

Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Cindy Helm

## Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy August, friends. My, oh, my; what a summer it's been!

Phase 3 of Texas A&M's return-to-service protocols was slated to begin August 1st, but while the University has issued a Phase 2 continuance for its employees through the end of August, as of today (July 31st), we haven't received that same confirmation for AgriLife volunteers. So, we will err on the safe side and continue exercising our Phase 2 protocols, too. Pandemic protocols certainly inhibit some of our traditional means of service, but they don't stop our ability and desire to educate, engage, and serve our community. And, so, we continue! (And, we have some exciting and innovative new projects on the horizon ... stay tuned!)

Under the leadership of our Project Managers and DCMGA volunteers, our community gardens continue to produce record-breaking numbers of fresh produce for our area food pantries. Our Help Desk maintains incredible continuity in answering horticultural questions and concerns. And, we are steadily refining the way we disseminate educational information through specialized platforms such as our website, social media, and videoconferences. While it's preferable to be together, I am grateful for the technology that allows us to virtually connect and serve.

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

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

- 01 **Buds From The Board**
- 03 **Spotlight:  
Gardenscapers**
- 04 **Mystery Seeds From  
China**
- 05 **Plant of the Month:  
Meet the Abacias**
- 08 **Feature Article:  
Water Conservation**
- 10 **2019 Cumulative Service  
Awards**
- 11 **New Gardeners**
- 12 **August General Meeting  
& Program**
- 13 **NTX Garden Focus: Fall  
Gardens, Trees, & More**
- 14 **DCMGA Project News**
- 15 **Online Education  
Opportunities**
- 16 **Help Desk Q&A:  
Lord Baltimore Hibiscus  
- Thrips or Fungus**

## Buds From The Board (Cont.)

Speaking of service, 'tis the season for our 2021 Board of Directors selection process. Happily the majority of our current Board members are eligible to serve another term, but the process is always open to our entire membership – veterans and interns. This month, I'll be assembling a Nominating Committee with team members that widely represent our Association. More info will be forthcoming, but if you are interested in serving—either on the Nominating Committee or on the Board of Directors, please let me know.

Our August 12th General Meeting and Program features DCMGA veteran member Lynda Harvey, who will be presenting, "Getting Buggy: The Wild World of Entomology." As always, our monthly general meetings are free and open to the public. For these virtual meetings via Zoom videoconference, advance registration is required for both members and guests, and replays of all our recent virtual meetings and programs are available on our DCMGA YouTube channel.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you are highly valued and much appreciated. May you continue to be safe and sound with every provision and protection.




## Gardenscapers

BY KATHY RAINNEY

In the heat of the summer, what better time of year to begin planning for fall garden projects while we keep cool indoors. Our Gardenscapers project is gearing up for the remainder of 2020 and planning for 2021, and I hope to peak your interest to participate in this rewarding project. As DCMGA Vice President of Outreach, I have been contacting city, county, and HOA officials to learn how DCMGA can partner with them to address shared goals. You might be surprised to learn that Master Gardeners can help these community partners so many ways. As you may imagine, lowering costs to maintain landscapes is at the top of their priority list, with beautification of existing landscapes a close second. Thankfully Master Gardeners have the knowledge and skill to provide solutions for sustainable landscapes that use native and adaptive plants, conserve water, reduce maintenance, and much more.

Since the purpose of the Gardenscapers project closely aligns with our Outreach results, I offered to take the leadership role and engage our Master Gardeners in accomplishing the sustainable landscaping requests we have already received from several community partners. We have requests to identify native/adapted plants to beautify the landscape at nine County buildings, which will not only improve curb appeal, but lower maintenance costs. We also have a request to recommend native/adaptive plants in common area landscapes in an HOA to reduce costs associated with annual flower installations each season. The HOA is also requesting education on proper mulching around trees. A Monarch Waystation at The Grove project in Carrollton was designed by Master Gardeners late in 2019 with the intention of planting the pollinators and milkweed in April 2020. With Covid19 this "planting day" has been delayed until spring 2021 when Gardenscaper volunteers will plant about 75 one-gallon plants next April.

The new and revitalized Gardenscapers project will ensure a wide variety of fun and rewarding experiences for those Master Gardeners who choose to join Gardenscapers. For each garden location, small teams will visit and photograph the site, note unique considerations about each site, recommend native or adaptive plants, prepare a corresponding plant maintenance plan, and present their recommendations at a Gardenscapers meeting prior to presenting a plan to our community partner. It will be a wonderful way to share knowledge and experience between Master Gardeners while helping our community partners achieve their goals. For those of who enjoy writing, this also creates the opportunity to showcase our accomplishments in *The Root* newsletter, and if you are interested in trying out a leadership role, these smaller scale projects will provide a positive learning experience.

Our first meeting is scheduled for early August via Zoom. An email invitation will be sent to members along with an agenda and instructions on how to login to the Zoom meeting. Don't miss this chance to learn more about this amazing opportunity.



# Do NOT Plant Those Mystery Seeds from China

BY JANET LAMINACK, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT - HORTICULTURE  
DENTON COUNTY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Like emails from Nigerian royalty, you don't want to open unusual packages from China right now. Well, it's okay if you open the packages, just don't plant the seeds.

For some reason, unsolicited packages of seeds are being mailed to people around the country. We have had at least one package arrive in Denton County already.

This may not seem like that big of a deal and your curiosity may really want to stick these in the ground and see what we get. They could be an invasive species. Some other invasive species that we are stuck with now and wish we'd never laid eyes on include fire ants, kudzu vine, the "murder" hornet, crape myrtle bark scale, privet, and zebra mussels.

An invasive is defined as a non-native organism that causes economic and or environmental harm to the new area. Not all non-native species are invasive. And native species are not considered invasive even if you think they are taking over, they are referred to as "aggressive."

From our experience with previous invasive species, it's clear that we need to be on high alert and not allow these seeds to impact our environment or agriculture. If you receive such a package, please report it to USDA-APHIS by email: carol.m.motloch@usda.gov. Please include your name and contact information and package description (sending a photo is ideal).



**Report to USDA – Do Not Plant!**



Our local county resident who received a package heard back from USDA to put the seeds in a ziplock-type bag and save them for now. Do not put them in the trash!

If you need more information, as always, give us a call at 940-349-2892 or send an email to [Master.Gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:Master.Gardener@dentoncounty.com).

## Plant of the Month - Meet the Abacias Rose Creek and Kaleidoscope

BY LEE ANN YATES

Come August I really have to search for something pretty in my landscape – from inside my house! Everything is just trying to hang on, moving at a minimum, until cooler weather comes along. Looking at my yard from a distance, though, has allowed me to notice something missing in my landscape – shrubs! I have lots of perennials and several tall and understory trees, but that middle layer is kind of bare. So I started looking for shrubs that would fill that middle space, thrive in Denton County soil, and maybe add some color – even in August. What I found is a couple of "cousins" that fit the ticket!



Kaleidoscope Abelia by David J Stang is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

**Kaleidoscope Abelia's**  
pink buds open to white, fragrant, bell-shaped  
flowers that bloom spring through fall.

Everyone knows those cousins who look so much alike they could be siblings, but they are still individuals, right? Perhaps you are one? They exist in the horticulture world as well! Allow me to introduce you to the Abacias from the AgriLife Dallas Water University's "Top 100 Plants for North Texas" list. While Rose Creek Abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora* 'Rose Creek') and Kaleidoscope Abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora* 'Kaleidoscope') are not native to North Texas, these good-looking cousins do check a lot of landscaping boxes for North Texas gardeners. They fill the middle spaces, they are evergreen, they bloom spring through fall – yes, even during summer! They can be planted in shady and sunny locations and they don't take gallons and gallons of water. Oh, and they won't need a lot of pruning, nor will they take over a large space. Doesn't it sound as if you need one – or many! – of these in your landscape?

### ***Abelia* History**

First, a little history. Abacias are named after Clarke Abel, a physician and naturalist who traveled to China as part of a British diplomatic group in 1816. All of the plant and seed specimens Clarke collected were lost in a shipwreck on the homeward voyage: however, in 1844 some living *Abelia chinensis* plants finally made it to England and were named for Abel.

Abacias, formerly in the honeysuckle family (*Caprifoliaceae*), have recently been merged into the *Linnaea* family after genetic testing at the molecular level was done at Kew Gardens. You may see that name on plant tags now rather than *Abelia*, which is the genus name. However, I'm going to use the common name of *Abelia* here just to reduce confusion. Abacias are native to two very disparate places.

## Meet the Abelias (Cont.)

The deciduous type is native to Asia, from Japan west to the Himalayas, and likes colder climates than Denton County. The species that are comfortable here come from Mexico and are evergreen. In some parts of Mexico, Abelias are symbolic of equality.

### *Kaleidoscope Abelia*

Let's get to the details of these adapted-to-North-Texas cousins and explore their similarities and their individuality. While you may see it called glossy abelia in some places, Kaleidoscope Abelia is a real beauty! As the name suggests, it is a gorgeous shrub with yellow and green variegated leaves and multiple red stems. Pink buds open to white, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers that bloom spring through fall. Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees love these flowers, so use these plants to increase wildlife in your landscape. In the fall, the small, ovate leaves turn golden yellow, bright orange, and fiery red. Kaleidoscope was discovered as a sport of another *Abelia grandiflora* x in North Carolina. It gets three to four feet high and about three feet wide, so it doesn't take up much room, while giving a wonderful punch of color to your landscape.

Abelias have a lovely arching habit that looks best unpruned. If you must have a tidier look, prune Kaleidoscope in late winter or very early spring as it blooms on new wood. Occasionally Abelias shoot up a very tall, vigorous "wild hair" branch –rather like a wild eyebrow hair that gives you the wrong kind of

Einstein vibe. This is the hybrid plant trying to revert to one of its parents and should be removed at the base. If it is necessary to prune Kaleidoscope back severely, the plant will survive, more likely than not. Plant Kaleidoscope in well-draining soil in full or part sun or even in part shade and give it a medium to low amount of water – depending on the light. The leaf colors are most vibrant when it is grown in full sun. It has no serious insect or disease problems. Groups of Kaleidoscope Abelias would do well in shrubbery borders, as a low screen, or along building foundations. They are compact enough to do well in large containers and mass plantings on slopes would be excellent erosion control. What an eyeful Kaleidoscope would be in the garden year-round!

### *Rose Creek Abelia*

The similarly splendid Rose Creek Abelia was named for a creek near the research facility where it was developed in Georgia. Like Kaleidoscope, Rose Creek Abelia is evergreen, compact (3' by 4') and should be planted in well-draining soil in full or part sun or part shade; however, this abelia will also thrive in full shade. It also needs only low to medium amounts of water.

Rose Creek blooms spring through fall on new wood as well, so prune in late winter or very early spring. Also prune those aberrant "wild hairs" that spring up from time to time to the ground. As with Kaleidoscope, formally pruning Rose Creek restricts its natural graceful shape, so let this little darling grow naturally as a cover for slopes, along pathways or foundations, or in a patio container. The tubular, fragrant, white flowers have pink sepals at the base of each flower. The sepals, a ring of petal-like growth, remain when the blooms fade. In spring, new leaves appear pinkish on red stems, then mature to a dark green for summer. In winter, the leaves turn a purplish-green. Like its cousin,

**A sport is a  
genetic mutation  
on a plant that is  
different from the  
rest of the plant.**

## Meet the Abelias (Cont.)

it has no serious insect or disease problems. Both Rose Creek and Kaleidoscope are deer resistant and salt tolerant. Rose Creek gives us something beautiful to enjoy during all seasons!

### Possible Allergen

One small cautionary note for those allergic to honeysuckle. There is a moderate potential for Abelias to cause allergic reactions, which can often be increased by over-using it throughout your garden. If you are allergic to honeysuckle, you may experience allergic reactions with Abelias. Test it out before loading them into your landscape.

With two such beautiful, long-lasting, tough shrubs, the choice becomes a difficult one. It can also be a choice to not choose and instead fill your middle spaces with drifts or masses or a single specimen plant – of BOTH lovely Abelia cultivars!

PS – one last note. If you are looking for something a little taller (5' to 6'), check out another cousin – *Abelia grandiflora* x 'Edward Goucher' – clusters of lavender flowers with orangey-yellow throats bloom from mid-summer to fall and dark green leaves turning purpley-bronze in the fall. Same care as Kaleidoscope and Rose Creek. This one has also been pretty available in local nurseries.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathryn Wells

### Rose Creek Abelia

can be planted in full, part sun, or part shade, and will also thrive in full shade.

### Resources

#### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"AgriLife Water University's Top 100 Plants for North Texas"

<https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/top-100-plants-for-north-texas.pdf>

#### Texas SmartScape

Plant Search (Abelia, Rose Creek; Abelia, Kaleidoscope; Abelia, Edward Goucher)

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/index.php>

#### Missouri Botanical Garden

Plant Finder (Abelia 'Rose Creek'; *Abelia x grandiflora* 'Kaleidoscope')

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfinderssearch.aspx>

#### Plant Answers

"Hummingbird Attractors and Butterfly Plants"

[https://www.plantanswers.com/hummingbird\\_plants.htm](https://www.plantanswers.com/hummingbird_plants.htm)

#### Wikipedia

"Abelia"

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abelia>

## Water Conservation

BY ELLEN DIERS

Now that our long, hot summer and its associated water bills have hit, many of us are thinking there's got to be a better way. There is! Now is a great time to investigate water saving techniques for your landscape.

North Texas is a challenging environment for those wanting a beautiful landscape that does not require thousands of gallons of water. Most Texas landscapes are over-watered, over-fertilized and over-applied with pesticides which can be detrimental to water resources and to your landscape – not to mention your pocketbook!

An established landscape of waterwise, native and adapted plants can survive our hottest summers with as little as 1 inch of water a week. Over-watering causes fungus in your turf, weak, shallow root systems on your plants and shrubs, and costs you money. Your irrigation system does not have that plethora of times and days because your landscape needs that much water that often. It is merely offering you the luxury of choosing what day and what time you would like to water.

Watering for 3–5 minutes per station per cycle is plenty. Allow at least 2 hours between cycles so that the water can soak into the soil. Evening and night watering are the best for the least evaporation. Check your system regularly to make sure you do not have broken lines or missing heads that result in massive water waste.

### Rainwater Harvesting

You might want to explore rainwater harvesting, as well. Rain barrels and cisterns are a great way to divert, capture, and store rainwater for later use in your landscape. This helps reduce the demand on municipal water supplies, is an efficient use of a valuable resource, and saves you money by reducing your water bill.

Rain barrels and cisterns are made from various materials: polyethylene, fiberglass, wood, or metal – even concrete. You can start small with one rain barrel and expand as you have the need and budget. Check [A&M AgrLife Water University](#) for additional detailed information.

### Healthy Soils

Healthy soils are the foundation of a water efficient landscape. They help to cycle nutrients, reduce runoff, and have the potential to absorb pollutants. Adding amendments to our challenging soil is the foundation of a water efficient landscape. Amendments like compost and expanded shale add nutrients



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Ellen Diers

**Native and Adaptive Plants**  
such as Liatris mucranata and Gay  
Feather are a great choice.

## Water Conservation (Cont.)

and prevent compacting that does not allow air and water to permeate the soil. My favorite amendment is compost. This is made of broken-down organic material, such as leaves, grass, and vegetable scraps. So simple, but what a big impact. You can incorporate a 2" dressing of compost into new beds before planting or rake a 1/4' to 1/2' top dressing into existing beds and even over your lawn. It is great to top dressing to spread around newly planted trees or shrubs before adding mulch.

Now that your soil is ready, how do we choose plants for our landscape that will thrive in the hot summers and often cold winters? Native and adapted plants are a great choice.

### Native and Adapted Plants

Native and adapted plants are drought tolerant, heat tolerant, require less water, less fertilizer, and fewer pesticides. What a great combination!

One of the most popular is *Salvia greggii*. This is a lovely mounting shrub that sports brightly colored blooms from late spring until late fall. They can be periodically trimmed to fit their place and will respond with a new flush of blooms. *Salvia* blooms in almost more colors than I can list – hot pink, red, blue, purple, and white to name a few.

Texas Native Skullcap, Hardy Hibiscus, Beebalm, Rock Rose, and many herbs are also well suited for our North Texas climate and don't require excessive watering. Once established, these plants will get along with as little as 1 inch of water a month.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Ellen Diers

**Salvia Greggii**

### References

There are several excellent references where you can find waterwise plants for North Texas. The [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#) has an extensive list. My favorite is the Texas A&M AgriLife Water University "Best Plants for North Texas" list that can be found on their website. <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu>

Once the plants are installed, add a 3" - 4" layer of shredded, hardwood mulch over the tops of the beds. This will help retain moisture, cool the roots and prevent weeds from encroaching on your hard work. The mulch will break down over the season and provide nutrients to your plantings.

As Denton County continues its explosive growth, it is important for us to be responsible stewards of our precious natural resources, especially water. Do your part by selecting waterwise plants, using mulch, and watering responsibly. Happy Gardening!

## 2019 Cumulative Service Awards

Congratulations to these members for achieving cumulative service milestones in 2019. We appreciate you! (Member at Large Tammie Gurley is keeping your service pins safe and sound until we see each other again.)

### Interns (100+ Hours)

Rick Armontrout  
Nick Barrows  
Joe Beckett  
Bob Bender  
Karen Brown  
Ngoc Brown  
Linda D'Amanda  
Barbie Dane  
Sheila Daniel  
Claudia Duckworth  
Bree Gray-Eskue  
Mary Harned

Anne Haynie  
Linda Javor  
Lela Khan  
Lisa Lebsack  
Pam Long  
Tom O'Brien  
Diane Sloan  
Debbie Smith  
Joanne Spurgin  
Barbara Veglia  
Deborah Williams

### Members (500+ Hours)

Patti Barry  
Mary Branstetter  
Beverly Duncan  
Wally Gehrke  
Karen Gibson  
Cindy Helm  
Sarah Hendel  
Ann Hillmann  
Georgiana McCoig

Susan Novak  
Karen Roberts  
Barney Sanborn  
Sonny Smith  
Steve Spurgin  
Sandy Stickane  
Lynne Thompson  
Russell Tyson

### Members (1000+ Hours)

Jerry Alexander  
Marion Arndt  
Dana Bays  
Carol Brantley  
Gay Campbell  
Carol Fitch

Jolayne LaCour  
Liz Moyer  
Ray Roberts, Sr.  
Laurel Wallace  
Kim Wootton  
LeeAnn Yates

### Members (1500+ Hours)

Brigid Corbett  
Sharrie Ely  
Liz Moyer  
Beth Sharum  
Kathryn Wells

### Members (2000+ Hours)

Katherine Woodward

### Members (2500+ Hours)

Barbara Brown  
Janet Gershenfeld  
Tammie Gurley  
Shirley Manfredi  
Pat Moyer  
Linda Williams

### Members (3000+ Hours)

Shirlee Singer

### Members (4000+ Hours)

Susan Cosio  
Sue Hudburgh

Congrats

## New Gardeners

BY JANET LAMINACK, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT - HORTICULTURE  
DENTON COUNTY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

It seems that when Americans go through tough times, they turn to creating gardens. It makes sense for many reasons. In the U.S., gardening is one of our top outdoor leisure time activities. It is a great way to get some fresh air and exercise or just some space away from whomever you are quarantined with.

Many people have started growing their own food during this time and not just for fun. Food pantries across Denton County are experiencing an increase in demand anywhere from 300-500%. There are several community gardens in our area that are dedicated to growing fresh produce to donate to food pantries. These gardens can use extra help as they try to ramp up production to meet the needs of the county. It is also a great way to learn more about gardening and food production.

Three community gardens that the Master Gardeners are highly involved in and that produce food specifically to donate are Shiloh Field in Denton, the Flower Mound First Baptist (FMFB) Church garden, and The Grove at the Sandy Jacobs Government Center in Carrollton. Many other community gardens have plot space available for individuals to work the soil for their own produce; let us know if you need help locating one.

Growing your own food can help during these rough financial times. But the act of gardening itself can also be beneficial. Research shows that just interacting with nature can have healing effects. There is a bacteria in soil that has been noted to interact with our bodies to have an anti-depressant effect.

August is the time to start putting in our fall gardens. We have a great fall vegetable season. First thing to consider if you want to grow a food crop is that you need ample sunlight. Vegetables and fruits ideally need 8 hours of direct sunlight to flourish. The next biggest consideration is soil. The best way to make sure you have good soil is to make your own raised bed or do container gardening. Five-gallon buckets will even work! If you don't have access to outdoor sunlight, you can grow food with the help of artificial lighting. That is a more complicated subject, but I'd be glad to point you to resources if you are interested.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member David Huffman

**FMFB Community Garden**

## New Gardeners (Cont.)

At [DCMGA.com](http://DCMGA.com) we have a tab for North Texas Gardening and a section dedicated to growing vegetables. Our Master Gardeners may be at home, but they are still available to answer your gardening questions: 940-349-2892 or [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com). Especially if you are a new gardener, you may start seeing all sorts of insects and diseases! We are here to help you diagnose the problem and solve it.

Lastly, this time has moved us beyond our norm and AgriLife has been rapidly responding with various online opportunities. I am involved with the Aggie Horticulture Facebook Live event, every Wednesday and Friday at 1 pm. They are recorded and you can watch them later. We've focused on food crops mostly. Check here to see what you missed and what's coming up!

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive/> .



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Lea Watson

**Container Gardening**  
ensures this blueberry bush has  
optimum soil conditions.

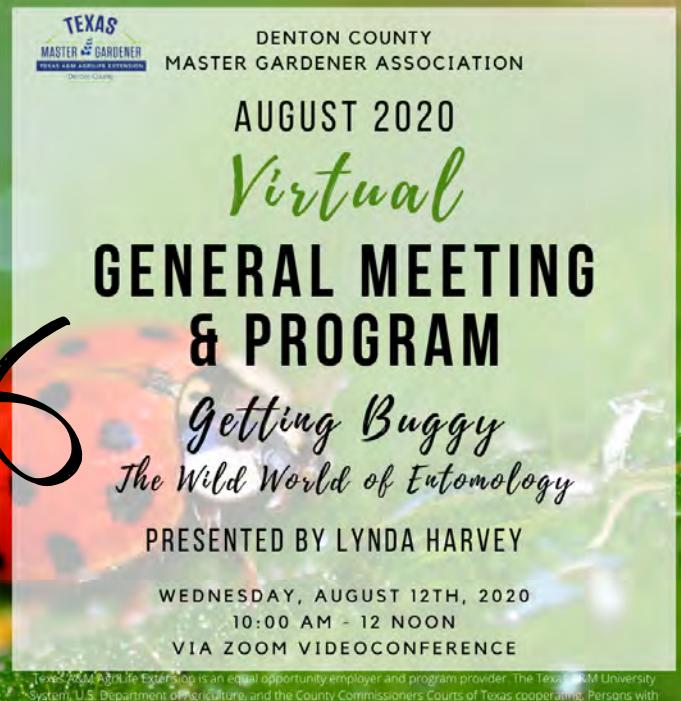


Join Denton County MGA  
in cyberspace for our  
August General Meeting  
& Program.

Immediately following business meeting, we're pleased to welcome DCMGA Member Lynda Harvey, who will present "Getting Buggy: The Wild World of Entomology."

**Advance registration is required.**

Free of charge.



## 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.

### *Presentations, Fall Gardens, and Trees*

The North Texas Gardening section of the DCMGA website includes multiple Handouts & Presentations created by Denton County Master Gardeners. Topics include Garden Design, Herbs, Texas Tough Plants, and Vegetable Gardening, to name just a few. Under each topic you will find multiple subtopics.

<https://dcmga.com/upcomingevents/handouts/>

#### ***Start A Fall Garden***

August may still feel like summer, but it's definitely time to be working on your fall garden. How to start a home vegetable and herb garden provides the information you need to prepare your garden area and grow delicious vegetable and herbs.

<https://dcmga.com/files/2019/11/Beginners-Guide.pdf>



#### **What's Wrong With My Tree?**

The DCMGA Help Desk receives more questions about trees than any other subject. If you have a tree questions, this PDF is a great first stop resource.

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/trees/whats-wrong-with-my-tree/>



#### **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!

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>



## DCMGA Project News

### *What's Growing On*

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



**At the August 5th Board of Director's meeting two projects will be presented for approval:**

- One involves Plant ID with plans to bring back small group training utilizing binomial nomenclature to identify plant families. The educational goal is to help members provide support to other DCMGA projects and the public using plant identification to determine plant selection, care, pruning, and propagation techniques.
- The other involves the Denton County Historical Park where the Bayless-Selby House is located. The County's historical park has a wonderful long-range plan (with funding) which offers great educational opportunities including the possibility for a demonstration garden! This new project will start with refurbishing the gardens around the existing buildings then branch out to tree plantings, landscape around the new log cabin, future walkway/buildings, and veggie/herb/fruit/crop gardens/orchards. This multi-year project will be done in phases with the hope to have volunteer service opportunities beginning in September. Watch for future updates.

**Please monitor the Member Calendar on a weekly basis to see what's going on.**

**Projects offering volunteer service on a weekly basis:**

- Fairoaks Senior Independent Living Center
- Beulah Acres Agroforest
- FMFB Community Garden
- Friends of Shiloh Gardens
- Help Desk (work at home!)

**Other consistent volunteer opportunity options:**

- Board of Director meeting-1st Wednesday of the month
- General Meeting-monthly-2nd Wednesday of the month
- Communications
- SWAT
- Newsletter

**Other "Help Wanted" service opportunities: Position / Who to Contact**

- Calendar Coordinator / Liz Moyer, Communications Director
- Plan Your Week Writer / Liz Moyer, Communications Director
- 2021 Garden Tour Promotions Lead / Karen Roberts, Garden Tour Project Manager
- 2021 Board of Director candidates / information coming soon

***Look deep into nature, and you will understand everything better.***

*~ Albert Einstein*



### *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.conervationwebinars.net/webinars/introduction-to-plant-identification>

### *Aggie Horticulture YouTube*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkcScRVoHlN3Hi1\\_KUQ/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkcScRVoHlN3Hi1_KUQ/)

### *Chat With Green Aggies webinars*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2020/06/01/chat-with-green-aggies-webinars-about-all-things-green/>

## *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.

### *Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series*

Aggie Horticulture,

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*Texas AgriLife posted great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook page twice/week for four months ending 6/30. Topics range from Soil Preparation to Making Cocktails from your Garden.*

*View them at:*

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/1541129202716211/>

*Beginning July 1, AgriLife has moved away from Facebook Live events. You will now be required to REGISTER for their events online through their website:*

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/>

*As always, their classes are FREE and no credit card info will be collected. Once registered, you will be emailed a link from which to attend the class. Class links will be sent out the day of the event to prevent spamming. There is no need to download anything with the new virtual class platform. It will play through your internet browser.*

### *DCMGA Members*

Watch for a VMS email with current Online CE Opportunities.

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.

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



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

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

*Q: My Lord Baltimore hibiscus is overall healthy and blooming well. But this season, I've have had numerous brown leaf spots, then eventually the leaf yellows and the leaf spots turn darker. Now I'm noticing that some flower buds are yellowing and dying out before bloom. It also has banded-wing whiteflies with eggs underneath a lot of leaves as well but that's pretty normal. I have treated a couple of times with Neem oil and once with the Bayer Advanced Fungicide/Miticide spray but it hasn't slowed it down yet. Any other advice you might give?*

**A:** Lord Baltimore hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), also known as Rose Mallow, is a shrub with huge, beautiful red flowers. It is native to wet, marshy areas in the southeastern United States. They bloom from August to October with multiple flowers per plant, each flower lasting only 1 day. Your plant may be suffering from several issues.

Thrips are tiny, slender insects with fringed wings. They are likely eating on and damaging the buds at a young age. To control thrips, apply a contact insecticide every 7 to 14 days, thoroughly covering the buds, shoot tips, and any other areas showing damage. Organic options include insecticides with active ingredients azadirachtin, insecticidal soaps, horticultural oil, neem oil, and pyrethrins. Spinosad is more effective. Mix it with horticultural oil to increase its persistence within the plant tissue. [This link](#) from the University of California provides more information on thrips.

*Hibiscus moscheutos* requires wet to consistently moist soil to thrive. Your plant may be suffering from leaf scorch if the soil is drying out between waterings. Inadequate moisture can result in scorch symptoms on foliage, stunting, leaf yellowing, leaf drop, and flower bud death before bloom.

You could also have a fungal issue. In all cases of plant diseases, practicing good sanitation is important to avoid spread:

- Pick up and discard any plant debris and remove infected leaves, do not compost these.
- Clean tools used to prune diseased plants with a weak solution of bleach, rubbing alcohol, or a disinfectant.
- Don't let mulch touch the stem to prevent Southern stem blight.

Treat with a fungicide at the first sign of the disease following the label directions for the first and subsequent applications. Please read the label to be sure it's suitable for hardy hibiscus, and carefully follow the application directions and safety precautions.

[This website](#) from North Carolina University has more info about *Hibiscus moscheutos*. [This website](#) from Clemson University has more general information about hibiscus.



Stock Photo Courtesy of Canva



## Want to Be a Master Gardener?

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Now Recruiting for Our  
2021 Intern Class

Applications Accepted  
August 10 - October 23, 2020

**JOIN US for our General Meeting via  
Zoom on October 14, 2020, as well as,  
an Informational Meeting via Zoom  
October 20, 2020 at 10 am  
Zoom registration will be posted on  
website as date approaches**

Details and applications  
available at  
[www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com)

#GrowWithUs

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.

We seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this  
program and ask that you notify the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office of the  
auxiliary aid or service that will be required.

**COMING SOON!**



**TEACHING  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR YOUR  
NORTH TEXAS  
GARDEN**



DCMGA PRESENTS  
**FALL  
GARDEN  
FEST**

OCTOBER 3  
INFORMATION COMING TO  
DCMGA.COM

Join us online for  
free garden talks  
that will help you  
with your fall  
garden.

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.

**DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
DCMGA.COM**

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
**2020 Garden Tour**

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

9 AM TO 4 PM

Four Delightful locations in Denton County, Texas  
**Canceled**

Want to miss? Come to the 2020 Garden Tour of four unique North Texas gardens. Meet the homeowners with Master Gardeners onsite to answer your questions and provide education and information.

Two tours will 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 Feb. 19th thru March 31st for \$10.

Regular ticket price of \$15 is effective April 1st thru May 8th.

At-Door tickets will be available on May 9th for \$20.

Go to [www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents](http://www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents) for tickets as well as property information and locations.

DCMGA thanks D&L Farm & Home for their support of the 2020 Garden Tour



#GrowWithUs



@DentonCountyMGA





### 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://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>

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

#### YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### Save the Date

August 12	August General Meeting (Virtual)
September 9	September General Meeting (Virtual)
October 3	Fall Garden Fest

### Contact Information

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<https://dcmga.com>

**Content**  
Submission deadline for the September edition of *The Root* is Saturday, August 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](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com).

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