

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy November, friends!

As you're probably aware, our monthly General Meetings and Programs are typically held on the second Wednesday. This November, however, that date is Veteran's Day, so in honor of and in appreciation for those who have served, this month's meeting is shifted a week to the third Wednesday: November 18th. Military veterans, thank you for your service!

For our November 18th General Meeting and Program, we're pleased to welcome Blake Alldredge of Upper Trinity Regional Water District, who will share how the process of protecting water sources begins in our own personal gardens and yards. Advance registration is required, and, as always, our general meetings are free and open to the public.

DCMGs, immediately following our featured program, we'll hold our business meeting including the vote for our 2021 proposed budget and Board of Directors. Biographies for each of our proposed officers are included in this issue of *The Root*, and both the biographies and the budget are available on our website in the Member Info section (Board of Directors Meetings, 2020 Board Meetings).

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

WHAT'S GROWING ON

.....

- 01 Buds From The Board
- 03 DCMGA Congratulates Community Garden Partners
- 04 Plant of the Month: Frostweed
- 07 Feature Article: The Art of Composting
- 13 Seed Saving
- 16 Holiday Decorating with Nature
- 18 Garden Visits: Doubletree Ranch Park
- 20 Fall Garden Fest Wrap
- 21 Proposed 2021 Board & Bios
- 27 DCMGA Project News
- 28 Online Education Opportunities
- 30 Help Desk Q&A: When to Prune Perennials

Buds From The Board (Cont.)

During this traditional time of giving thanks, I want to express my gratitude to each of you; your love of and interest in horticulture and all things gardening is uplifting! What a joy to remain connected, especially during this challenging year.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—each of you is highly valued and much appreciated! May you continue to be safe and sound with every provision and protection. Thanksgiving blessings!

Kathryn



Canva Stock Photo

TOP GARDENING TIPS

November

Prepare tender plants to overwinter inside; check for insects.
 Leave the leaves! Mow in place, compost, or use as mulch.
 Check trees for damaged limbs before winter winds & ice.
 Plan to relocate established trees & shrubs after dormancy (late November to early January).

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

DCMGA Congratulates Community Garden Partners

DCMGA congratulates our partners at FMFB Community Garden and Friends of Shiloh Garden on their receipt of CARES grants to increase their community gardens' ability to raise food for those in need in Denton County. These grants are part of the Covid19 relief funds.

FMFB Community Gardens will use their grant funds to plant a fruit orchard, purchase a refrigerator for storage before delivery to Christian Community Action in Lewisville, and make capital improvements to the garden. Shiloh Fields plans to purchase materials for additional raised beds, irrigation supplies, garden tools, supplies to enlarge the chicken coop, and seeds supplies for their greenhouse.



Photo Courtesy Denton County Commissioners

Pictured Left to Right:
Gary Henderson (CEO/President,
United Way of Denton County);
Dianne Edmonson
(Commissioner, Precinct 4);
The Honorable Andy Eads
(Denton County Judge); Donald
Tittle (Pastor, Flower Mound First
Baptist Church); Lori Giesler
(FMFB Community Garden
founder); Bobbie J Mitchell
(Commissioner, Precinct 3);
Leah Jordan (Director of
Community Impact, United Way)

A photo for the check presentation to Friends of Shiloh Garden was not available at the time of this publication's deadline.



Denton County Master Gardener Association



This year has brought a resurgence of interest in gardening and with it, an increase in Help Desk activity. With this in mind, the Help Desk page has been updated and streamlined. If you have a gardening/plant question, make the Help Desk page your first-stop resource. It's very likely you will quickly and easily find the answers you need.

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/help-desk/>

Plant of the Month - Frostweed

BY LEE ANN YATES

If you attended Betsy Marsh's presentation on native plants – "Gardens that Give Back: Lovely, Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes" – at DCMGA's online Fall Garden Fest in October, you may have learned a little about a unique plant called Frostweed, or *Verbesina virginica*. If you don't already have Frostweed planted in your garden, YOU ARE GOING TO MISS IT! And it would be such a shame to miss seeing the very unique, special, super-interesting trick that Frostweed does when we get our first frost of the year! But first, let me back up for a minute and tell you about this great Texas native during the rest of the year.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Frostweed Can Dominate The Area
where it is planted, so is best suited for naturalizing.

Frostweed Native Habitat

Frostweed's native habitat includes open, dryish woodlands and stream banks from Pennsylvania west to central Texas and south to Florida. It prefers partial, or dappled, to full shade, making Frostweed a great ornamental understory plant under large oaks or pecans. It is a good transitional plant between your more manicured landscape and wilder areas. Like a good Texas native, it is accepting of dry or moist, but well-draining, soil.

Frostweed grows between three feet and six feet tall, depending on how much water it gets. It has low to medium water requirements, so is not particularly thirsty, but can handle heavy rains as well as having a high tolerance to drought. Ah, the beauty of a Texas native! It spreads by rhizomes, so will need to be divided if you plant in a small area or you can give it room to spread on its own, if you have the space. Frostweed can dominate the area where it is planted, therefore, it is best suited for naturalizing and not planted in the middle of your more formal garden beds. It should be trimmed back by at least one third in June to encourage a fuller plant and more autumn blooms. It is deciduous, but the largish, dark green leaves grow up an interesting stem that has fleshy wing-like flanges running the length of the stem. These are crucial to Frostweed's special winter feature! The stems grow straight up and remain unbranched until the flower heads appear in late summer.

One delightful Frostweed characteristic is that it blooms at the hottest part of the year – August and September – then continues to bloom up to a hard freeze – into November. The white compound flower heads can reach three to six inches across. Quite a bloom statement in the heat of summer!

Frostweed (Cont.)

Pollinator Magnet

If you are interested in encouraging butterflies and native bees to visit your garden, Frostweed may be a "must add" plant! Blooming in late summer and through the autumn, Frostweed provides nectar at a time when most other flowers are fading, so it is invaluable to several butterfly species and especially to native bees. It is a nectar plant for Pipevine butterflies, Monarchs, and Great Purple Hairstreaks – so important for Monarchs, in fact, that Monarch Watch has selected Frostweed as a plant they monitor and encourage. There is even more good news! It acts as a larval host for Summer Azure, Bordered Patch, and Silvery Checkerspot butterflies, as well! Another plant that ticks so many of our boxes!

It is easy to propagate Frostweed by digging and dividing the rhizomes in winter when the plant is dormant. You can also allow the seedheads to dry on the plant after the flowers have faded. Then remove them and collect the seeds. That way you can easily have more plants to spread around your property or to share with friends. Frostweed for everyone!

Some indigenous peoples used dried Frostweed leaves as ceremonial tobacco. It was also used as medicine for several maladies. Other parts of the plant were used as a laxative to ease gastrointestinal symptoms and urinary tract problems and to help certain eye ailments – so don't let children or pets eat frostweed.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Frostweed

blooms in late summer and through the autumn, providing nectar at a time when most other flowers are fading. Monarch Watch has selected Frostweed as a plant they monitor and encourage.

What's in a Name?

I've left you on the hook long enough. What is this amazing, super-special characteristic that Frostweed shows off in winter? With the first freeze those straight, wing-like stems split at the base and sap comes oozing out and freezes into the most beautiful ribbon-esque sculptures of ice you have ever seen! These ice ribbons curl and flow around and up the stems in the most interesting ways. It is just fascinating! There are many names given to these wonders of nature – ice ribbons, ice flowers, frost beards, frost castles, among others. But you have to get out early to see them, because they melt quickly. These miniature ice sculptures are what give Frostweed its name.

Frostweed (Cont.)

Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Phyllis Pearson Minton



Photo Courtesy Allison, Myra B., Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo Courtesy Allison, Myra B., Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Frostweed Ice Sculptures

If you want a plant that will bring wonder and beauty to your landscape over several seasons – especially at the end of the year – plant a Frostweed in a shady corner, sit back, and watch what it can do! August flowers, a bevy of butterflies, and ice sculptures in winter – who could ask for more!!

Resources

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

"*Verbesina virginica*"

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=vevi3

National Gardening Association

"All About Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*)"

<https://garden.org/ideas/view/frostweed/1367/All-About-Frostweed-Verbesina-virginica/>

If you were unable to attend Betsy Marsh's lecture at our virtual Fall Garden Fest and would like to see it and more, it is archived on the DCMGA YouTube Channel! Give it a look-see!

"Gardens that Give Back: Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5a2HXvkmYs&feature=youtu.be>

The Art of Composting

BY LEE GREER

"Nature demands a gift for every gift it gives, so what we have to keep doing, is returning [leaves and compost materials] back into the soil, then we're continuously giving the gifts to nature, because we have a return cycle." Geoff Lawton – Permaculture Designer and Teacher

Leaves are Falling, and You Know What That Means . . . Compost!

Fall is right behind Spring for my favorite season of the year. The first nip in the air, the color in the trees, and the feelings the holidays bring are comforting to the soul. When the leaves begin to fall, in addition to nip, color, and holiday feelings, we can add another word to your seasonal lexicon: Compost. As a newly minted Master Gardener (Intern), I have come to appreciate nature's fall bounty of leaves. Instead of dreading the rake, I see nourishment for the garden and the benefits from our bounty of free fertilizer and mulch. Except when the leaves fall in my pool; then, I curse them.

What exactly is Composting? Composting has an interesting etymology [1]. Originally, the word compost comes from Latin, *compositus*, the past participle of *componere* or "to put together" and from *com* "with, together"

+ *ponere* "to place." In the fertilizer sense, which is the journey we will begin here, compost is attested in English from as early as the 1580s. To create compost is "to put together" a lot of organic material into a place and let it rot with the magic of microbes, which we'll touch on later.



My Composting Total Fail

If you are like me, you recognize how much waste you create every week when you take out the trash. In the back of your mind, you may know you should be doing a better job of reducing your household waste. We are constantly reminded by the media of the consequences of climate change and the need for more action toward caring for our environment. I was floored by a December 2nd, 2019, article in our local newspaper, *Community Impact* [2]. The article was about the closing of the Lewisville Landfill, managed by Waste Management, which was almost at capacity. According to the article, the Lewisville Mountain of Trash landfill accepts 5000 TONS of garbage A DAY! In the fall when the leaves are dropping all around us,

[1] <https://www.etymonline.com/word/compost>

[2] <https://communityimpact.com/dallas-fort-worth/lewisville-flower-mound-highland-village/environment/2019/12/02/dfw-landfill-in-lewisville-scales-back-business-as-it-nears-capacity/>

The Art of Composting (Cont.)

up to 50% of what goes into landfills is organic matter (LEAVES) (according to some estimates). In other words, half of our trash could be composted and returned to Mother Earth.

But, with work, kids, school, after-school sports, and, oh yeah, we're in the middle of a pandemic(!), it's easy to put off composting your fall leaves, as well as your tea bags, coffee grounds, food scraps, and other organic matter around the house for another day (or year).

One spring day I thought to myself, I can do this. How hard can composting be? Here's how my epic fail at composting went down . . . time for a family meeting! OK, we've decided to take the composting plunge. After a little research and some home landscape surveillance, I buy a compost bin from a big online retailer (55-gallon barrel that lays on its side with a large screw-off opening and, for turning, it rotates on its base). When it arrives, I excitedly open the box, assemble the bin, and decide where to put it . . . yes, right next to the trash can space on the side of the house.

Next, I enthusiastically recruit the entire family to "get on board the compost train!" The spouse, the kid, family, and friends are all in; anyone who comes over quickly learns I am serious about saving the landfill from its annual half a million TONS of compostable waste. So, if it came from a plant, it is organic matter and it does not go down the drain or in the trash. Where does it go? You guessed it. Right in this little bucket (also purchased online) in the kitchen under the sink and when it is full, we dump it in the . . . say it with me . . . C-O-M-P-O-S-T B-I-N.

A few weeks go by and I am feeling particularly good about myself and all I am doing, single-handedly, to stop the earth from warming, and . . . this is when things started to go south. Evidently, it is not as easy as just throwing all your scrap veggies (no oil), fruit, dryer lint, hairbrush hair, grass clippings, leaves, egg shells, tea bags, paper, twigs, coffee grounds, etc., in the bin and voilà! Compost? Well, no.



We eat a lot of fruit at our house. Guess what? Fruit attracts FRUIT FLIES! There were enough fruit flies (and house flies) inside the bin and in our kitchen to carry me off to Brazil. And the smell! OMG. I needed a hazmat suit to endure it. What happened?

I must admit, I took a long hiatus from composting after my epic fail. Little did I know, I had come very close to the ideal conditions for breaking down all our organic matter with minimal pests and without foul odors. With just a few simple tweaks, the composting process would have begun in my bin, with millions of microbes happily and aerobically breaking down our organic garbage. I hope this is good news for you and you will persevere through your own composting learning curve as we enter the leafy fall season.

The Art of Composting (Cont.)

Rules for Rotting – How to Keep Your Microbes Happy

Happy microbes are your main goal when composting. To keep your microbes chomping away at your organic matter, you must know the Rules of Rotting. Use this TLA (three letter acronym) from our friends at The Composting Council to help you remember the 5 components needed for successful composting: ATM3. OK, so that is a TLA + a number, but stay with me. Here they are:

- Air** Our little microbe friends need air to survive and multiply. This is why we need to turn over or rotate the bin/pile. While the composting process can be anaerobic (no oxygen), it's best to stick with the aerobic (with oxygen) process. Research tells us that turning the compost bin/pile every three days is optimal. Don't worry if you miss a few days; just try to turn it twice a week. If you don't turn it that often, it will just take longer for your compost to breakdown.
- Time** When our tiny microbes have all they need to thrive, over time the temperature of the bin/pile will increase. The more microbial activity taking place in the compost pile/bin, the greater the increase in temperature within the materials being composted. Higher temperatures speed the breakdown of organic materials.
- Material** What kind and how much organic matter you add to the compost bin/pile is where those new to composting may feel intimidated – I know I did. Similar to how fertilizer is sold with various ratios of elements, usually N (Nitrogen), P (Phosphorus), and K (Potassium), which are printed on the fertilizer bag, microbial activity in the compost bin/pile is best within a certain ratio of C (Carbon) and N (Nitrogen) sources.

Research tells us the ideal ratio for optimal composting is Carbon to Nitrogen = 30:1. So, how do we get to 30:1? Think Greens = N and Browns = C. Greens are N (Nitrogen) rich and Browns are C (Carbon) rich. Your food scraps are greens. Your fresh cut lawn trimmings are greens, but once they turn brown, well obviously, they're browns. Fall leaves are your best source for brown stuff because they breakdown so quickly.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Lee Greer

Store Your Leaves
in black trash bags with plenty of holes
poked through the sides to let the AIR in.

The Art of Composting (Cont.)

Material (Cont.) The greens have very low carbon to nitrogen ratio, usually 15 parts C to 1 part N. Leaves are more like 60:1. Tree branch/twig is 700:1. Wood is 700:1. So, if you add sawdust (500:1) to bring the ratio down, you'll have to add a whole bunch of greens to get your ratio right.

I keep a couple of large BLACK (more heat absorbent) trash bags full of leaves (with plenty of holes poked through the sides to let the AIR in) next to my compost bin. After dumping a gallon bucket of green stuff in the bin/pile, I then dump enough leaves to thoroughly cover the green stuff I just added. Not very scientific, but it keeps my stress level low. Here's a list of common compostable material and their respective ratios:

Organic material	C:N ratio	Organic material	C:N ratio
Alfalfa hay	12:1	Cornstalks	60:1
Food waste	15:1	Leaves	60:1
Grass clippings	19:1	Straw	80:1
Rotted manure	20:1	Sawdust	500:1
Fruit waste	35:1	Wood	700:1
From <i>Composting and Mulching: A Guide to Managing Organic Landscape Refuse</i> by Wayne J. McLaurin (retired) and Gary L. Wade, Extension Horticulturists, The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.			

"Composting" by Joseph Masabni, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Also, remember, particle size affects how quickly your materials breakdown – the smaller the better. I try to chop up anything larger than a quarter. I chop broccoli stalks, melon rinds, beet greens, etc. Yes, it takes a little extra time, but the results will be worth it.

Also, if you keep your fall leaves in large black trash bags (with holes), the leaves will decompose into a great mulch. So, if you do not use them all in your compost bin/pile, you can use them as mulch in your beds.

The idea is to balance the ratio of green to brown materials to 30 parts brown (Carbon source) for every 1 part green (Nitrogen source). If you struggle with the math, do not worry. Over time, you will learn to adjust your materials based on the results your microbes produce.

Inevitably, composting does go awry. Use the troubleshooting guide that follows to help you diagnose symptoms of unhappy microbes.

The Art of Composting (Cont.)

Moisture Picture a wrung-out sponge. That's about as wet as your compost needs to be. If it's too dry, your microbes can't reproduce. If it's too wet, no air will circulate and microbes will die. If you can squeeze a handful of compost and no water comes out, you've got the right amount of moisture. Again, don't panic if you have too much; remember, water evaporates. If there is room in the compost bucket, I usually add a little water before I take it out to the bin. If the compost looks dry, I'll toss the water in with the contents of the bucket; otherwise, if it looks wet enough, I'll drain the water in the yard before adding the contents. Nevertheless, add water when needed.

Mass Turns out, the compost process suffers if your bin/pile is too small because it dries out too quickly. It needs to be big enough to retain heat and moisture, but small enough so air can penetrate to the center of the bin/pile. Ideally, a bin/pile will be 3 feet in height, length, and depth, $3' \times 3' \times 3' = 27$ sq. ft. My 55-gallon barrel works pretty well. Don't worry if your bin/pile is smaller. Just understand your composting will take longer.

When Things Go Wrong

If you experience any of the problems I encountered, or others, – and you will – use the table below for solutions. In the end, you will learn simple steps to keep your microbes happy. Be persistent and have patience, and know that you are taking a step toward reducing your carbon footprint. Every time a rind, peel, leaf, etc., finds its way back to nature instead of in our water supply or landfill, we are that much closer to lowering the costs our children and their children will pay for the havoc that climate change will wrought.

Happy Composting! And, please reach out to me with any of your questions or concerns. I'd love to hear from you.

Symptoms	Problem	Solution
The compost has a bad odor.	Not enough air	Turn it. Add dry material if the pile is too wet.
The compost is not breaking down, and the center of the pile is dry.	Not enough water	Moisten and turn the pile.
The compost is damp and sweet-smelling but will not heat up.	Not enough nitrogen	Mix in a nitrogen source such as fresh grass clippings, fresh manure, or blood meal.
The compost is damp and warm only in the middle.	Too few materials and too small area	Collect more material and mix the old ingredients into a new, larger pile.

From Composting and Mulching: A Guide to Managing Organic Landscape Refuse by Wayne J. McLaurin (retired) and Gary L. Wade, Extension Horticulturists, The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.

"Composting" by Joseph Masabni, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The Art of Composting (Cont.)

For More Information on Composting Fundamentals:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Composting"

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/composting/>

Water University, "Soil > Composting"

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/soil/composting/>

DCMGA

"Gardening from the ground up - soil and composting"

<https://dcmga.com/files/2019/10/soil-and-composting-2019-final-for-web.pdf>

The Composting Council

<https://www.compostingcouncil.org/>



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

We're pleased to feature
Blake Allredge from the
Upper Trinity Regional Water District,
who will present, "Protecting Water
Sources Starts in Your Yard."

Advance registration is
required.

Free of charge.

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
DENTON COUNTY

DENTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2020

Virtual
**GENERAL MEETING
& PROGRAM**

*Protecting Water Sources
Starts in Your Yard*

PRESENTED BY BLAKE ALLDREDGE, UTRWD

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2020
10:00 AM - 12 NOON
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

UPPER TRINITY
REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

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. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Denton AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Seed Saving

BY BARBARA BROWN AND CAROL NOBLE

Saving seeds provides a sense of food security for you and your family. "Additionally, saving seeds from year to year can help adapt varieties better to the climate you live in," according to Abigail Harper, Michigan State University Extension - March 12, 2018.

Two hundred years ago, there were no companies selling vegetable seeds. There were no big-box stores selling vegetable seedlings. Farmers and home gardeners saved seeds from their gardens by necessity. They chose seeds from the best plants of each variety grown the previous year and often exchanged seeds with their neighbors. Because growing vegetables was considered an essential service for "promoting the general welfare," the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1897 to 1924 freely distributed more than one billion seed packets each year.

Commercial seed production began in the late 1800s and rose to dominance after 1945 with the successful creation of hybrid seeds. "During the 1970s, most small seed firms vanished, as mergers and acquisitions created a new seed industry structure dominated by large companies with primary investments in related sectors." ([The Seed Industry in U.S. Agriculture / AIB-786](#)). The consolidation of seed production into only a few providers has decreased the available varieties of vegetable seeds by about 90 percent, including many flavorful and adaptable heirlooms (University of Maryland, "Seed Saving: Why and How").

How to Save Seeds Successfully

If you want to save seeds, you need to do a bit of planning before planting. Varieties that are wind- or insect-pollinated can be cross-pollinated by related variety. For those types of plants, consider using only one variety during the growing season. Other options to control potential cross-pollination include creating an isolation distance, planting competitors at different times, caging with spun polyester cloth, or protectively covering the plant and pollinating it by hand. *Seed Savers Exchange* offers a guide on [recommended isolation distances](#).

Many heirloom varieties of tomatoes, peppers, beans, and peas are good choices for seed saving because they are open-pollinated, meaning they will produce seeds that are true to type. They are also self-pollinating having both male and female flowers on the same plant. "When saving seed, always harvest from the best. Choose disease-free plants with the qualities you desire."



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Carol Noble

Basil Seeds Ready to Harvest

Seed Saving (Cont.)

Cautions about Seed Saving

Some vegetable plants are protected by a patent. To find out if a plant variety is protected by either the Plant Variety Protection Act or a Utility Patent, you can check the "Plant Variety Protection Office" at <https://apps.ams.usda.gov/CMS/>. Google also maintains a patent search database at <https://patents.google.com/advanced>.

Parting Thoughts

Have fun! Seed saving can be as simple or complicated as you want to make it. Serious seed saving to preserve a species or variety requires a large number of plants and great care to prevent cross-pollination. For the home gardener, it can be as simple as leaving a few beans or okra on the plant until they dry or rinsing and drying the seeds from that especially juicy watermelon. Don't be afraid to try and see what happens!

References and Resources

Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center, "Heirloom Vegetables"

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/heirloom-vegetables/>

USDA, Economic Research Service

"Seed Industry Structure is Characterized by Growth and Consolidation"

https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/42517/13605_aib786g_1_.pdf?v=0

"The Seed Industry in U.S. Agriculture: An Exploration of Data and Information on Crop Seed Markets, Regulation, Industry Structure, and Research and Development"

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=42531>

University of Maryland Extension, "Seed Saving: Why and How"

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/master-gardeners/Montgomery/MG%20class%202017-SEED%20SAVING-%20Why%20and%20How.pdf

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County, "Saving Seed from the Garden"

<http://cceoneida.com/resources/seeds-saving-seeds-from-your-garden>

Seed Savers Exchange, <https://www.seedsavers.org/>

Ashworth, Suzanne, "Seed to Seed," *Seed Saver Exchange* 2002

eOrganic – the Organic Agriculture Community of eXtension, <https://eorganic.org/>

Jim Myers, Oregon State University, "Intellectual Property Protection: What Do I Need to Know When Growing and Breeding Organic Crops and Seed?"

<https://eorganic.org/node/382>

"Organic Seed Resource Guide: Introduction and Table of Contents"

<https://eorganic.org/node/378>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Seed Saving Law: What Farmers Need to Know"

<https://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/2015/02/04/seed-saving-law-what-farmers-need-to-know/>

Holiday Decorating With Nature

BY LORI BARR

Our long hot Texas summer is gone and the season of change is upon us. It's time to start thinking about decorating for the holidays. I like to look to nature, the great outdoors, and the garden for my inspiration and source for creating beautiful wreaths, sprays, table decorations, and home décor.

The beautiful fall palette of colors that is becoming available now is perfect for a fall Thanksgiving inspiration. Collect your favorite trays, pitchers, bowls, and

treasured containers to create the perfect center piece. Using nature as your source, collect branches with leaves that have turned to orange, yellow, and brown. Acorns, pine cones, and grasses add interest and texture, as do gourds, dried corn, and pumpkins. Gourds are best when dried* and preserved to prevent pest infestation.



***Download the DCMGA Handout "Preparing Gourds for Projects."**
<https://dcmga.com/files/2020/04/Gourd-Handout-new-logo.pdf>

Fall asters, chrysanthemums, dusty miller, and rudbeckia are some favorites for outdoor plantings, as well as when used in indoor arrangements.

Thriller, Filler, Spiller

When creating container plantings, I utilize the technique of "thriller, filler, and spiller" to ensure interest and balance. Thriller being the tall grasses for height, filler being the asters or mums that fill the container, and spiller such as creeping jenny and ivy that fall over the edges of the container. Balance comes from selecting contrasting or coordinating monochromatic colors in your choices of plantings.

Don't be afraid to use fresh flowers and greenery from your garden or the local floral supplier to add another layer to your home décor. Cut flowers and greenery will stay beautiful longer when floral foam that holds water is used in the base of your container. Soak your flowers and greenery before arranging and be sure to add water frequently.

Holiday Decorating With Nature (Cont.)

When transitioning to the Christmas holiday, once again I go to the garden and nature for my inspiration. Pine boughs, holly sprigs, evergreen branches, and pine cones are only a few of the choices to create front porch décor with interest and appeal.

Magnolia leaves, pine cones, holly sprigs, and pine branches make incredible door wreaths when worked into a wire holder. Add a perfectly tied bow and your holiday wreath is ready for hanging.



good cause, and with added details such as pine cones, holly berries, and a perfectly tied bow and added ribbon, they create the impact and excitement I am looking for.

The smell of pine and cinnamon or peppermint and vanilla are a welcome scent for any home. Utilize extra pine sprigs and cinnamon sticks tied together, or peppermints sticks and vanilla beans, and add to your holiday greenery to bring another layer of holiday festivities to your home.



Small pieces of rosemary and thyme sprigs added to a candle floating inside another glass container add a pleasant aroma as well as visual appeal.

I have been known to support local school fundraisers and purchase pre-made pine wreaths, door sprays, and pine boughs to decorate my home. They save time, support a



Garden Visits

Doubletree Ranch Park

BY JANICE GOETZ

Editor's Note: Since most of us are still not traveling, we are highlighting a local garden that everyone can visit and maintain social distancing protocols.

I visited Doubletree Ranch Park in Highland Village in mid-October. This is a project DCMGA should be very proud to be a part of. The park is beautiful and teeming with life! I have camped in eight state parks in the past two months and saw almost as much wildlife in two hours at Doubletree Ranch Park as I did in all the state parks. The birds were all from ONE tree in the park! Thanks to all who have contributed to the beautiful pollinator garden. It is gorgeous!

Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz



Garden Visits (Cont.)

Doubletree Ranch Park is a project worked with the Highland Village Parks and Recreation Department at the Pavilion Gardens. This project:

- Educates the community on native plants.
- Educates the community on pollinator garden and benefits of butterflies.
- Conducts tree talks highlighting tree varieties, pruning, proper planting and maintenance.

You can read more about Doubletree Ranch Park in the December 2018 issue of *The Root*. Look for "The Spotlight" article by Kathy Rainey on Page 4. And you can visit Doubletree Ranch Park at 310 Highland Village Rd, Highland Village, TX 75077.

Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz



Fall Garden Fest WrapUp

BY SHARRIE ELY



Fall Garden Fest ONLINE!

took place on Saturday, October 3, 2020 with a slate of four speakers addressing garden topics specific to North Texas Gardeners. These topics included vegetable gardens, turf, fall garden tips, and native plants in the landscape. Speakers Dr. Hennen Cummings, Dee Nash, Toni Morehead, and Betsy Marsh presented educational information to attendees from North Texas and other parts of Texas and Oklahoma.

Prizes were awarded at the live event with donations from Texas Gardener magazine and gifts from Painted Flower Farm. Also presented as prizes were ten AgriLife Water University Top 100 Plants for North Texas card sets, six gardening books, and three rain barrels.

Over 100 registrants attended each event. In case you weren't able to attend, three of the four talks are currently available on the Denton County Master Gardener Association YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMNNuyi2A>



The Fall Garden Fest team did a lot of work behind the scenes to present this educational opportunity to the North Texas Community. Thank you to everyone that helped us present this DCMGA event and opportunity for North Texas gardeners.

Join us next year on
October 2, 2021,
for this free annual
horticultural event.



Proposed 2021 Board of Directors

With CEA-Hort Janet Laminack's approval, the Nominating Committee has assembled a proposed slate of officers to serve as our Association's 2021 Board of Directors.

The slate will be presented to the membership in October with elections held at the November 18th General Meeting. (Please note that the November 18th General Meeting is the third Wednesday of the month, as our usual second Wednesday falls on Veterans Day this year.)

Per Section 6. of the Bylaws, each term of office is one year, and all offices have a two-year consecutive elected term limit, which means that folks may be elected for the same position two years in a row.

President: Kathryn Wells (2017)
Vice President - Projects: Joanne Spurgin (2019)
Vice President - Outreach: Kathy Rainey (2017)
Secretary: Katherine Woodward (2013)
Treasurer: Jolayne LaCour (2014)
Communications Director - Systems: Cheryl Huckabee (2018)
Communications Director - Promotions: Kathi Fast (2016)
Education Director: Barbara Brown (2010)
Member at Large: Tammie Gurley (2014)
Immediate Past President (a non-elected position): Pat Moyer (2013)

Brief biographies of each nominee will be provided to the membership via email and in the November issue of *The Root*.

Many thanks to this year's stellar Nom Com team members:

Jolayne LaCour, Chair (2014)
Karen Roberts, Vice Chair (2016)
Jerry Alexander (2015)
Randy Condit (2020)
Beckey Cortines (2020)
Cheryl Huckabee (2018)
Sue Hudiburgh (2008)



Proposed 2021 Board of Directors Bios

Position: President

Name: Kathryn Wells

Class of 2017

I like being part of DCMGA because: It's a privilege and a pleasure to work with like-minded, garden-loving people as we educate and engage our community...and continue to educate ourselves. It's also a joy to learn about each other's gifts, passions, skills, talents, and lives beyond gardening. Everyone has something to contribute to our mission, and those individual offerings all complement the collective whole. I've enjoyed working with and serving on many wonderful programs and committees. There are numerous ways to be involved, stay engaged, and find your niche(s)!

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: Having served as Communications Director (2018), Vice President (2019), and President (2020), I've become more familiar with the association's fundamental framework. Much effort, planning, and work is required to help our association run effectively and efficiently. Our Board members serve many hours to ensure that our structure is sound; their work is often unnoticed, which is a good thing! That means all is running well.

As the association continues to grow, additional work is required not just to maintain what we've been doing and how we've been doing it but to proactively stay ahead of the proverbial curve...building on our great foundation, capitalizing on what's working well, and looking ahead at how we can best serve the future interests of our association, our members, and, most importantly, our community.

As 2018 Communications Director, I was privileged to work with many of our programs and committees. As 2019 Vice President, I learned even more about our projects ... and the wonderful folks who make them happen. As 2020 President, well, I learned to innovate the way we educate and engage our members and the community we serve during a time when traditional in-person methods were hampered by virtual and socially distanced protocols.

I look forward to serving our members, our association, and our community as we celebrate our 32nd (and, hopefully, Covid-free!) year.

Proposed 2021 Board of Directors Bios

Position: Vice President - Programs

Name: Joanne Spurgin

Class of 2019

I like being part of DCMGA because: I care about the long-term success of this organization. As VP-Projects in 2020, I've been exposed to the many different external and internal projects, administrative functions and people involved in making things work. The people have been wonderful and I enjoy what I learn from my relationships with other DCMGA members.

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: I have also seen the struggles to adapt to our current environment. Every successful business has a "business continuity plan" in place to ensure its survival. The pandemic has forced DCMGA to look at our critical needs more closely. During 2020 the Board has spent many hours working to adapt and adjust so that we keep members engaged and we continue supporting our mission of education. I look forward to supporting the evolving changes needed to ensure DCMGA continues as the great organization it has become. And I long for the return of social gatherings where we all get our strength and which DCMGA is so good at offering to our members and the public.

Position: Vice President - Outreach

Name: Kathy Rainey

Class of 2017

I like being part of DCMGA because: Being a part of DCMGA has been so rewarding to me because it enables me to spend time with the people who share the same passion for gardening. The variety of ways we can continue our horticulture education fulfills my personal need to keep learning, and the variety of volunteer opportunities gives me a sense of purpose which keeps me inspired to try new things.

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: I'd like to continue the outreach strategy and efforts started in 2020 by continuing to propose collaborations between DCMGA and public, private, and non-profit entities who share common goals for beautiful and sustainable landscapes. Continuing our work with Denton County, cities within the county, HOAs, Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates and others will enable DCMGA to increase its educational reach to residents, while providing master gardeners a wide variety of projects that strengthen their skills and increase their knowledge of horticulture.

Proposed 2021 Board of Directors Bios

Position: Secretary

Name: Katherine Woodard

Class of 2013

I like being part of DCMGA because: I like that we are the educational outreach for Texas A&M AgriLife in Denton County. Not only do we get to learn sustainable gardening information backed by research, but it is our mission to help the community by spreading that knowledge. There is the additional benefit of helping to create beauty in our own gardens and in the community, while also having fun with friends.

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: Although this will be my seventh year as a Denton County Master Gardener, I still feel the best way to feel a part of the organization, get to know it and the people within it, is to serve on the Board of Directors.

Position: Treasurer

Name: Jolayne LaCour

Class of 2014

I like being part of DCMGA because: Working beside and getting to know our awesome DCMGA members who share their knowledge is so rewarding. As we work to engage and educate our community, we enhance ourselves while also enriching Denton County.

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: I hope to serve and help shape the future of our organization. Having served as Secretary (2016), helped lead the Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Sessions (since 2016), Denton County Soil & Water Conservation (DCSWC) Tree Distribution (2016 – 2018), serving with the Plant Sale (since 2014), Children's Garden, Water Team, SWat, Garden Tour, and many other of our community outreach activities, I look forward to the upcoming year as we have opportunities to improve and increase educational activities in our community.

I have served and continue to serve a variety of non-profit organizations in multiple offices, including treasurer, in the fields of education, church, youth, and engineering. As treasurer and software engineer, I have managed budgets varying from \$17K to \$M.

Proposed 2021 Board of Directors Bios

Position: Education Director

Name: Barbara Brown

Class of 2010

I like being part of DCMGA because: I enjoy helping people succeed in growing gardens and beautifying their landscape in a sustainable way. The training Master Gardeners receive adds so much to the depth of our knowledge and adds credibility to our message when we engage with others.

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: Education is one of the two pillars of our mission...to educate and engage. We have so much knowledge to share and such enthusiasm in doing the sharing. I look forward to helping further our success in providing research-based information to the citizens of Denton County through opportunities made available by our many projects.

Position: Communications Director-Systems

Name: Cheryl Huckabee

Class of 2018

I like being part of DCMGA because: When I was considering retirement a very wise friend advised me to be sure I was retiring to something I enjoy rather than retiring from my career. I have always enjoyed gardening. Although my family and career responsibilities consumed nearly all of my time, I always found a way to squeeze in time for gardening around my home. I'm so glad I chose to retire to become a Texas Master Gardener and part of the Denton County Master Gardener Association. It has been so fulfilling to enrich both my gardening expertise and to share that expertise with the community. Equally satisfying is the opportunity to work with other passionate gardeners.

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: Being a member of the board of directors is another welcome opportunity to further serve the mission of the Denton County Master Gardeners Association.

During my time with DCMGA, I served many hours on the Help Desk and authoring the Help Desk Question of the Week. My service also includes the Garden Tour, Plant Sale, and "Ask a Master Gardener" at the Fall Garden Fest and Veggie, Fruit and Flower Show. I have many years of professional experience leading teams as a senior management executive in the retail

Proposed 2021 Board of Directors Bios

industry, and, most recently as a certified project management professional in the software industry. In those roles, clear, concise, and relevant communication with all levels of the organization was critical to successful results.

By leveraging my experience and skills I hope to contribute additional value to DCMGA and the community in the position of Director of Communications – Systems. As a bonus, I will continue to expand my gardening knowledge and work with many more dedicated master gardeners.

Position: Communications Director-Promotions

Name: Kathi Fast

Class of 2016

I like being part of DCMGA because: DCMGA provides multiple opportunities to gain knowledge and share this knowledge with friends, fellow members, and the community. You also "work" with like-minded members sharing the same passions and adding new ones!

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: I look forward to serving on the Board. My first years as a DCMGA member, I "worked" as many projects as I could. This afforded me the opportunity to meet fellow members as well as the public while learning and sharing the gained knowledge through these experiences. It was also beneficial in writing award submissions highlighting our organization to the TMGA and met my need to find new challenges. I look forward to working with everyone in promoting their projects, interests, and/or passions.

Position: Member at Large

Name: Tammie Gurley

Class of 2014

I like being part of DCMGA because: We have an absolutely incredible membership & I LOVE telling everyone about how wonderful we are!! We have a group whose knowledge is so vast...and love to share with each other & those outside of our organization!

I look forward to serving on the 2021 Board because: I have really enjoyed working as MaL this past year and would love to continue that work. Being a liaison between the members & board has been very fulfilling! LOVE getting to know each other better.



DCMGA Project News

What's Growing On

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



It's been an interesting year! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and went above and beyond this year to help DCMGA continue its mission.

Project Review Committee:

Every year in the fall, project managers submit Project Continuation Forms to give updates on their projects and help to build the next year's work plan and budget. This year, because of the COVID pandemic, most projects were put on hold so results of these projects could not be evaluated. In the best interest of DCMGA, a Projects Review Committee is being established to help us identify our key areas of impact by reviewing and evaluating our current projects and future needs then present recommendations to the Board as we look ahead to 2022. The committee will also evaluate future project initiations prior to Board consideration and contribute to budget proposal recommendations and leadership selections.

Technology Management Committee:

Responding and adapting to this year's unexpected challenges has highlighted our need and dependency on technology to effectively manage our organization. In fact, the DCMGA 2017 Retention & Engagement Committee Action Plan recommended this item: Increase Use of Technology to Help Connect, Promote and Train/Skill Build Our Members. To accomplish this, a new Technology Management Committee is being formed to develop a strategic plan to organize and manage our technology needs while also accommodating various skill levels of DCMGA members. With the increasing demands placed on all of us, establishing a strategic plan allows us to develop continuity and provide our members the tools to be successful. The additional benefit is that with proper management we all can devote more time to our love of gardening.

Openings for 2021 Project Managers, Assistant Project Managers and Committee Leaders:

We have several leadership positions that will be opening for 2021. After the new Project Review Committee has met to establish a process for succession planning, an email will be sent to all members with the information.

Training for videoconferencing using Zoom:

Videoconferencing is here to stay and DCMGA is using it regularly for meetings. In fact, the first Zoom training for managers was on Friday, October 26. Additional training and/or a refresher will be offered soon if you missed that session.

Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.

~ Albert Camus



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.

.....

AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

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

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/UCbp4wkcScRVoHlN3Hi1_KUQ/

Chat with Green Aggies

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

This and Every Thursday at 12:12 pm

ONE SINGLE registration link

https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJotc0IrqDkiH9w6M_JofkPxSnM-8ZHvqqfz

Pick any or all Chat for every week on Thursday until Oct 29, 2020 -- 10 occurrence(s).

All previous recordings:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH)

[list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH)

Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas AgriLife posts great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook. There are about 50 presentations here, and more are added frequently. 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.

Online Education Opportunities (Cont.)

DCMGA General Meeting CE Presentations

"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"

"Preserving the Harvest:

"Growing Green and Saving Blue,"

Daniel Cunningham, AgriLife

"Gardens Gone Wild"

"Getting Buggy"

Business meetings

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

DCMGA Fall Garden Fest Presentations

Dr. Hennen Cummings at 10:00 am Presenting

"Your North Texas Turf Needs"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=EpMG6dvYdEY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpMG6dvYdEY)

Toni Moorehead at 1:30 pm Presenting

"Fall/Winter Tips & To-do's for North Central Texas Gardens"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=sjCVnRQyX74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjCVnRQyX74)

Betsy Marsh at 3:00 p.m. Presenting

"Gardens that Give Back: Lovely, Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=G5a2HXvkmYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5a2HXvkmYs)

Citrus Varieties Gardening on the Gulf Coast

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Stephen Brueggerhoff, Extension Agent – Horticulture

<https://youtu.be/wSIRjQJnxhE>

BRIT (Botanical Research Institute of Texas) Brown Bag Lecture Series

"The commonness of rarity—evolution and endemism in South American clubmosses"

by Dr. Weston Testo

Tuesday, November 3rd, Noon – 1:00 pm

More info at: <https://bit.ly/3iXsu9Y>

"Textiles from Trees: Ugandan Bark Cloth"

by Lesli Robertson

Tuesday, December 1st, Noon – 1:00 pm

More info at: <https://bit.ly/34R6sB2>

AgriLife Water University Youtube

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwRrzQNaWP4EJVMTru48GA>

[zQNaWP4EJVMTru48GA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwRrzQNaWP4EJVMTru48GA)

No Facebook Required



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>



BY HELP DESK TEAM

Q: I planted several perennials like coneflower, lantana, and salvia in my flower beds this past spring. Many of them appear to have stopped flowering this month. Should I cut them back now in October?

A: This is a very good question. As with most ornamental plants, the timing of when you maintain them is important to their health and attractiveness in your landscape. Let's start with a simple botany lesson on the differences in the plant classifications of herbaceous perennial plants vs. woody perennial plants. The plant classification is important in their maintenance.

Herbaceous plants have soft and flexible stems where woody plants have strong and inflexible stems. Herbaceous plants can have perennial, biennial, or annual life spans. Most woody plants have perennial life spans with stems that live for several years adding new growth in height and width each year (shrubs and trees). Herbaceous perennial plants are those that die down to the ground each year but whose roots remain alive and send up new growth each year.

In general, herbaceous perennials such as those you planted last spring should be cut back to near the soil level, 2" to 6" high, when their foliage and stems freeze after a couple of hard freezes have occurred. In North Central Texas, the first freeze typically occurs in mid-November.

There are a few exceptions to this rule of thumb. Perennials that provide food for birds should be left standing through the winter, cutting them back in late winter or early spring before they put out new growth. Also, perennials that add interest to your landscape in winter should be left standing until early spring.

Here are some tips on what and when to cut back and which to leave standing until early spring.

Leave standing, cutting back in late winter or early spring:

- Ornamental grasses for winter interest
- Perennials that provide food for birds such as sedums, coneflower, black-eyed Susans, sunflower, and coreopsis
- Tender perennials such as garden mums, hyssop, red hot poker, and Montauk daisy should be left standing as their foliage provides some protection for their roots
- Low growing evergreen or semi-evergreen plants such as hardy geranium, heuchera, hellebores, dianthus, and moss phlox

Prune or shape only after frost:

These herbaceous perennials should be cut back to prune or shape only, typically removing 50% of the plant. Examples include damianita daisies, mistflower, Turk's cap, blackfoot daisy, salvias, and sages.



Cut back the flower stalks, leave new basal leaf growth after frost:

Perennials such as yarrow, shasta daisy, and globe thistle will put out new foliage at their base in the fall. With these, you should remove the flower stalks after a couple of hard freezes and leave the new basal leaf growth in place.

Cut back to near ground level after frost:

Many herbaceous perennials fall into this maintenance category. The leaves and stems of these plants will blacken or turn brown after a hard freeze and they will appear to die back to the ground. Cut back these to near ground level, leaving 2" as a reminder of their location next spring. Examples include flame acanthus, gaura, Texas star hibiscus, rock rose, skullcap, canna, garden phlox, hosta, peony, daylilies, brunnera, speedwell, and many more. A couple of exceptions include lantana which should be cut back to 6" and Texas columbine which grows foliage in winter and should not be cut back until after the spring bloom.

How to cut back:

- Wait until after a couple of hard frosts have occurred before beginning to cut back.
- Use bypass clippers or loppers because they make clean cuts rather than crushing the stems.
- Remove all plant debris including any on the soil under the plant. If the stems or leaves show signs of disease discard them in the trash, do not compost them.

Thanks again for your question. Your herbaceous perennial plants will reward you next spring with beautiful flowers and foliage because of your tender loving care this fall!

Help Desk Pruning Sources & Resources:

Plant Classification

- "Garden Terms: Plant Classification" (Herbaceous vs. Woody, p.2)– *University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Extension*

General Perennial Plant Pruning

- "Cutting Down Perennials in the Fall" – *PennState Extension*
- "Plant Answers: Pruning" – *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Aggie Horticulture*

Specific Plant Maintenance

- "Native Plant Database" – *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*
- "Plant Finder" – *Missouri Botanical Garden*



*If you have questions about pruning or any 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.*



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

President	Kathryn Wells
Vice-President - Projects	Joanne Spurgin
Vice-President - Outreach	Kathy Rainey
Secretary	Katherine Woodward
Treasurer	Joe Beckett
Communications Dir. - Systems	Liz Moyer
Communications Dir. - Promotions	Treva McFadden
Education Director	Barbara Brown
Member-at-Large	Tammie Gurley
Past President	Pat Moyer
Extension Agent - Horticulture	Janet Laminack

Social Media

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

November 18 November General Meeting (Virtual) - Election of 2021 Officers

December 9 Holiday Celebration (Virtual) - DDCMGA Members

Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Joseph A. Carroll Building
401 W. Hickory Street
Suite 112
Denton TX 76201-9026

Office: 940.349.2883

Help Desk:

940.349.2892

master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

Webmaster:

dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com

Communications:

dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

Content

Submission deadline for the December edition of *The Root* is Sunday, November 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.

<https://dcmga.com>