

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

With the advent of June, we are gradually and happily implementing the "return to service" protocols issued from our state office. While many of our face-to-face activities, events, and meetings have been – and continue to be – virtually revamped, we are grateful for the technology that keeps us connected and allows us to continue our mission of educating and engaging our community.

A few of our projects fall into the "essential services" category, as we sow, grow, and donate fresh produce to area food banks. Food pantry needs have increased up to 500% during the COVID-19 pandemic due to job losses, food shortages, and price increases, and Denton County Judge Andy Eads has requested help to assist with the demand. Immediate Past President and Community Garden Consultation Team Project Manager Pat Moyer is spearheading our response and coordinating community efforts. Two of our projects, FMFB Community Garden and Friends of Shiloh Garden are enhancing and escalating their already significant production. Project Managers David Huffman, Carol Noble, and Cindy Helm, always dependable and faithful, are leading the charge along with a handful of mask-wearing, glove-bearing, no-tool-sharing volunteers (all appropriately spaced!).

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<https://dcmga.com>

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

Our Help Desk continues to answer community questions in record-breaking numbers. Of all our wonderful projects, events, programs, and activities, this one really honors the foundational reason AgriLife instituted the Master Gardener program. And it passes the COVID-19 test (safe virtual service that can independently carry on without interruption). What a remarkable team led by the indomitable Ann Hillmann and Pam Spooner!

Sadly, the June 20th Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show will not take place as planned. But, we encourage you to share your supply with a neighbor, friend, or area food bank. And, please send us photos of your prized harvest! We'd love to share and promote your backyard bounty on our Facebook page and perhaps in a future edition of *The Root*. You may email your photos by June 15th to our Communications Team at DCMGA.communications@gmail.com. Please include your name and town if you'd like attribution. If you have a story to share about your harvest, we'd love to feature that, too. Many thanks to Project Manager Debby Ishee along with Assistant PM Pam Hawkins and team for their hard work. We're sorry that the canceled show is another COVID casualty, but we look forward to virtually celebrating the fruits (and vegetables, herbs, and flowers!) of your labor.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you are the bloomin' best! May you continue to be safe and sound with every protection and provision. I hope to see you soon.



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

Succulent Group

BY KATHY RAINEY

Succulent gardens are captivating and have become a fast-growing trend with both experienced and beginning gardeners. They are a great choice if you don't have time to maintain a flower garden. Succulents are also great for all space sizes, from tabletop centerpieces, indoor patios, and screened porches to outdoor garden areas or poolside.

Master Gardener Carolyn Tinner was inspired to start the DCMGA Succulent Group after overhearing many fellow gardeners express how much they loved succulents but state they just couldn't grow them. "They always die" is what she heard over and over again. She realized that her love of succulents and our DCMGA mission to educate residents about gardening practices could provide a forum for teaching others how to successfully grow succulents. Then, after hearing so much interest and so many questions from the 2019 Intern class during the propagation presentation, she and fellow DCMGA member Kaye Gross decided to formally seek Board approval to start the Succulent Group. Carolyn leads the group this year and Kaye will lead in 2021.

The Succulent Group kicked off their first meeting at Carolyn's home in July 2019 viewing and discussing the succulents she was growing. In September, Carol Brantley and Joanne Spurgin gave a great presentation about Christmas cactus and how to tell the difference between Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter cactus. For those who don't know, it's the shape of the leaves! To learn more about the differences, visit

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/it-thanksgiving-christmas-or-easter-cactus>.

The Succulent Group has also discussed and learned about both summer- and winter-growing succulents and when they should be watered. This past January's meeting featured Bill Utley from the Fort Worth Cactus and Succulent Society who presented the basics of growing succulents. Bill has agreed to return this fall for another presentation, so watch the DCMGA calendar for the date. The Succulent Group is also planning a booth at the Fall Garden Festival in October 2020.

Carolyn started her adventure with succulents by just wanting to make her pots look pretty. She admits she has gone way beyond that and knows she is a true "succulent junkie." She is always searching the internet for new sources to purchase succulents to "satisfy her need" and shares that her husband



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Carolyn Tinner

Master Gardeners

Tricia Rowen and Terika Grogan shared their knowledge of succulents at the 2019 Fall Garden Fest.

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Succulent Group (Cont.)

still can't believe it when another package arrives— he just shakes his head. She doesn't really have a favorite succulent and instead says her favorites are the ones currently blooming.

Carolyn says that succulents are a delight to grow and she cleverly describes succulent plants as drama in soil—all of the time—not just when they are full and blooming. The variety of colors from different greens, reds, yellows, purples, blues, and whites adds to the interest of these unusual plants.

The secret to healthy succulents is fast draining soil, watering the soil (not the plant), and infrequent watering. It is best to make sure the pot is dry before watering. When a succulent is in dormancy, either in summer or winter, it should hardly be watered at all. Once you learn the rules about watering a succulent, most of the remaining obstacles are easy.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Carolyn Tinner

Carolyn's *Graptopetalum bellum*

(or *Tacitus bellus*) has given her a handful of offsets which are growing well. The flower stalk will bring HOT pink, star-shaped petals in a week or so and then continue to look great for several weeks after that. What a sweet little gem!

These are not super rare, but not very common either. Carolyn will cherish the next few weeks following the blooming process and with any luck, she will get some seeds to germinate.

For growing succulents, temperature matters. Most succulents don't like temperatures below 50 degrees, so either a greenhouse or sunny indoor window keeps them growing well during winter months. There are some succulents that will grow outdoors in North Texas, including tall or creeping sedum. These are perennials and although they freeze to the ground in winter, they will return in the spring. Tall sedums like Autumn Joy give a great fall flower show, while creeping sedums like *S. tetractinum* have leaves that turn red and purple in winter. Others, like Agaves planted in the ground, will likely need to be covered to protect them during lower temperatures.

So whether you have a huge garden area to fill or just a small patio space, you are sure to find a succulent garden that will perfectly fill in that space with beautiful greenery and splashes of color.

The Succulent Special Interest Group meets bi-monthly for 1 1/2 hours (January, March, May, July, September and November) at 10 a.m. on the last Tuesday of the month.



Remembering Gene Gumfory

Denton County lost a true master gardener on May 12 with the passing of Mr. Gene Gumfory. While Mr. Gumfory was not a current DCMGA member, he spent many years with our organization and served as President in 1994.

Mr. Gumfory was a Denton businessman and the force behind Shiloh Field Community Garden. This 14-acre garden hosts over 100 individually adopted plots and a large community area which provides fresh produce to fourteen different ministries and organizations. In the first five years of operation, Shiloh Field averaged donations of over 20,000 lbs./year of fresh produce. In addition to the gardens, there are greenhouses for winter-tender crops, a fruit orchard, and a blackberry patch. Now in its eleventh year, the garden has set a goal of harvesting 50,000 lbs. of produce for area food banks this year.



Gene Gumfory
was the force behind
Shiloh Field Community Garden.

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"Mr. Gumfory had a mission to feed the hungry in Denton County. We plan to continue that mission with him in our thoughts all along the way. There will definitely be a piece missing with him not with us in person, but he will always be with us in our hearts," said Friends of Shiloh Field President, Cindy Helm.

Mr. Gumfory undoubtedly touched thousands of lives in his eighty years. He taught both children and adults how to grow their own food, and he gave the many customers of area food pantries and community kitchens fresh produce they might have otherwise gone without.

Needs of area food pantries have increased 300-500% due to COVID-19. Denton County has requested and is sourcing funding for additional production. DCMGA is pleased to provide assistance for planting, stewarding, and harvesting the produce.

Volunteers are always welcome at the family-friendly environment of this beautiful garden. Check the website <http://shilohfield.com> and Facebook page, [Friends of Shiloh Garden](#), for current work day information.

Donations to honor Mr. Gumfory may be made directly to Friends of Shiloh Garden, c/o Cindy Helm, 6109 Kings Road, Double Oak, TX 75077

Memorial service will be held at Denton Bible Church sometime in early June; details pending.

Meet Janet Gershenfeld

BY GAY CAMPBELL

Water gun fights with Michael Jackson, partying with Billy Idol. Janet Gershenfeld has led an interesting life, to say the least.

A self-proclaimed "Air Force brat," Janet was born in Japan and moved numerous times throughout her youth. She was high school yearbook editor, as well as a thespian. Erma Bombeck's husband was one of her teachers and also a special mentor. After saving \$20, Janet bought a pattern for a competition roller skating dress and taught herself to sew. She claims to have sewn all of her high school clothes, including her prom dress.



Janet Gershenfeld

While attending Arizona State, Janet earned extra spending money sewing for sorority girls. She learned to draft patterns from measurements as well as design and construct her own custom creations. Janet entered the Miss Teen Arizona contest and, although she did not win, she was proud of the lovely beaded evening gown she created. A few weeks before Janet earned her BS degree in Textile Chemistry and Design, she was introduced to Jermaine Jackson.

Jermaine asked her to repair his ripped red leather pants and the rest is, well, history. On tour with the Jackson's, Janet was the only person in the wardrobe department that could sew. She spent 6-8 hours per brother per show mending their costumes. Michael's coat especially needed a lot of attention as he wore the same coat every night on stage. Janet recalls the time that she had to actually don Michael's iconic white-beaded, military-style coat in order to perform repairs.



Janet & The King of Pop
Michael Jackson

After the Jackson Tour, Janet returned to LA and began working at Artistic Hand Beading with some of the most experienced hand beaders in the world. It was there that she apprenticed with Rose, the lady who beaded the Ruby Slippers in *The Wizard of Oz*. It was also there that she learned Tambour Beading, sometimes known as Luneville Beading, a type of Lesage French beading favored by old Hollywood and famous designers. A lost art, Janet estimates that there are only about five individuals in the United States, including herself, that know how to do that particular type of beading. With such a unique skill set, it's not surprising that Janet has three of her designs permanently displayed in "The First Ladies" exhibit at The Smithsonian Institute. She created

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Janet Gershenfeld (Cont.)

Inaugural ball gowns for Pat Nixon, Laura Bush, and Nancy Reagan.

Janet's skills were in high demand in the 1980s and led to endless work on TV series, movies, and Rock and Roll tours. "In '80's Hollywood, everyone knew everyone," she says. Dallas, Dynasty, Star Wars, and Star Trek are just a few of the shows that employed her sewing and design talents. Janet has worked with too many entertainers to name, but Lionel Richie is one of her favorites. "He's just so nice," she exclaims. Janet also professes to have been "in awe" of Prince. The only celebrity that ever left her star-struck, she says, was her childhood crush, Donny Osmond.

While working on the Bon Jovi tour in the 1980s, Janet met a lighting expert named Robert "Gersh" Gershenfeld. Eventually they married and moved to Dallas for Gersh's job. Janet retired for many years to raise their two boys,



President and Mrs. Reagan
in a custom gown beaded and
sewn by Janet.



Janet's Son & Daughter-In-Law
in the Medieval wedding clothes
Janet sewed.

David and Jeffrey. When the boys got older, Janet resumed her career in beading and fashion as well as creating and maintaining costumes for special events and entertainers. She feels blessed that she can pick and choose which projects she wants to accept. Last year their oldest son David married Sam, a zoologist at The Dallas Zoo. For their wedding held at Scarborough Fair, Janet made elaborate period costumes for both the bride and groom as well as the entire wedding party.

In 2002, Janet became a DCMGA intern. She credits fellow Master Gardener and best friend Joan Stanley as her inspiration. "Joan and I were in a Highland Shores garden club together for several years and I just fell in love with Joan's garden," Janet professes. Janet recalls that she and Joan helped County Extension Agent John Cooper teach a Landscape Design series for three years.

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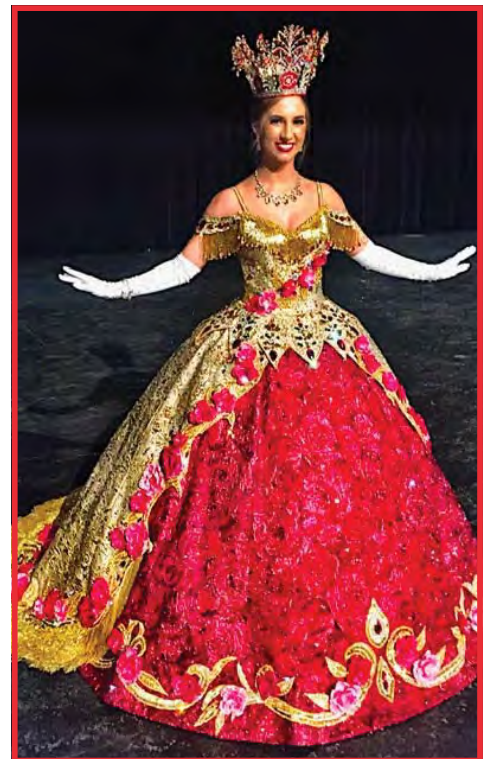
Janet Gershenfeld (Cont.)

John sent them out on house calls and they functioned as a sort of "right hand" to him. In the early years, Janet and Joan also participated in rose trials for Dr. Steve George from Texas A&M. She misses performing research through a dedicated Master Gardener program, but says that she and Joan do their own research at home. Currently, Janet is experimenting with three varieties of low-chill cherries to see how they perform in Texas. She likes trying "something new" and getting "a happy gardening surprise" every now and then. "If I've killed it three times, I don't grow it anymore," she says.

Janet is particularly fond of English roses and Abraham Darby is a favorite. "English roses fill my soul," she claims. She especially loves to wander through her garden in the morning. "I'm like a five-year-old kid eating tomatoes, plums, and grapes. Juice runs down my chin and I think how God provided this for me. We provide the effort and then reap the rewards," she exclaims. The one plant Janet states that she will never be without in her garden is Feverfew. A bitter-tasting herb and a nondescript plant, Janet claims that chewing 4-5 leaves helps eradicate headaches that she sometimes gets as a result of previous health problems. "But pregnant women can't take it," she cautions. Janet values other plants for their aromas, including Chocolate Daisy and *Osthmanthus fragrans*, also known as Sweet Olive.

Janet's garden is scheduled to be on DCMGA's Garden Tour in 2021. This will be her third time on tour. Although she prefers her garden five years ago, she hopes next year's garden will have "something to teach everyone." Janet's permaculture-inspired motto is that every plant in her garden must serve three uses or have three benefits. Add in her love of roses, her fondness for rare and unusual plants, and her knowledge of plant identification and there's no doubt that Janet's garden will be a learning experience for all next year.

Janet is also a Master Naturalist. She takes both her role as a Master Gardener and a Master Naturalist seriously and she shares her own definition of a Master Gardener. "A Master Gardener is a volunteer who commits their time and talent to give back to their community. It is not done for personal gain. There are two kinds of people who become Master Gardeners. The first are life-long gardeners and the second have always wanted to garden and join to learn how. Being a Master Gardener does not mean that I'm an expert. It simply means that I've probably killed it and now I know why." Janet shares that she's 17th generation American and has a Cherokee heritage as well. She can directly trace her lineage to three American Presidents. She believes that her ancestry inspired her pioneer skills, her volunteer spirit, and her unwavering belief to always give back.



Tyler Rose Queen
in a custom-beaded gown
handmade by Janet.

The DCMGA Help Desk – Answers at the Ready!

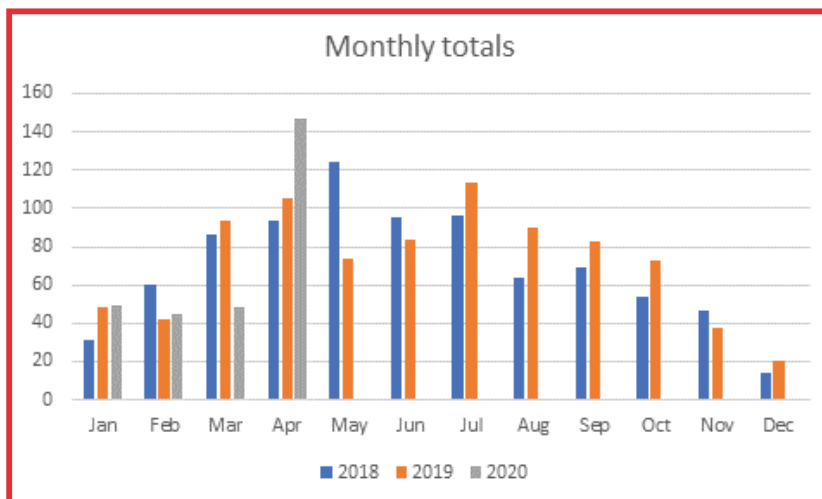
Congratulations to the DCMGA Help Desk Team for surviving the Spring of 2020!

Our own superheroes set a new record in April by answering 147 questions for members of the public! And they've answered another 147 in May just up until 5/22!

This popular service has experienced a huge uptick in requests as more new gardeners considered growing their own food, re-landscaping their entire yard, or just upgrading a bed here and there. We also received many questions about tree health, so it's good to go out and look up now and then!

Altogether, this dedicated group has given good, research-based information to help so many Denton county residents, not only with direct questions, but also with the popular Question of the Week on our Facebook page and our DCMGA website.

The Master Gardener program was founded on the need by extension agents for help answering all the horticultural questions of their counties, and our Help Desk is a shining example of that need being met.



*Thank you to the
DCMGA Help Desk
for answering
nearly
400 questions
already this year!*

Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

Our virtual General Meetings and other programs can be viewed on our YouTube Channel.
Check it out! And don't forget to subscribe!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMNNuyi2A>

Plant of the Month - Pumpkins

BY LEE ANN YATES

It seems as though I'm in a cucurbit love fest lately, what with cantaloupes last month, but it's really just a coincidence. This is a time-driven article because it's time to plant pumpkins, punkin! It's spooky how far out Halloween is, but how quickly we need to get pumpkins planted so they are ready in time for carving. Gardeners have to be always thinking ahead!

Did you know that Texas is the fourth largest commercial pumpkin growing state in the US? You betcha - to the tune of \$7.4 million of economic input a year for the state. Between 5000 and 9000 acres are planted in Texas pumpkins annually, 90% of them out west. I was not aware! And if you want punkins and jack o'lanterns for Halloween and autumn decorating, you need to get planting in the next couple of weeks!



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Texas Is A Pumpkin Growing State

to the tune of \$7.4 million of economic input a year!

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Pumpkins need at least 90 to 100 days to mature, so be aware of your dates. As with tomatoes, North Texas gardening friend Neil Sperry suggests choosing small- to medium-sized varieties. Aggie Horticulture recommends the following varieties for Texas:

- **Small:** Baby Bear, Jack Be Little, Munchkin, Small Sugar, and Triple Treat - the names alone are so darn cute, how can you resist any of them?!!
- **Medium:** Bumpkin, Howden, and, naturally, Jack O'Lantern. Bumpkin Pumpkin - are you KIDDING ME! I must find some of those!
- **Large:** Aladdin, Connecticut Field, Magic Lantern, Merlin, and finally, Prizewinner. The super-giant monster pumpkins probably won't have time to mature in most of Texas - unless you get planting like TODAY, NOW, GO! Wait, read the rest of *The Root* first!

For details on these varieties, see page 13.

Pumpkin seeds need warm soil temperatures to sprout so they enjoy baking their toes in the heat of mid-summer. Pumpkins prefer well drained, sandy loams with 6.5 to 7.5 pH. Raised beds are advised if you have heavy, clay soils with poor drainage. Plant in soil amended with a good amount of compost, then side-dress the hills with compost or fertilizer when the vines begin to run. Place three or four seeds in a small hill, placing the hills 5' - 6' apart in a row. They germinate pretty quickly, so choose the strongest and thin them down to two, then one per hill - just like we discussed last month with muskmelons. (See last month's article: [How to Grow Cantaloupes in North Texas](#)). If you are growing several plants, place the rows 6' - 8' apart. Punkins, as my granddad called them (and me) are similar to a fifteen-year-old boy - they need elbow room, leg room, and head room. They need SPACE to stretch out and grow!

Pumpkins (Cont.)

Pollination

Pumpkins have both male and female flowers which depend on bees for pollination. If you don't see many baby pumpkins forming, or if the flowers start just falling off without setting any fruit, hand pollination might help. Move pollen from the male flowers – the ones with straight stems – to the female flowers – with swollen stems that become the pumpkins – and swizzle it around on the stigma in the middle. No need to go overboard though because you really want only two or three pumpkins per vine. Here's a link to a video from Bonnie Plants that demonstrates how to do it:

<https://bonnieplants.com/the-bonnie-blog/pollination-problems-give-hand-pollination-a-try/>

Planting bee-friendly flowers nearby to attract more pollinator insects might be helpful and it's pretty!

Water, Insects, Diseases, Oh My!

Watering properly is crucial to pumpkin development, so watch soil dryness carefully. Water well (about one inch a week, unless there is equivalent rain) at planting and until shoots start to show, again two to four weeks after shoots emerge, when the plants set blooms, and then when they set fruit. Water is also important as the pumpkins enlarge – especially if you choose to grow those varieties that get mondo huge! Mulch is your friend, as always, in maintaining soil moisture and moderating soil temperature. Pruning vines to have only one or two pumpkins on them will focus the plant's energy into larger fruit – and is essential for the monster pumpkins. You can prune vines to help save some space also. Placing cardboard under young pumpkins as they ripen might help slow down or deter pests and decay.

Pumpkin vines produce remarkable amounts of foliage, which are prime places for insects and disease to attack. Insects that love pumpkins even more than you do and are intent on stealing your autumn décor include squash bugs, cucumber beetles, squash vine borers, and pickleworms. Basically, everything that eats every other cucurbit in your garden. Deal with them as soon as you see the first

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Canva Stock Photo

evidence of them. Aggie Horticulture recommends an Integrated Pest Management system (IPM) which includes a mechanical treatment first – handpicking the little buggers off and squashing them (puns!) along with their egg clusters, found on the underside of leaves. If you are seeing numerous bugs, Texas A&M University and Neil Sperry suggest moving to the chemical stage. Sprinkling Sevin dust all over the plant works well, particularly on young bugs. Be sure to read the label directions carefully and follow to the letter for the most effective use. Synthetic pyrethroids are alternatives, but are less effective. Pests will reduce yields and stunt pumpkin size – and nobody wants stunted pumpkins!

<https://dcmga.com/>

Pumpkins (Cont.)

Major diseases affecting pumpkins include powdery mildew, anthracnose, angular leaf spot, and blight. Aggie Horticulture recommends treating with Bravo, a fungicide, but I think it comes in large quantities and is intended mostly for agricultural use, not home gardening. Daconil, or chlorothalonil, is another popular fungicide that works well on all edibles and is sold under many brand names. Ask a professional at your nursery of choice to be sure. Thoroughly covering the foliage with fungicides is essential to good disease control. Fungal diseases come on fast and are hard to control if they get a good hold, so keep a watchful eye out and treat at the first signs.



Canva Stock Photo

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You've watered, and smashed bugs, and defeated disease, months have passed, the weather is cooling a bit – finally it's time to HARVEST!! First thing – don't harvest by size – if you want smaller pumpkins, plant smaller varieties! The skin should be a deep, solid color, the rind should feel hard, and if you thump it, it should sound hollow – as in Hallow-ween! Cut those big orange babes (or behemoths, if you super-sized) off the vines with a sharp knife or clippers. Don't try to tear or twist them off – it's a waste of energy you will need to make pie crusts or to show off your carving skills! Leave three or four inches of stem on – this increases the keeping time if you aren't going to cut the top off. Here's a hint Jack-O-Lantern carvers – cut the hole for your candle out of the bottom – less rot, easy to set over the candle.

Pumpkins are an interesting way to get children gardening – how bewitching to grow your own Jack-O-Lantern! Clear some space, choose which variety (or two or three!) to grow this year and get planting. You will be so proud of your autumn decorations when you can say, "Oh, yes, we grew those pumpkins!" May the Great Pumpkin rise out of your pumpkin patch on Halloween and bring you presents this year!

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Pumpkin"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2011/10/pumpkin.pdf>

Vegetable Resources, "Pumpkins in Texas"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/guides/crop-briefs/pumpkins-in-texas/>

Neil Sperry's Gardens

"Pumpkin-Time Across Texas"

<https://neilsperry.com/2016/06/pumpkin-time-across-texas/>

Pumpkins (Cont.)

Pumpkin Variety Information

Small:

- **Baby Bear** – (good pie pumpkin, 5" - 6" diameter, 3-1/2" - 4" tall, less than 2 lbs, disease resistant, pick before heavy frost, 105 days to maturity)
- **Jack Be Little** – (miniature, 3" across, 2" high, 95 days, smaller space)
- **Munchkin** – (mini, 3 - 4" wide, dries well for arrangements, deep scallops, bright orange, 95 days)
- **Small Sugar** – (heirloom, smaller variety of Connecticut Field, good for pies, sweet and sugary, 10" diameter)
- **Triple Treat** – (round, 9" diameter, about 8 lbs, hullless seeds, excellent for pies and carving)

Medium:

- **Bumpkin** – (mini, good for displays, semi-bush plant, 85 days)
- **Howden** – (hybrid, intermediate resistance to black rot, 20 - 25 lbs, symmetrical, round, 115 days)
- **Jack O'Lantern** – (heirloom, good for carving and cooking, 10 - 20 lbs, round to elongated shape, 105 days)

Large Varieties:

- **Aladdin** – (12" x 15" hybrid, 20 - 30 lbs, 100 days)
- **Big Max** – (heirloom, up to 100 lbs and 70" around, 120 days, takes LOTS of water, fertilizer, and space)
- **Connecticut Field** – a several-hundred-year-old heirloom grown by Native Americans and early American settlers (about 20 lbs average, 120 days)
- **Fairytale** – (flatter, heavily scalloped heirloom, 12" - 15" across, about 15 lbs, 125 days)
- **Magic Lantern** – (mildew resistant, space saving, classic orange, 16 - 24 lbs and 115 days)
- **Merlin** – (hybrid, 12" x 14", 15 - 25 lbs, tolerant to powdery mildew, 115 days – but I did find a little information on some seed sites that Merlin seeds may be treated with neonicotinoids, so ask about that when you get seeds – this was the only variety on which I saw any info pertinent to this, but be aware)
- **Prizewinner** – a worthy moniker for this hybrid that can get up to 300 lbs. To reach this size in about 120 days, you need to leave only one pumpkin per vine, water and fertilize profusely

All pumpkin seed information was collected from the following seed company websites:

Burpee - <https://www.burpee.com/>

NESeeds - <https://www.neseed.com/>

Harris Seeds - <https://www.harriseseeds.com/>

Johnny's Selected Seeds - <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Houseplants 101

Turn Your Brown Thumb Into A Green Thumb

BY KAREN GIBSON

A common complaint from gardeners is that they can grow any plant outside, but they seem to kill any and all houseplants. If you are a successful outdoor gardener, though, you have developed the skills needed to succeed in growing houseplants by putting into practice three strategies:

- Identify the conditions or microclimates where the plant will grow
- Apply knowledge of plant's requirements for optimum growth
- Observe the plant's health at least weekly

Microclimates

Microclimates are the weather conditions found in small, localized areas. They include level of sunlight, humidity, soil moisture, air movement, and temperature.

The rainforest understory is the natural habitat of many of our most popular and successful houseplants and, as such, they thrive in indirect lighting, warmer temperatures, and higher humidity. Recreating that microclimate as much as possible will increase your chance of a houseplant success story. Consider factors such as ambient room temperature, cold drafts (drafty windows, air conditioning vents), hot drafts (heat vents), and humidity levels in each room.

Sunlight

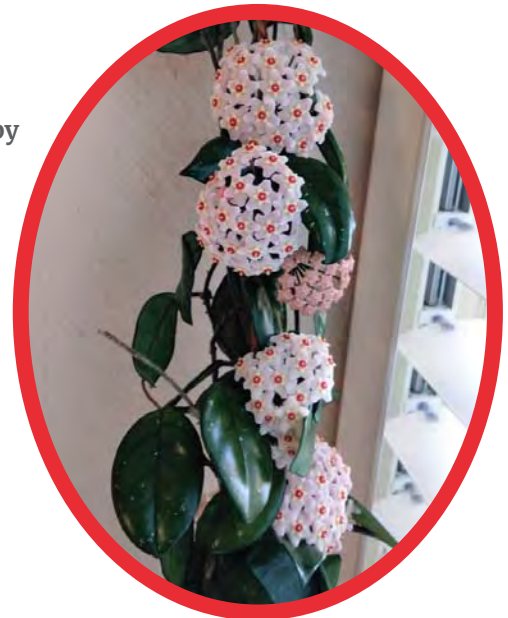
Think about the sunlight-based microclimates you have identified in your landscape and how they impacted successful plant selection and care. They could include:

- The south yard that receives sunshine year round
- The east yard with a mature tree providing shade all morning, but receiving full afternoon sun
- The narrow north yard between your house and your fence line that never sees any sunshine
- The west yard that is shaded by your house in the morning, but receives full sun from early afternoon until sunset.

Each of these areas has its own unique growing conditions that, as a successful gardener, you have learned to take into consideration when selecting your plantings. The same is true inside your house.

Using the scenario above for the outside conditions, your inside microclimates would be:

- The south windows that receive full direct sun from mid-morning to late-afternoon
- The east windows that receive indirect/filtered light (shade from the mature tree) in the morning and indirect light in the afternoon as the sun moves to the other side of your house
- The north windows that receive only indirect lighting year round
- The west windows that receive direct afternoon/evening light when the sun is at its hottest



All Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member
Karen Gibson

Hoya Carnosa In Bloom

Acquired as a cutting at the 2017 Intern Class Propagation Day, this hoyo thrives in a corner of the south-facing kitchen window.

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Houseplants 101 (Cont.)



This South-Facing Window

receives full afternoon sun and also a lot of indirect light from the adjacent same-sized east window. Plants tucked in the sides and corners (Rattlesnake plant, Rex Begonia, hoya (hanging), spider plant, ivy, and African violets) enjoy bright, indirect light while cacti, succulents, and certain ivies do well in the direct light of center. With no solar screens on the downstairs windows (more light for the plants), window blinds can be partially closed as needed to deflect the direct hot summer sun.

Each of these areas supports different plants. If you try to grow a plant that needs indirect light in the south window, it will likely perish.

Temperature

Plants require a minimum temperature of 55°F and most are happier with it a good bit warmer. If we are experiencing a particularly cold winter here in North Texas (or if you move to a cold climate), move houseplants away from cold windows or areas near outside doors in the winter.

Air Movement

Plants do not like cold drafts (or extremely hot drafts). Keep away from active heating or cooling vents. But plants do benefit from additional air circulation (such as a slow moving fan) in order to deter possible pest infestations or fungus growth, especially closely grouped plants.

Humidity

During the heating and cooling seasons, the air conditioning and heat lower the humidity level of our houses. To raise the humidity level for your plant, you can group several plants together. Another way is to set your plants in a tray of water – be sure to raise them up out of the water with decorative rocks or some other means. They need humidity, not wet feet. Another option is to mist plants daily with a spray bottle. Be sure to check information about your specific plant – some plants, like African violets, do not tolerate wet leaves. Lastly, the bathroom and kitchen generally have higher humidity levels, making them a good location for certain plants, like ferns, which really need that extra humidity.

Water Levels

Is the soil too dry or too wet? Overwatering is the #1 mistake made – more plants have been killed from overwatering than from being too dry. Only water when your plant needs it (visibly drooping) or the soil is dry to the touch – the "stick your finger in the dirt" is the best way to tell! Most plants need less frequent watering in the fall/winter during their dormant stage and more watering during their active growth time of spring/summer. If your plant sits in a very warm area with direct sunlight, it is going to need more frequent watering than a plant that receives only indirect light.

Houseplants 101 (Cont.)

Knowledge

Knowledge is power. Know your plant – research its needs, its care requirements, and its native habitat. Choose plants to fit your house. It's easier to choose the right plant than it is to try to change your home's growing conditions. There are many books and online resources that will provide the information you need for your plants (see Resources for some I have found helpful). Knowing about your plant BEFORE you purchase it will save you time, money, and potential heartache.

When considering potential plants, keep in mind that some houseplants are toxic to young children and pets. Surprisingly, these plants include some of the most popular houseplants, including Peace Lilies, Poinsettia, English Ivy, and Pothos. Poisoning can occur in multiple ways:

- Eating or touching the leaves
- Eating the berries, blossoms, or roots
- Contact with sap or juices from the plant or roots
- Eating the plant's soil
- Drinking water from the plant tray

If you have toddlers, pets, or even elderly family members with dementia, it's best to limit your plant choices to those that are nontoxic. The plant tags provided by the big box stores and most nurseries will not include this information, so consult a reliable online resource before purchasing.

Observe Your Plant

Ever heard that talking to your plants helps them grow? The real secret is that it makes you take a good, careful look at them. Most gardeners make a daily or weekly walk through their gardens looking for potential issues, not to mention enjoying the visual and tangible fruits of their labor. Think of your houseplants as your indoor year-round garden and do the same. Because we walk past our indoor plants multiple times each day, it's easy for them to blend into the background and we don't really notice them. Make a habit of observing each plant at least once a week. Does it look happy? Is it leaning towards the light? If so, remember to quarter turn the plant each time you water it so that it grows evenly. Are the leaves an unnatural color? It might need a different location, either more or less light.

Keep your plants clean – trim away any dead leaves or spent blossoms. Leaving debris creates a haven for pests. Check for possible pest infestations – webs or small white fuzzy spots on or under the



Ferns And Palms Do Well

in the higher humidity of a bathroom. Even though this is a south-facing window, the solar screens on the upper level windows lessen the strength of the summer sun.

Houseplants 101 (Cont.)

leaves, along the stems, are just a couple of indicators that you have a pest problem. Research the common pest / disease symptoms so you can deal with any issues early, before the problem spreads to all your plants. If you find a pest issue, isolate that plant until you are sure it's clean and healthy again.

With an understanding of the microclimates in your home, knowledge about your plants, choosing the proper plants for your home, and regular observation, you too can boast of a green thumb. Pretty soon all your brown thumb friends will be asking you for advice!

Resources

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Division of Extension, "Houseplant Care"

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/houseplant-care/>

University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center, "Houseplants – Seasonal"

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/houseplants-seasonal>

Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center

"Common Houseplant Insects & Related Pests"

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/common-houseplant-insects-related-pests/>

Cornell University, Cooperative Extension Rockland County, "Poisonous Plants around the Home"

<http://rocklandcce.org/resources/poisonous-plants-around-the-home>

"Houseplant Pest Management"

<http://rocklandcce.org/resources/houseplant-pest-management>

"Environmental Houseplant Problems"

<http://rocklandcce.org/resources/environmental-house-plant-problems>

University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Service, "Care of Houseplants"

https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/1280/Care_of_Houseplants.pdf?1406053613

Rodino, Heather (2019). *How to Houseplant: A Beginner's Guide to Making and Keeping Plant Friends*. New York, Sterling Publishing

Pleasant, Barbara (2005). *The Complete Houseplant Survival Manual: Essential Know-how for Keeping (Not Killing!) More Than 160 Indoor Plants*. Storey Publishing

University of Washington, "Researchers develop a new houseplant that can clean your home's air"

<https://www.washington.edu/news/2018/12/19/new-houseplant-can-clean-air/>



Happy Begonia

Sad Begonia

North Texas Gardening Focus

This column will highlight timely articles from the North Texas Gardening section of the DCMGA website. If you are wondering what to plant, when to plant it, when to fertilize it, and when to water it, you will find all this and more in articles written by Denton County Master Gardeners on [North Texas Gardening](#).

Faerie Gardening

Faerie gardening has become popular the past few years with a supporting cottage industry that includes classes, books, crafting techniques and propagation of new varieties of smaller scale plants. Children and adults alike who previously may not have had an interest in horticulture or didn't have the room at home to explore its wonders, now are dipping their trowels in the soil to create their own faerie garden.

As Master Gardeners, we appreciate any opportunity to share the rewards of gardening and to teach individuals how to make it an enjoyable part of their lives. So, we offer this beginner's guide to the practice and art of faerie gardening.



Created by a Denton County Master Gardener

What Is A Faerie Garden?

In mythology and children's stories, faeries are portrayed as benevolent, sometimes mischievous creatures with magical powers. A faerie garden is a story-telling scene that includes small plants and structures such as dwellings, furniture, animals and little creatures like those depicted in fairy tales. The design and components are limited only by your imagination.

Anyone can create a faerie garden. And any faerie will tell you, it doesn't matter how big or small, fancy or simple, your garden will be appreciated. It takes but a few steps to get started and its almost guaranteed that once you do, you will want to nurture it forward.

The Most Important Advice

Have fun planning and building your faerie retreat. Children, grandchildren, friends and, of course, faeries will enjoy this bit of magic you have created.

**Read the [complete article](#) and create your very own faerie garden.
Send us a picture and we'll share it with our readers in a future issue!**

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/community-gardening/do-you-believe-in-faeries-how-to-create-a-garden-they-will-love/>

Blue Daze Named Texas Superstar

Plants perform well in the dog days of summer

ADAM RUSSELL, TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

A time-tested Lone Star favorite – Blue Daze – has been added to the list of Texas Superstar plants. Brent Pemberton, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research ornamental horticulturist, Overton, said Blue Daze has been a long-time ornamental favorite of gardeners and landscapers and deserves the designation.

To be designated a Texas Superstar, a plant must be beautiful and perform well for growers throughout the state. Texas Superstars must also be easy to propagate, ensuring the plants are widely available and reasonably priced.

Blue Daze is a heat- and sun-loving, low-spreading tropical plant used as a summer annual, Pemberton said. The variety provides gardeners and homeowners summer-long flowers of a beautiful sky-blue hue.

"It's a true-blue flower and a long-established Texas gardening staple," he said. "Blue Daze is very popular because its claim-to-fame blue color is a coveted color in the flower world."

Blue Daze is sometimes referred to by the common names *evolvulus* or shaggy dwarf morning-glory, or as Hawaiian Blue Eyes.

Blue Daze thrives in garden hotspots that threaten less-hardy plants, Pemberton said.



Texas A&M AgriLife Research photo
by Brent Pemberton

The Latest Texas Superstar, Blue Daze
is known for color and ability to perform
well in the Texas heat.

Pemberton said Blue Daze and other improved varieties should be broadly available at local nurseries, garden centers and retail stores.

"The combination of it being a prolific performer and its blue color are attributes that put Blue Daze over the top for a lot of gardeners and landscapers," he said.

Read more about growing Blue Daze:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
AgriLife Today

"Blue Daze named Texas Superstar"
<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2020/05/08/blue-daze-named-texas-superstar/>

Ready To Get Pickled?

BY BARBARA BROWN

The satisfaction a gardener gets harvesting vegetables from plants they have taken care of for months is a special feeling. Sometimes though, our gardens produce more than we can use quickly. Perhaps we planted too many of a variety because we wanted to make sure we had some. Or, the plants did better than the same variety did last year. For some veteran gardeners, the surplus is intentional. What to do with extra cucumbers, peppers, green beans and other excess vegetables? Try pickling them!

What You Need

"Pickled foods are preserved by increasing the acidity of the food so that microorganisms that cause illness and food spoilage cannot grow." (*University of Tennessee College of Agriculture*). Therefore, it is important to follow a science-based recipe so the combined quantities of produce, acid, salt and spices are safely preserved. Several respected sources for how-to information and pickling recipes are listed under Resources (See page 21).

First, of course, you need to gather the produce to be pickled. This list of vegetables that can be pickled is long and includes asparagus, beans, beets, carrots, cauliflower, corn relish, cucumbers – you get the idea. Pick your vegetables early in the morning before the day heats up. Choose firm, young vegetables and plan to pickle them as soon as possible after harvesting.

Trivia: the difference between pickling cucumbers and slicing cucumbers is the thickness of the skin. Pickling cucumbers have thinner skin that helps them absorb the brine more quickly. Seed packages or transplant labels tell you if the variety is for pickling.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

Have An Abundance Of Beans, cucumbers or peppers? Preserve them in pickling brine and save for later or share as a special occasion gift.

You need salt, vinegar and spices. Choose pickling and canning salt rather than table salt, which has additives that will cloud your brine. Kosher salt may be used as long as it does not have an anti-clumping agent. Regular distilled vinegar with 5% acidity is best. Use white sugar if making sweet pickles or follow the recipe for alternatives. Use fresh, whole spices for the best flavor and use soft, without chemical additives, or distilled water. To process pickled products, use only canning jars, which can withstand the heat of water bath processing. Always use new lids and rings that are free from rust spots.

Ready To Get Pickled? (Cont.)

Preparing Pickles

Although pickled produce may be stored briefly in the refrigerator, the following preparation covers pickling intended for long term storage. Wash the produce to remove any dirt residue. Cut the produce into even-sized slices or spears. A mandolin works well for cutting but **MUST** be used carefully with a hand guard because the blades are sharp.

"Use stainless steel, aluminum or glass cookware or utensils to heat pickling liquid. Do not use zinc, copper, brass, galvanized metal or iron cookware or utensils because they might react with acids in the food to create undesirable colors or compounds." ("Pickled Products")

Water Bath Canning

After heating the ingredients according to the recipe, carefully ladle product and brine into jars filling them to within 1/2 inch of the top. Remove trapped air bubbles using a knife or bubble remover slid down the side against the glass. Wipe the top of the jar with a clean, damp cloth and place the lid. Add the ring and hand tighten. Put the filled jar into the water bath canner, which is a large pot with a raised barrier or rack on the bottom to keep the jars from direct contact with the heat source. Add water to cover the jars by at least 1 inch. Cover and boil for the required processing time, usually 10 to 12 minutes. Remove and place on a towel on the counter to cool completely. Then store in a dark room or closed cabinet.

Resources

National Center for Home Food Preservation

https://nchfp.uga.edu/how/can6b_pickle.html

"USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning"

<https://www.healthycanning.com/wp-content/uploads/USDA-Complete-Guide-to-Home-Canning-2015-revision.pdf>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Pickled Products"

<http://counties.agrilife.org/rusk/files/2015/04/Pickled-Products.pdf>

Meredith Butcher (editor) (2016). *The All New Ball Book of Canning and Preserving*, New York, NY: Oxmoor House publishing.

See Sweet Pickled Jalapenos Recipe on Page 23.





DCMGA Project News

What's Growing On

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



Food Pantry Donation Needs

Area food banks have seen huge demands of their services because of the Covid-19 virus and high unemployment in the area. Two of our projects, Friends of Shiloh Garden and Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden, have been deemed "essential services" because these community gardens have a process in place to regularly donate fresh produce to local food pantries. Volunteer service hours can be earned working at either of these projects.

Increased Production Requires Additional Workday at Friends of Shiloh Garden:

With the pandemic and high levels of unemployment in Denton county, Friends of Shiloh Garden - Shiloh Field (FOSG) has been asked to ramp up the annual amount of produce donated from 35,000 to 50,000 pounds. To meet this need, an additional weekly workday has been added to the Master Gardener weekly calendar for volunteer work. The workdays will now be on Mondays and Thursdays with a start time of 7 a.m. Additional workdays will be listed as pop-up workdays posted on DCMGA's Facebook page, as well as @friendsofshilohgarden Facebook page and via email.

Friends of Shiloh Garden-Shiloh Field is located at 1650 Nottingham Drive in Denton. To stay current on activities at Friends of Shiloh Garden-Shiloh Field please contact Cindy Helm at via VMS to be added to her email group or follow FOSG at @friendsofshilohgarden Facebook page.

Friends of Shiloh Garden-Shiloh Field is funded by donations from the public. If you cannot volunteer service hours but want to make a monetary donation to support the gardens that feed so many, please make checks payable to: Friends of Shiloh Garden and send to Friends of Shiloh Garden, c/o Cindy Helm, 6109 Kings Road, Double Oak, Texas 75077. Also, if you wish to donate your garden produce, please wash it then bag it in plastic bags, leaving the bag open. Deliver it to Shiloh Field by 9 a.m. on Monday and/or Thursday. Thanks in advance for helping us complete the late Mr. Gene Gumfory's mission to feed those in need in Denton County.

Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden

FMBC Community Garden is located at 1901 Timber Creek (corner of Morriss and Eaton) in Flower Mound. Their weekly workdays are on Thursday starting at 9 a.m. Produce picked that day is taken directly to Christian Community Action for immediate distribution and is fresher than local grocery store donations. Christian Community Action serves over 600+ families in need. Please contact Project Managers David Huffman or Carol Noble via VMS if you are not in their project group emails for specifics on volunteering.

Also, if you choose to make a donation to Christian Community Action located at 200 South Mill Street, Lewisville, there is always a need for cooking oil, canned meats, sugar, flour, cake mixes, helper mixes (tuna, chicken, hamburger) hygiene goods, cleaning supplies, and paper goods. If donating your garden produce, they ask that you wash it before dropping it off.

DCMGA Project News (Cont.)

Gardens continue to grow so if you decide to volunteer, please know that both community garden locations are practicing social distancing and encouraging the wearing of masks and gloves. You are in no way obligated to go, but if you do, please take precautions to protect your health and the health of others. Also, please bring your own water, sunscreen, hand tools, gloves, knee pads, etc. and come and go as needed.

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Sweet Pickled Jalapenos

Ingredients

3 lbs. fresh jalapeno peppers
2 cups cider vinegar
6 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon turmeric
1/2 teaspoon celery seed
3 teaspoons granulated garlic



Photo Courtesy DCMGA
Member Barbara Brown

Preparation

1. Be sure to wear gloves when handling jalapenos and wash your hands thoroughly with soap to remove any oil. Remove 1 slice from top of peppers, which removes the stem and discard. Slice peppers into 1/4 inch slices.
2. Bring cider vinegar, sugar, and spices to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Add peppers and simmer for 4 more minutes. Use a slotted spoon to remove peppers and put into clean jars to 1/2 inch of the top.
3. Reheat the vinegar syrup to a hard boil for 6 minutes.
4. Ladle syrup into jars to cover peppers. Use bubble remover to clear any bubbles, then wipe jar rim with a damp cloth. Place lid and finger tighten ring.
5. Place jars in water bath canner and cover with water 2 inches above jars. Bring to full rolling boil and process for 10 minutes for half-pints and 15 minutes for pints.
6. Transfer jars to cooling rack or towel and allow to cool completely or overnight.
7. Store in a dark place.

*Sweet pickled peppers make a flavorful hors d'oeuvre
served on a cracker with cream cheese.*



Online Education Opportunities

For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve

.....

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics in an innovative and interactive virtual format.

.....

Social Media Events

Gardening 101 Series – Facebook Live!

Aggie Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Wednesdays & Fridays, 1 pm, via Facebook)

Tune in live or watch the replay.

Topics may be viewed at:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive/>
"Some Like It Hot" – Growing Vegetables In Summer

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=999804413769526>

Virtual Learning Series

Water University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 pm, via Facebook)

Tune in live or watch the replay.

Upcoming class schedule and archived class selection may be viewed at:

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu>

Web-Based Classes

AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Plants-and-Garden>

AgriLife Online Pest & Weed Control Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Some are free, some are inexpensive, some are pricey.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Pest-and-Weed-Control>

Earth-Kind® Online Master Gardener Training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

Introduction to Plant Identification

UDSA NRCS Science & Technology

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/introduction-to-plant-identification>

Aggie Horticulture YouTube

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkScRV0HlN3Hi1_KUQ/

DCMGA Members

See our Member Handbook for approved CE sources and guidelines.

Note that members may claim up to three hours of annual discretionary education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to six.

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: The newest leaves on our live oaks are turning brown and dying. We also have a ton of leaf drop. What is this, and how can I treat it?

A: Cool, spring weather coaxes to life a pesky fungus called *Taphrina caerulescens*, commonly known as oak leaf blister. Affected oak leaves become deformed with bulges and twists. They develop yellow spots that eventually turn brown and feel papery. Sometimes, you'll notice heavy leaf drop; other times, the diseased leaves remain on the tree. Also, in spring, live oaks experience natural leaf drop, which contributes to our impression that the disease alone is causing excessive leaf loss, when it is actually a combination of the two.

An unsightly condition, oak leaf blister rarely harms otherwise healthy trees. No fungicidal treatment is needed, unless your tree has lost a significant amount of leaves. Even then, it is too late this year to manage chemically. To prevent the problem from returning next spring, apply a recommended fungicide in late winter, just prior to bud break (late February). Treat again as soon as new leaves appear. Two or three weeks later, spray one more time. This preventive fungicide should protect the young and most vulnerable leaves during the cool, wet weather favored by the fungus. Mature leaves are not affected by oak leaf blister. Again, most trees will not require this intervention, only those with severe defoliation.

Do not trim infected leaves from the tree. Oak trees pruned between Feb. 1–July 1 may be susceptible to a fatal disease called oak wilt, which is spread by beetles active during this time window. Rather, simply rake up and dispose of all fallen leaves to lessen the fungal presence. Then, put it on your calendar to start fungicide treatments late next winter. If the trees are too large for you to treat, contact a certified arborist in your area for assistance. Many will make a free site visit to give you a quote; others charge a trip fee for the estimate. Make sure to ask.

For those trees most affected by the fungus, make sure to guard against further stressors. For example, provide proper irrigation this spring and summer (one inch every 7–10 days). Look closely for the presence of pests or other diseases, and intervene as recommended by science-based sources, like Texas A&M and other US land-grant universities.

Locally, the Denton County Master Gardener Help Desk is a free service staffed by well-trained volunteers. Reach out via e-mail at master.gardener@dentoncounty.com or by phone at (940) 349-2892. Alternatively, access the free Cooperative Extension web resource [Ask an Expert](#).

(Continued on next page.)



Photo Courtesy of Kathryn Wells

For those who prefer audio learning, the Texas A&M Forest Service offers a weekly podcast entitled *Trees Are Are Key*, hosted by Paul Johnson, the Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for the Texas A&M Forestry Service.

Use the links below to learn more about oak leaf blister and proper tree care:

- [Oak leaf blister overview, including recommended fungicides.](#) (Texas A&M Agrilife Extension)
- The article "[Live Oak Dropping Leaves in Early Spring](#)," mentions where new buds will emerge on the branches and includes a labeled picture. Look for the photo captioned "New buds on live oaks."
- [Find a certified arborist near you.](#) (Trees Are Good)
- "[Why Hire an Arborist?](#)" gives reasons for hiring an arborist and lists their scope of work. (Texas A&M Agrilife Extension)
- USDA's "[Tree Owner's Manual](#)" is an excellent resource.



*If you have questions about tree care or any 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.*

A Horticultural Mania Quiz

During the summer swelter, toss in the trowel, sip a lemonade, and try this quiz. Are you a horticultural high-achiever or one of the gardening-impaired? Check off the following statements that are true for you. Give yourself three bonus points if you had to remove your gardening gloves before starting.

You know you are a hard-core gardener if:

- You photograph your flowers more often than your family or friends.
- You draw more garden plans than floor plans.
- Your hedge-clipper blades are sharper than your kitchen knives.
- You say "garden soil," never "dirt."
- You deadhead flowers in other people's gardens.
- You enjoy rain, but go ballistic over hail.
- You garden in the rain and only stop when it thunders.
- You can state your Hardiness Zone faster than your zip code.
- A greenhouse is higher on your wish list than a hot tub.
- You actually appreciate cow manure as a birthday present.
- You dream of compost.

How you scored:

- Under 2: No headaches for you if there is a frost.
- 3-5: You spend more time in the hammock than in the humus.
- 6-8: You know which end of a corm is up.
- Over 8: You need some horticultural withdrawal. Time to close the garden gate.

– Sue Careless digs up dirt as a journalist in Toronto, Ontario

Originally enjoyed by DCMGA circa 1996

(Copy has been abbreviated due to space.)

Keep Lewisville Beautiful Presents...

2020 Garden Secrets Classes

Join Keep Lewisville Beautiful and City of Lewisville for FREE community classes led by Denton County Master Gardeners and The Texas Agrilife Extension Office. **Classes are free but seats are limited . RSVP is required.**

All classes will be held at the MCL Grand
(100 N Charles St, 75057).

RSVP REQUIRED: 972-538-5949
info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

Please check with KeepLewisvilleBeautiful.org for the status of all classes.



The mission of Keep Lewisville Beautiful is to engage the citizens of Lewisville through service and education to enhance their community environment.



Keep Lewisville
Beautiful



WATER
UNIVERSITY



RSVP: 972-538-5949

keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, & Flower Show is CANCELED

Sadly, the Show will not go on.

But, we encourage you to share your supply with a neighbor, friend, or area food bank. And, please send us photos of your prized harvest!

We'd love to share and promote your backyard bounty on our Facebook page and perhaps in a future edition of *The Root*. You may email your photos by June 15th to our Communications Team at DCMGA.communications@gmail.com. Please include your name and town if you'd like attribution. If you have a story to share about your harvest, we'd love to feature that, too.

We're sorry that the canceled show is another COVID casualty, but we look forward to virtually celebrating the fruits (and vegetables, herbs, and flowers!) of your labor.

Thank you, as always, for growing with us!





A New Date!

DENTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2020 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, OCT 10, 2020
9 AM TO 4 PM

Four Delightful Denton County Gardens

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED!
All previously bought tickets will be honored for this date change.
Now experience Texas gardening in the Fall!
Inspiration abounds on self-guided tours of four unique North
Denton County private properties with Master Gardeners onsite to
provide education and information.

Two properties include an optional Nature Walk guided by volunteers
from the Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter.
Closed-toe shoes are recommended.
Vendors of unique garden-related items at one location!

Early-Bird tickets are available now until event for \$10.
At-Door tickets will be available on Oct. 10th for \$15.

Go to www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents
for tickets as well as property information and locations.

 TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County

#GrowWithUs

@DentonCountyMGA

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2020 Events

Denton County Speaker Series:

Aubrey: Coming Soon!

Flower Mound: Coming Soon!

Lewisville: June - Nov.

Design Your Yard Class: Aug. 27-29

Fall Garden Fest: Oct. 3

Garden Tour: Oct. 10

DCMGA New Member Round Up: Oct. 13



DCMGA.COM



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.

2020 Board of Directors

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Social Media

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

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

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMnUyi2A>

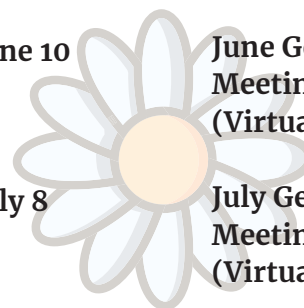
Save the Date

June 10

June General Meeting (Virtual)

July 8

July General Meeting (Virtual)



Contact Information

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401 W. Hickory Street
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Content

Submission deadline for the July edition of The Root is Monday, 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 or Communications Director Liz Moyer at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

All photos are courtesy of DCMGA's Creative Visual Arts (CVA) Team unless otherwise attributed.