turns red; they eat a raw onion from the garden just to see how it tastes; they crinkle their nose at the spicy

The Children's Garden (Continued)

taste of a radish and then decide it tastes “pretty good.” They also love watering and looking for bugs.

The Children's Garden is located at Fair Oaks Independent Living Center, 1950 Lattimore St., Denton. Master Gardeners, children & their parents, residents, and other volunteers meet every Thursday, 10:00–11:00 a.m., from March 22 until June 14. Participants are encouraged to meet at the garden on Saturday, June 16th, at 9:00 a.m. to harvest vegetables for the Veggie Show. Visit the DCMGA website for additional information on the Vegetable, Fruit, Herb & Flower Show: dcmga.com.

If you would like more information about the Children's Garden, please contact program manager Jacqueline Carney at tjcarney@charter.net.



Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Carney

Harvest Time
at the Children's Garden at Fair Oaks.

DCMGA
— **HELP DESK** —
Question of the Month



Help Desk Team Contact Information
940-349-2892
master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

BY JANIE FARLER

Q. My tomato plant has spots on the leaves. What is wrong with it? Do I need to spray it?

A. There are so many tomato conditions and diseases that A&M wrote a whole section of their horticulture website to help you solve it. It is divided into problems with fruit, leaf, stem, root, and insects. Cleverly enough, they called it “Tomato Problem Solver.” It has great pictures so that you can identify your problem, and it will also tell you what to do about it.

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/tomato-problem-solver/>

After you fix that and see squash bugs, there is also a “Cucurbit Problem Solver” at the same location.



Meet Sharrie Ely

BY GAY CAMPBELL

Q: When did your interest in gardening begin?

A: I have always enjoyed flowers in the garden. My mother says that as a child, I never left a bloom outside; I would always cut it and make a bouquet. When we visited my grandparent's farm, the first thing I did was to climb the fence, red-handled scissors in hand, and search the pasture for flowers to make a bouquet.

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Q: Your garden was featured in this year's DCMGA Spring Garden Tour and your passion for roses was evident. What variety of rose do you prefer?

A: I prefer Old Garden Roses. My favorite roses are the Hybrid Perpetuals – I love their loose, multi-petaled form. I like many of the OGRs for their fragrance, their form, and their histories. Since roses are cloned from the original plant, when I hold a rose from 1823 in my hand, I'm holding an exact replica of that plant. That is so cool. These historical roses have been around for a long time because they are strong plants (unlike many modern varieties).

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Q. Michael Shoup of The Antique Rose Emporium suggests starting with an everblooming shrub rose as well as a variety of rose that blooms only once a year. Do you have any tips about growing roses?

A: I enjoy both reblooming and once-blooming roses in my garden. The Chandler Heritage Rose Garden at Chambersville Tree Farm north of McKinney, Texas, features 300+ once-blooming ramblers. It's an incredible sight when they are in full bloom, like fireworks – a spectacular beauty that you don't see every day.

As for advice, grow the right-size plant for the right-size area. Roses are very forgiving, though, and many (but not all) can be pruned more severely to fit a particular area, especially if you prune in mid-February.



Photo courtesy of Sharrie Ely

Sharrie Ely

with 'Cramoisi superieur,' a crimson colored old China rose with a fruity fragrance & a long blooming season.

Q: Have you lost many roses to Rose Rosette Disease? What are the symptoms and is there anything our readers can do to lessen the likelihood of having their roses contract it?

A: I've lost 55+ of my 90 roses to Rose Rosette Disease. It was very disheartening. I have many structures in my garden that were built for my huge climbing roses, and I lost every one of those roses. I didn't want to garden at all, and my garden lay fallow for over a year. I am now back up to 52 rose shrubs.

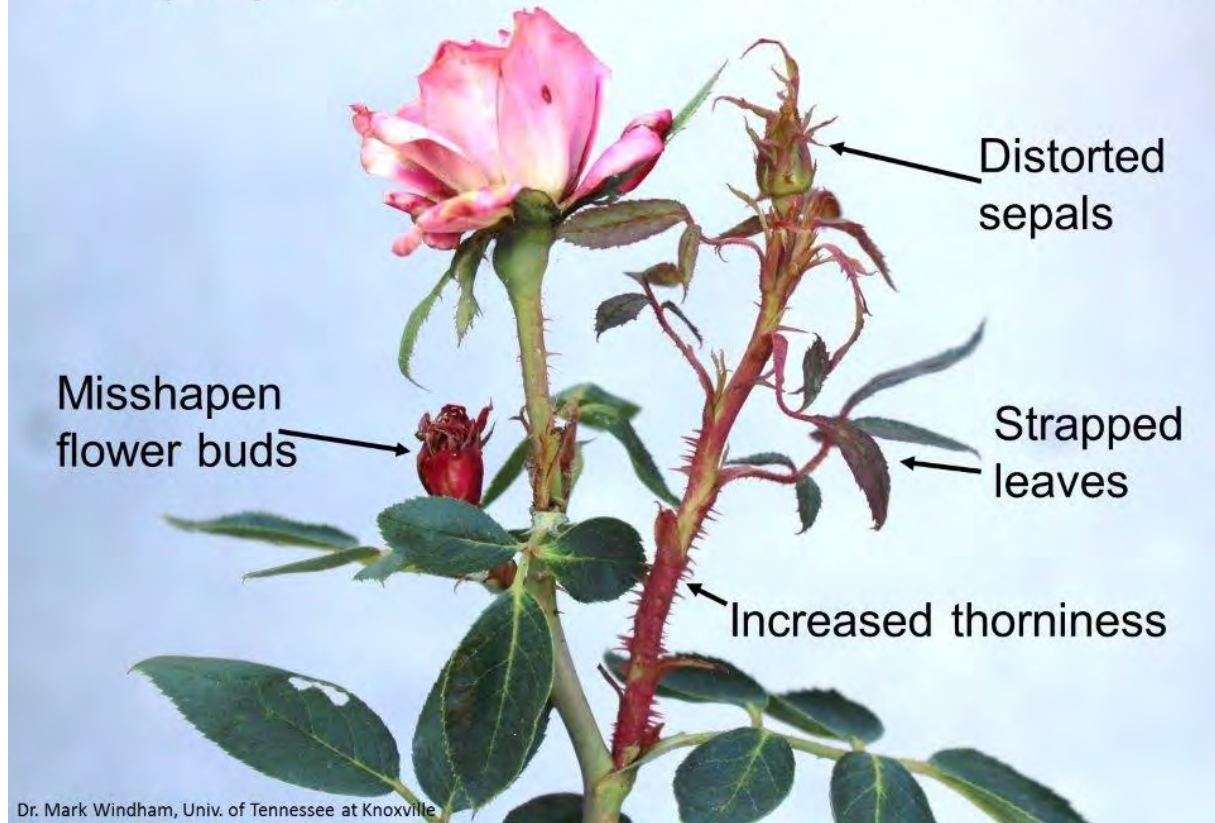
When you think your rose might have RRD, look for these four symptoms:

- 1) Distorted flower buds
- 2) Distorted sepals
- 3) Increased thorniness
- 4) Strapped (distorted) leaves

There is no cure for RRD. Remove and bag the diseased rose(s). The key is to remove

Meet Sharrie Ely (Cont.)

Early Symptoms of Rose Rosette Disease



diseased plants before the virus spreads. Check your neighborhood and share the door hangers and information that DCMGA has on RRD: <https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/insectpests/rose-rosette-virus/>.

I still have roses in my garden, but they are planted further apart and mixed with other native and adapted plants. I no longer plant climbing roses and I try to keep my roses pruned well below the fence line.

Q: As President of the Dallas Area Historical Rose Society, you've had the opportunity to meet many individuals with your same passion. Please share some of your experiences with DAHRS.

A: Anyone with an interest in roses and gardening can join the DAHRS. We have some

incredibly smart and well-traveled gardeners who are truly amazing. Their experiences are invaluable, plus they are really nice people! Through DAHRS I've been able to visit the private gardens of Peggy Martin and Mike Shoup. We are working to visit Dr. Bill Welch's recent house restoration and garden this fall. These rose lovers grow many other plants, not just roses!

Q. Do you have some favorite books/resources on roses that you would recommend?

A. The Dallas Area Historical Rose Society Facebook page. There we talk about Old Garden Roses from all over the world and are friends with curators from Sacramento, Monticello, New Zealand, and Fredericksburg, Virginia, to name a few.

Sharrie's favorite Rose Books

Antique Roses for the South, Welch, William C., Taylor Publishing Co., 1990 – an excellent resource on Antique or Old Garden Roses.

The Rose Rustlers, Grant, Greg & Welch, William C., Texas A&M Univ. Press, 2017 – an invaluable historical record of the start of the Rose Rustlers in Texas. The Dallas Area Historical Society was founded by Dallas members of the Rose Rustlers.

Empress of the Garden, Shoup, G. Michael, Texas A&M Univ. Press, 2013 – a detailed description of the growth habits of many OGRs with wonderful pictures.

The Organic Rose Garden, Druitt, Liz, Taylor Publishing Co., 1996 – a fantastic source of information on growing roses organically.

Ramblers and Other Rose Species Hybrids, Belovich, Anne, American Rose Society, 2016 – a compendium of climbing roses, the rambler variety, with the most photographs of any rose book I own. An excellent resource and put together by the most resourceful rose person I know!



Photo courtesy of Sharrie Ely

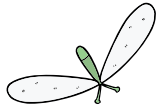
Coral Dawn

2018 Junior Master Gardener Specialist Training

BY SUE HUDIBURGH

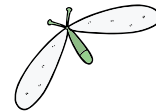
Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Master Wellness volunteers, 4H volunteers, and AgriLife Extension agents are invited to attend the 2018 Junior Master Gardener® (JMG) Specialist Training hosted by DCMGA on July 24-26, 2018, at Global Spheres Center in Corinth. This 2-1/2 day class is designed for those who are coordinating or supporting JMG programs at the local, county, and regional level. Come join us to learn new ideas and techniques that will help you implement effective youth gardening programs through JMG. For more information and online registration, visit our website at www.dcmga.com, or visit this direct link to our Junior Master Gardener Specialist Training page: <https://dcmga.com/events/2018-junior-master-gardener-specialist-training/>.





Got Bugs?

BY LEE ANN YATES



If you've got vegetables, then probably you have pesky bugs who want to beat you to a great harvest! However, help is on the way!

IPM, Integrated Pest Management, is an Earth-Kind® response to whatever is bugging you. The goal of IPM is not to eradicate pests, but to strengthen plants to the point that the environment is not favorable to the pests. Prevention, rather than treatment, is a cornerstone of IPM. To reach this pest-free nirvana, IPM uses a combination of practices to prevent or avoid pest problems. By reducing the use of chemicals on your vegetables (you do plan to eat them after all!), you also reduce the rate of pests becoming resistant to those chemicals.

So, what do you do first? Preventive cultural practices! Select varieties of your favorite veggies that are best for your area. Texas A&M

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Photo courtesy of Karen Gibson

Obscure Bird Grasshopper

'Schistocerca obscura' on a 'Pelargonium citrosum,' citronella plant or mosquito plant geranium.

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has lists of varieties suitable for each region of Texas, and your local nursery may offer recommendations. Buy healthy, pest-free plants. Remember to look under the leaves – those little buggers like to hide. Keep your planting beds as clean as possible, removing diseased or pest-infested plants quickly and completely. Don't compost them either!

Regular observation is another cornerstone of IPM. Inspect your plants regularly, top to bottom. Accurately identifying any pests you find is critical to success. It is a good idea to add information on the pests – when and where you find them – in your garden journal. If you don't have a garden journal, now is a great time to start! TAMU also has a great pest ID webpage in their IPM section, categorized by insect and by vegetable.

Now that you have found and identified the bad critters, employ mechanical controls. Squish them, vacuum them, trap them, or physically remove them from the plants. Natural biological controls have low impacts on the environment and often don't cost much. Promote beneficial insects that eat the pesky ones, and, if insecticides are necessary, use biological ones made from naturally occurring microorganisms such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), entomopathogenic fungi, and entomopathogenic nematodes.

If you choose to use a synthetic pesticide, please use it responsibly and legally. Follow the directions on the label – to the letter! You have legal responsibilities when using these pesticides, so keep careful control of where, when, and how you use them. Some target a specific phase in a pest's life cycle and are ineffective at other times. To avoid spreading

Got Bugs? (Cont.)

the pesticide into unwanted areas, never spray or dust on windy days. Remember, pesticides can kill beneficial insects as well as the ones causing you problems. Many newer pesticides are made from plants or naturally occurring substances such as pyrethrum or nicotine, but they should still be used and properly applied with thought and caution. Always choose the least toxic method to get rid of the pests in your garden.

With proper plant selection, close monitoring, and diligence with mechanical, cultural, and biological controls, you can reduce the amount and toxicity of the pesticides needed to bring in a healthy harvest. Happy squishing!!

Sources:

<https://ipm.tamu.edu/>

<http://www.ccefm.com/upload/content/Post%206-12%20Principles%20of%20IPM.pdf>



Photo courtesy of Karen Gibson

Tersa Sphinx larva

'Xylophanes tersa' devouring pentas,
'Pentas lanceolata.'



DCMGA's mission of educating and engaging our community remains the same, but we have a fresh, new face. In anticipation of next year's 30th anniversary, we're remembering our roots, celebrating our fruits, and introducing a new logo. Grow with us!



DCMGA Members

joined Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent Janet Laminack at the Denton County Commissioners Court on May 22, 2018, where we had opportunity to present the six awards our association won at this year's Texas Master Gardener Association state conference. Thank you, Denton County, for your support!

Why You Should Grow Herbs

BY BARBARA BROWN

Favorite foods taste better with fresh herbs and the best way to get fresh herbs is to grow them yourself. North Texas offers excellent conditions for growing most culinary herbs. Given good drainage and the right amount of sunlight, most herbs are not too picky about soil and are pest resistant and heat tolerant. Many herbs are perennials in our area, and there are a few types that grow well in partial shade. Herb plants add color and texture to landscaped areas and can be part of existing vegetable gardens or grown in containers.

Preparing to plant herbs

All plants benefit from soil that contains lots of organic material or compost. For new beds, adding 30 to 50 percent organic material helps feed plants and contains enough airspace for plant roots to grow through easily. Ideally, good gardening soil should be loose enough to allow you to dig planting holes with your hand. If your new beds have soil that is mostly clay, consider adding expanded shale to break up the clogs of clay soil, in addition to adding organic matter.

For existing beds in either your landscape or vegetable garden, incorporate organic material each year before planting. For all beds, “mix in a balanced, slow-release organic fertilizer into the soil at planting and then sprinkle it over the soil every 3 to 6 months” recommends Joseph Masabni of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. However, he cautions, do not over fertilize herbs—just a small amount is enough. If you are not sure how much fertilizer or soil amendments you need to add, consider getting the soil tested. Texas A&M’s Soil Testing Lab offers this service and provides a report of current soil conditions and recommended amendments.

What, where and when to plant

The most frequently used culinary herbs grow well in North Texas, so what to plant is a matter of personal choice. Commonly grown herbs are basil, chives, dill, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, and thyme. However, there are more than 100 herbs that can be grown in our area and many offer multiple varieties. So, choose what you use in cooking and then be a bit adventurous.

Most herbs prefer full sun (6 to 8 hours per day), but there are herbs that tolerate and even prefer partial shade, such as lemon balm, flavored mints, lemon thyme and tarragon. Be aware, the sizes of a mature herb plants vary considerably. Rosemary is a shrub with an eventual size of 4 to 6 feet high and across, while thyme may get only a few inches tall. Some herbs, like common mint, are very aggressive and best grown in containers. To be safe, research before you buy or ask a gardening professional about the growth habits of herbs you want to add to your garden or landscape.

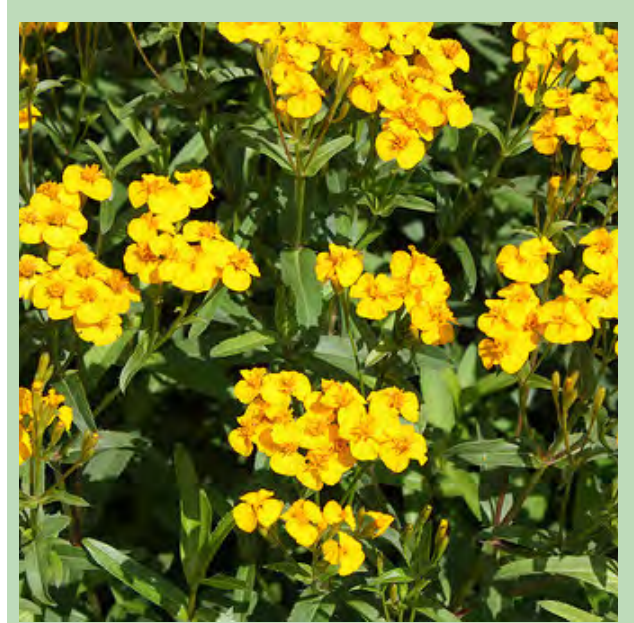


Photo courtesy of Barbara Brown

Mexican Mint Marigold

Why You Should Grow Herbs (Cont.)

Cool-season herbs, such as parsley, dill, and cilantro, should be planted in late winter. Perennial herbs, including oregano, marjoram, rosemary, and thyme, can be planted in the spring or fall. Fall planted herbs need some protective mulch as they establish their roots for spring growth. Warm weather herbs like basil should be planted only after all danger of frost is past. Read the information on the back of seed packets to identify the right time to plant or ask a nursery professional if you are unsure.

Two less common herbs

Although a bit difficult to find, Mexican oregano (*Lippia graveolens* and *Poliomintha longiflora*) is easy to grow. It likes full sun or morning sun with afternoon shade. The small leaves have a strong oregano flavor and are often used in Mexican dishes. In addition to culinary uses, the pleasure of growing Mexican oregano comes from enjoying profusion of lavender, tubular flowers that are present from early summer through fall. Mexican oregano is a perennial that reaches 3 to 4 feet in height and spread.

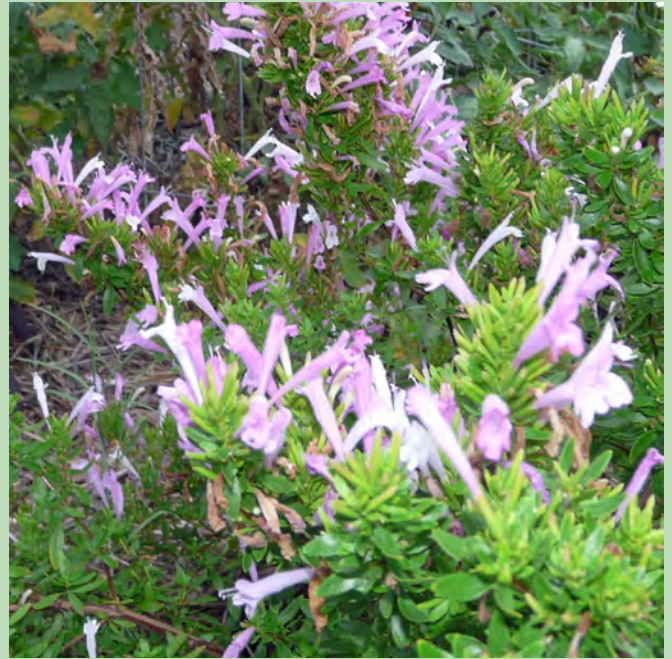


Photo courtesy of Barbara Brown

Mexican Oregano

Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*) has become more popular recently and plants can be found at box retailers and nurseries. A well-behaved perennial, Mexican mint marigold dies back in winter and returns from its roots in spring. In the fall the plant has small yellow, marigold-like flowers. For culinary purposes, the flavor of the plant's leaves is similar to tarragon. Whether making salad dressing or seasoning foods, this tarragon-like taste is appreciated because traditional French tarragon is challenging to grow well in North Texas.

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If you have questions about herbs or other horticulture-related subjects, please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.com; it's free of charge, and it's our pleasure to assist you.

DENTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
**2018 VEGETABLE, FRUIT,
HERB & FLOWER SHOW**



JUNE 16, 2018
9 AM ~ 12 PM



ENTRIES ACCEPTED BETWEEN 9 & 10 AM. JUDGING BEGINS AT 10 AM.
WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT NOON. CASH AWARDS!



DENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL PARK & COMMUNITY MARKET
317 W. WEST MULBERRY STREET (AT CORNER OF CARROLL ST.)
DENTON, TX 76201



Entries open to all Denton County residents.
Categories for adults & children. Cash awards!
Visit www.dcmga.com for details & rules.



Sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension, City of Denton Economic Development Program,
and the Denton County Historical Society



2018 CHILDREN'S GARDEN AT FAIROAKS



The children's garden invites parents & their children to learn about gardening through planting, maintaining, & harvesting vegetables & herbs. Our children's garden is unique since we share the garden with Fair Oaks, a senior independent living community. We will be planting in the vegetable garden at the back of Fair Oaks with the residents--a wonderful opportunity for children and seniors to experience a growing garden together.

WHERE

Fairoaks
1950 Lattimore St., Denton

WHEN

Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:00 starting March 22nd until the Veggie Show on Saturday, June 16th

WHO

Dana Bays
Jacqueline Carney

DATE

ACTIVITY/TOPIC

DEMO

Thursday, March 22	Plant carrot & radish seeds; potatoes already planted	How to plant seeds
Thursday, March 29	Plant lettuce, snap peas, spinach, beans, spinach	
Thursday, April 5	Plant herbs & look at potatoes already planted	How to plant potatoes/onions
Thursday, April 12	Plant spinach, squash, tomato, cucumber, beans, chard	
Thursday, April 19	Plant squash & peppers	
Thursday, April 26	Plant seed squash, peppers <i>MEET OUTSIDE FRONT OFFICE</i>	Plant with Fair Oaks residents
Thursday, May 3	Plant seed watermelon & cantaloupe	
Thursday, May 10	Practice vermicomposting take home your own worms	How to compost with worms
Thursday, May 17	Plant beans & onions & observe Fair Oaks trees	How to care for trees
Thursday, May 24	Plant seed bean & set peppers	
Thursday, May 31	Garden maintenance & harvesting	
Thursday, June 7	Garden maintenance & harvesting	
Thursday, June 14	Garden maintenance & harvesting	
Saturday, June 16	Veggie, Flower, Herb, Fruit Show, 9 am - 12 pm Denton County Historical Park, West Mulberry Street, Denton. See website for additional information: www.dcmga.com	



**DURING LATE
MAY + JUNE,
WE'LL BE
LOOKING FOR
BUGS. WHAT'S
EATING YOUR
FOOD?**

PLEASE PARK ON LATTIMORE STREET. IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN WILL NOT MEET.

For additional information, visit us on facebook: DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
or online: www.dcmga.com



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating





TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Mission Statement

Denton County Master Gardener Association educates and engages county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Extension EO/EEO Statement

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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<https://www.facebook.com/DentonMasterGardeners>

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<https://www.instagram.com/DentonCountyMasterGardenersTX>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MGsDentonTX>

Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/dentoncountymas>

Save the Date

June 13 DCMGA Monthly Meeting: Field Trip to Eden Hill Winery

June 16: Vegetable, Flower, Herb, and Fruit Show

October 13: Fall Garden Festival

Contact Information

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<https://dcmga.com>

Content

Submission deadline for the July edition of *The Root* is Friday, June 15. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson at karenhoot19@gmail.com or Communications Director Kathryn Wells at kathrynwells333@gmail.com.