

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



2019 DCMGA Plant Sale

Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy April, Friends!

Spring has sprung here in North Texas, and, each day, many of us are happily discovering renewed life in our gardens. The season affords us the joy of assessing our landscapes, appreciating what's there, and adding even more!

To help you with that last point, after a two-year, Covid-induced hiatus, we are delighted to spring forward once again with our annual public plant sale – hooray! So, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23rd; we'll be headquartered at Trinity United Methodist Church (633 Hobson Lane, Denton). The sale will open at 9 am and run until 2 pm (or sellout) ... rain or shine. (Hopefully, shine!)

And, looking ahead to May, behold! Our annual Garden Tour is also back on the schedule! Tickets are now on sale for the May 7th event, and we can't wait to see you!

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

WHAT'S GROWING ON

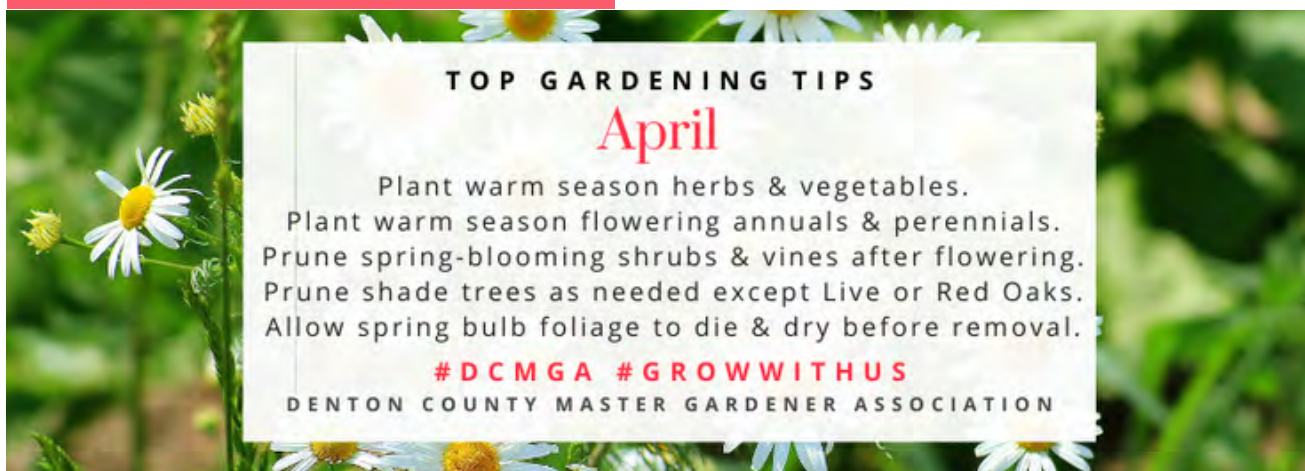
-
- 01 Buds From The Board
 - 03 Spotlight:
Plant Sale Project
 - 05 Children's Garden
 - 07 Meet Sherri Ursini
 - 09 Big Sky Oasis Ranch -
Garden Tour Preview
 - 12 Plant of the Month:
Mexican Mint Marigold
 - 16 Feature - Garden Bed
Preparation
 - 21 Make Your Yard a
Monarch Butterfly
Sanctuary
 - 24 Leopard Plant
 - 25 Design Your Yard Recap
 - 29 DCMGA Resources &
Education
Opportunities
 - 30 Help Desk Q&A:
Materials for Plant
Container

Buds From The Board (Cont.)

National Volunteer Week is April 17th—23rd, and our Denton County Master Gardeners and interns are the very best of the bunch! Every Denton County MGA project and program is carefully and thoughtfully chosen to fulfill and further our mission: educating and engaging county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that sustain gardens, landscapes, and communities. And, behind every project and program are the individuals who selflessly serve, lending their time and talents to support our Association and our community. Thanks to each and every one of you; what a pleasure and privilege to serve with you!

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you bring life to this land! May your gardens multiply and prosper—filled to overflowing with your very favorites—this month and every month. And, if you need more plants to reach that fullness in your gardens, 😊 well, you know where to find us on April 23rd.

Kathryn



Plant Sale Project

BY DON EDWARDS, PAT EDWARDS, LIZ MOYER, KATHY RAINEY

After an unfortunate two-year break from offering Denton County area residents our cherished plant sale, we are back and better than ever! The annual Plant Sale is one of the most popular and well attended events offered to the public by Denton County Master Gardeners. This year the Plant Sale is April 23 from 9 am to 2 pm (or until sellout) at Trinity United Methodist Church, 633 Hobson Lane, Denton. This is a rain or shine event.

The 2022 plant sale will offer over 130 different genera of plants, sometimes ten to twenty species within a genus, and often another five or ten named varieties within a species. As in prior years, customers can expect over 5000 plants including nursery plants and pass-alongs, thirty new varieties, one to two new species and a great variety of succulents. Plants are set out according to their care needs and growth habits, such as Native Plants, Full Sun, Part Sun, Shade, etc. All plants, including pass-alongs, will have care labels.

The Plant Sale is DCMGA's biggest fundraising event, which enables and supports educational outreach and projects. Goals remain the same each year: to introduce new concepts and techniques and continuously improve engagement with the public in the implementation of research-based horticulture and environmental practices for sustainable gardens and landscapes by providing a quality selection of plants. The pass-along plants are Master Gardener grown plants that serve as "proof of success," and the plant sale itself provides opportunities for interaction between Master Gardeners and the public.



Plants are set out according to their care needs and growth habits.

Our salespeople are Master Gardeners who have many years of experience gardening in our area. We are available to share our expertise, answer questions, and make recommendations. Most of the plants we sell are native or well-adapted plants. We know them and grow them. To help our less-experienced customers solve their landscape problems, we ask them about their soil, their sunlight, their ability to provide water, the size of the area they are working, and the vision they are trying to achieve.

Plant Sale Project (Cont.)

If you're planning to attend the plant sale, come early for the best selection. If you like to browse leisurely, the initial buying rush is over by around 10:30 am. In either case, feel free to bring your own wagon or cart. Master Gardeners are on hand to help with selection, plant identification, and care. An "Ask a Master Gardener" booth will have volunteers with expertise on garden design and print materials related to gardening, soil conditioning, and much more. One area that is popular with many shoppers is the "make an offer" table, stocked with various plants, bulbs, and rhizomes available for a negotiated price.

We look forward to seeing you there! 🌸



**Don & Pat Edwards, Plant Sale Project Managers (top left),
Master Gardeners answer your plant questions (top right),
Plant Sale attendees lined up and waiting for the opening signal.**

The Children's Garden

BY LIZ MOYER

The Children's Garden at Fair Oaks is open to parents and their children to learn about gardening through planting, maintaining, and harvesting vegetables and herbs. Dana Bays along with Mike Crawford develop a master calendar based on the vegetable growing season from seeds or transplants to maturity. The children harvest the vegetables and herbs the Thursday prior to DCMGA's Veggie, Flower, Herb, and Fruit Show on a Saturday in June. Many children enter produce from the garden in the Show.

Due to the increased number attending, the children and their parents are divided into two groups that rotate between working in the garden beds and participating in interactive activities that complement the garden theme of the week. Marilyn Crouse and Barney Sanborn coordinate the interactive activities that range from beautifully illustrated children's garden books to making a microgreen container for their home.

The goals of the program are:

- Children and parents learn about gardening through planting, maintaining and harvesting vegetables and herbs.
- Children learn gardening etiquette and rules.
- Children interact with senior residents of Fair Oaks by planting vegetables and herbs in containers in their gardens.
- Children's Garden also provides fresh vegetables and herbs for Fair Oaks residents.
- Children participate in interactive activities related to gardening, e.g. worms, composting, identifying trees, butterfly lifecycle.

All residents of the area are invited to bring their children or grandchildren in the Children's Garden program on Thursday mornings during the month of April. Check the Children's Garden flyer on page 33 for exact time and programs.

Last year, after the Children's Garden ended, we harvested over 100 pounds of garden fresh vegetables for the residents.

Editor's Note: May's Program Spotlight will be the Fair Oaks project mentioned in the above Children's Garden article.

The Children's Garden (Cont.)

DCMGA Children's Garden



Fairoaks Hosts the Children's Garden



Meet Sherri Ursini

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

"Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one."

~ Unknown

Sherri gets excited when she talks about how gardening has connected her family for many generations.

Her 8 X great-grandfather from 10 generations back was an immigrant from England and an "Ancient Planter." "Ancient planter" was a term applied to early colonists who migrated to the Colony of Virginia in what is now the United States, when the Virginia Company of London managed the colony. They received land grants if they stayed in the colony for at least three years. Under the terms of the "Instructions to Governor Yeardley" (issued by the London Company in 1618), these colonists received the first land grants in Virginia. (Source: Wikipedia)

Sherri has a copy of his land grant. Her great-great-grandfather was a German immigrant and farmer in Iowa. "I have farmers throughout my genealogy," Sherri shared.

Growing up in northern Illinois, Sherri spent many hours pulling weeds in their large vegetable garden and helped her mother and grandmother can and preserve their harvests. Her childhood home was a historic landmark with an old croquet court that all the town residents played on "back in the day." Her grandmother lovingly tended the flowers surrounding the court and grew beautiful gladiolas.



Sherri Ursini
2021 Vegetable, Fruit,
Flower & Herb Show
Reserve Grand Champion,
Adult Division (Sunflower)



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Sherri Ursini

Sherri has learned to use her garden space efficiently by growing eggplants, beans, and cucumbers on trellises against the fence.

Meet Sherri Ursini (Cont.)

She and her family lived in northern Illinois until mid-2012, where they grew hostas and had 27 giant oak trees. Her sons submitted entries each year at the local farm fair. They won 1st place for the biggest sunflower one year!

Sherri had to adapt to completely different growing conditions when they moved to the southeast corner of Denton County in the summer of 2012. Daniel Cunningham, formerly with AgriLife Water University and now co-owner of RootedIn, was her best teacher. From him, she learned to amend our clay soil, harvest rainwater in a rain barrel, and how to make the right plants thrive here. And, lucky for us, Daniel introduced her to the Master Gardener program!

"A small hobbit garden" is how Sherri describes her current landscape. She's learned to use her garden space efficiently by growing eggplants, beans, and cucumbers on trellises against the fence and herbs year-round in a tall planter tower. Her grandmother's beautiful flowers drew her to growing dahlias in raised beds. Look for her article "My Friend Dahlia" in the February 2022 issue of *The Root*.

She dreams of designing a healing labyrinth garden filled with native and adaptive plants, a place for personal contemplation and renewal. Two books fueling her dream are *Materia Medica of Western Herbs* by Carole Fisher and *Herbal Medicine Natural Remedies: 150 Herbal Remedies to Heal Common Ailments* by Anne Kennedy.



Greenstalk Garden for Growing Herbs



Eggplants and Peppers



Preserving Stevia

Meet Sherri Ursini (Cont.)

There's no slowing Sherri down in 2022! She's dabbling in writing for DCMGA, volunteering for the upcoming Plant Sale, and growing some of her beautiful dahlias for the sale. She's a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas Trinity Forks Chapter and is registered for their Level 1 Introduction to Native Landscaping certification class in May. Looking forward to 2023, she is a Captain for one of the DCMGA Garden Tour homes.



Dahlia



Sunflower

With generations of gardeners in her blood, her thirst for knowledge, and high energy, there's no doubt that Sherri will achieve all her gardening dreams. 🌻



Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

Click on "Videos" and check out our new presentations!

And don't forget to subscribe!

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

2022 Garden Tour Preview

BY REBECCA FRIDLEY

Please plan to join us for the 2022 Garden Tour, May 7, 9 am to 4 pm.

Self-guided tours of four beautiful Denton County properties will inspire and delight you.

Master Gardener docents will be onsite to help you learn about all the beautiful plants and gardening techniques. Tickets are available NOW at dcmga.com.

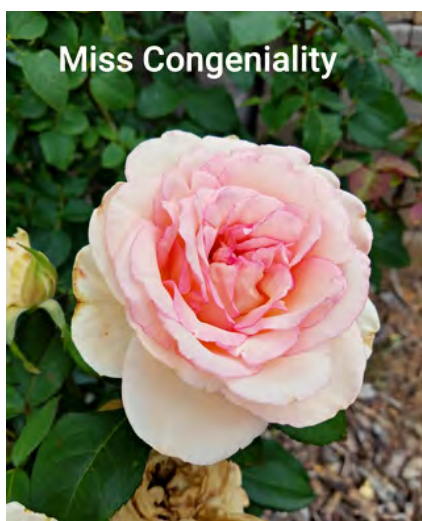
Big Sky Oasis Ranch

Along the 377 corridor, north of 380, is a beautiful area known as North Texas Horse Country, USA. The Big Sky Oasis Ranch in Pilot Point is a twenty-acre tranquil retreat where the owners spent years breeding and raising the strong yet gentle-natured American Morgan Horse.

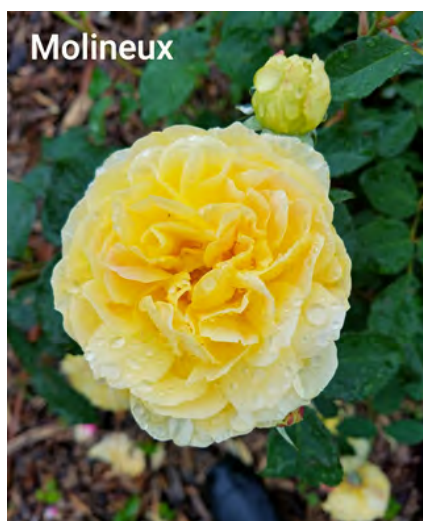
A retired equestrian, the homeowner enjoys creating and maintaining various spectacular gardens on her property and shares this love of horticulture with fellow Master Gardeners and the community. She is known to say that "gardening, whether landscape or vegetables, is about the process."

You will not want to miss the homeowner's favorite garden, a salsa garden featuring tomatoes, peppers, onions, and cucumbers in raised beds and containers. This technique reduces weed growth and simplifies crop rotation. One secret to vegetable garden success year after year is to keep a garden journal and a diagram of each vegetable location of each raised bed.

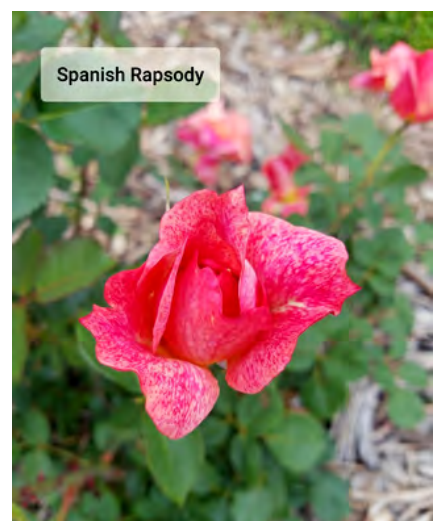
In addition to vegetable gardens, you'll see a beautiful display of rose varieties, from high-centered hybrid tea look-alikes to shrub types. The Sweet Pea Rose shrub is full of brilliant lavender and mauve blooms, sure to dazzle the eye.



Miss Congeniality



Molineux



Spanish Rhapsody

Big Sky Oasis Ranch (Cont.)

The loveliness of the Crepe Myrtles, from the elegant white flowers of the full-size Natchez to the vibrant pink of the Muskogee to the deep red of the Dynamite Semi-Dwarf, is a spectacular sight to behold.

Visitors will also delight in the purple-pink blossoms of the Bubba Desert Willow that lead up to the lavender blossoms of the Vitex trees around the circle drive. Don't forget to savor the beauty of the ornamental grasses on the property before leaving.

This Master Gardener's gardening philosophy is that the process is ever-evolving and meant to be enjoyed. Much is learned from successes and mistakes. Just move forward doing what you can, with what you have, when you can, and it will all come together.



**Dynamite Semi-Dwarf
Crepe Myrtle**

Don't miss these must-see gardens at the Big Sky Oasis on Saturday, May 7, 2022! 



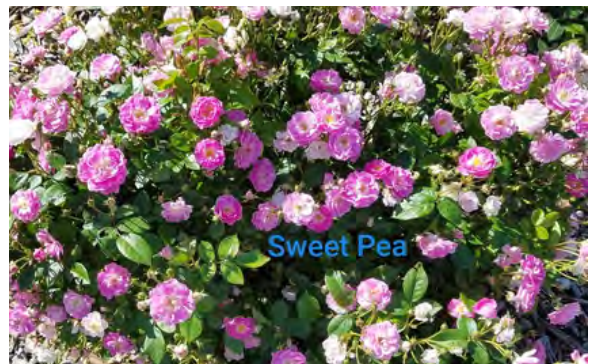
Asparagus Bed



Raised Vegetable Beds



Merlin, an American Morgan Horse



So Many Roses!

Plant of the Month – Mexican Mint Marigold

BY BARBARA BROWN

I am a big fan of Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes lucida*) plants. It is an easy to grow perennial native of Central American origin and offers multiple benefits to gardeners. It is an herbaceous plant that deserves a place in an herb bed or vegetable garden. With its fall flowers, it attracts migrating butterflies and other pollinators. It can also be used as an attractive mid-level plant in layered landscapes. And, the pièce de résistance for some of us, it serves as a tarragon-flavored herb that can substitute for French tarragon, which is challenging to grow in North Central Texas.

Plant Description

Mexican Mint Marigold is known by many names including Texas Tarragon, Mexican Tarragon, mint marigold, sweet mace, and yerba anise. Although it is a member of the marigold family, it is not a mint. The transplants are usually available in the spring at local nurseries or plants may be started from seed. I wish I could say that Mexican Mint Marigold plants will behave perfectly in your landscape or garden beds. But I must confess that they can spread a bit. However, the extra plants are easy to remove and can be planted elsewhere or shared.



Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

Mexican Mint Marigold Flower

Mexican tarragon grows 2 to 3 feet tall with upright, unbranched stems. The leaves are narrow and linear with a medium green color. The blooms are clusters of small yellow flowers showing up in late summer and remaining through fall. The flowers are self-pollinating with bright yellow heads about one-half inch across. Mexican Mint Marigold plants usually die to the ground in North Texas winters and then return from the roots as spring temperatures warm the soil.

Caring for Mexican Mint Marigolds

Select a location that receives full sun or just a bit of afternoon shade. Although not too picky about soil, Mexican Mint Marigold likes soil that contains lots of organic material to provide nutrients that support growth. They need good drainage and a bit of supplemental water during summer dry spells.

When purchasing transplants, check to make sure the plant is healthy. There should not be spots or marks on the leaves and you want to see evidence of new growth. Plant after the danger of a freeze has passed. For North Central Texas that means planting about the middle of

Mexican Mint Marigold (Cont.)

March. Keep an eye on the forecasts, though, because we have had a freeze as late as mid-April. So be prepared to cover the plants if mother nature is not being cooperative. If planting seeds, expect the germination to occur after about two weeks.

Dig the planting hole to the depth of the plant in its container. Breaking up the surrounding soil just a bit will make it easier for the roots to spread. Place the plant in its hole and cover the root ball with soil. Gently pat down the soil to ensure good contact with the roots and moisten the soil. Water gently at ground level for the first couple of weeks until the plant is established and showing new growth. Once established, Mexican Mint Marigold is fairly drought tolerant and only needs supplemental water during summer dry spells. It is rarely bothered by insects or diseases. As the growing season ends, adding some extra mulch around the base of the plant will help protect the roots from extended periods of a hard freeze.



Texas Tarragon Single Stem

If growing in a container, select potting soil that includes some inorganic material such as perlite. This addition will keep the soil from compacting. Container grown plants dry out more quickly than those in the ground and will need more frequent watering.

You can begin harvesting when stems are 4 to 6 inches. The newer leaves will be more flavorful.

Why is Mexican Mint Marigold a Texas Smartscape plant?

"Texas SmartScape™ is a landscape program that promotes the use of plants suited to North Central Texas's soil, climate, and precipitation. The regional goal is to improve water quality by reducing runoff and to conserve local water supplies by selecting ecologically appropriate native or adapted plants that require less water, pesticides, and fertilizers. The Texas SmartScape™ program was created through a partnership between Tarrant County Health Department, Texas Agricultural Extension Service (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service), Tarrant Regional Water District, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Weston Gardens, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments."

Plants are selected by Texas Smartscape when they demonstrate the ability to tolerate Texas heat, attract beneficial animals and insects, tolerate drought, and resist pests and diseases. The Texas Smartscape website includes a list of all recognized plants and a selection criteria

Mexican Mint Marigold (Cont.)

questionnaire to help you find plants for your landscape and garden:

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/index.php>. Here is their description of the value of Mexican Mint Marigold:

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/plant-details.php?id=352>.

Integrating Mexican Mint Marigold into the landscape

Planted in small clusters or linearly, Mexican Mint Marigold makes an attractive addition to your landscape. One interesting design style that could include these plants in a more formal way is called layering. This type of design gives a consistent look to the landscape and adds a sense of depth even in small yards. Layering techniques group plants according to size, shape, color, and texture. Layered landscapes usually have an odd number of layers with three to five layers being common.



Doubletree Ranch Park in Highland Village.

Landscape layered with Mexican Mint marigold in the foreground and Mexican bush sage behind.

The background layer contains tall shrubs or trees. The middle layer is for shorter shrubs and this is where you would place the Mexican Mint Marigold. The foreground plants are about one foot tall or trailing and are planted densely. This layer often is filled with blooming annuals or plants with brightly-colored leaves. With its fall blooms, Mexican Mint Marigold is striking in a layered landscape when paired with purple flowering background plants like Mexican bush sage.

If you give Mexican Mint Marigold a try in your herb garden, among your vegetable plants, or integrated into the landscape, I think you will be pleased with the result.

Mexican Mint Marigold (Cont.)

Resources

Texas SmartScape

"Plant Database Search"

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

"Mexican Mint Marigold"

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/plant-details.php?id=352>

**Editor's Note: Mexican Mint Marigold will be available for purchase
at the DCMGA Plant Sale.**

Saturday April 23, 2022

9 A.M. – 2 P.M. or until sellout!

Trinity United Methodist Church

633 Hobson Lane, Denton



Join Denton County MGA for our
hybrid (in person and virtual)
April General Meeting & Program.

We're pleased to welcome
Denton County Master Gardener
Raeline Nobles, who will present
"Gardening as a
Therapeutic Resource."

Advance registration is required
only for virtual participants live-
streaming via Zoom.

In-person participants will meet in
the Solomon's Porch building at
Global Spheres Center (7801 S
Interstate 35, Corinth, TX).

As always, our General Meeting programs are
open to the public and free of charge.

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
DENTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2022

In Person / Hybrid

**GENERAL MEETING
& PROGRAM**

*"Gardening as a
Therapeutic Resource"*

PRESENTED BY RAELENE NOBLES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2022
10:00 AM - 12 NOON

GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER
7801 S INTERSTATE 35, CORINTH, TX 76208

The Texas A&M University System is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, Texas 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 Agriculture Extension at least a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Garden Bed Preparation

BY LEE ANN YATES

You say the gardening bug has bit and you want to plant something in your dirt? Well, congratulations! You are beginning a fascinating journey of learning and growing!

The first thing to learn is that there is a distinct difference between Dirt and Soil. Dirt is what the kids and dog are covered with after a fun day outside and track into your house. Soil is a carefully nurtured growing medium that is the foundation of garden success. Getting your soil into proper condition is the most important part of gardening. Good quality soil will feed and nurture your plants, increase your yields of flowers and vegetables, and reduce problems from pests and disease. It is also one of the earth's greatest carbon sinks, drawing and holding literally tons of carbon dioxide (AKA greenhouse gases) out of the atmosphere through microbes and plants' photosynthesis.

If you have not started preparing your garden beds for spring planting, it's not too late, but there is no time to waste, so let's get started!

Soil Analysis

If you are a first timer, or if has been a few years since your last one, take a soil sample and get a soil analysis test done to discover what amendments you will need to add to your soil. The report you receive will let you see exactly what amendments your soil needs. Here is a link to information on how to take a soil sample: "[Testing Your Soil: How to Collect and Send Samples](#)".



Here's a link with advice on how to read your analysis report:

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/community-gardening/soil-testing/>

Tool Sharpening

Clean, sterilize, and sharpen your tools. Few people actually enjoy digging or hoeing. New tools no longer come with a sharp edge, so they need to be sharpened first. A sharp shovel or hoe takes at least half the effort away and can save your hands, arms, and back from the after-effects of clearing grass and weeds away and planting your plants. Notice the angle of the edge on your tool and keep that angle as you sharpen.

Garden Bed Preparation (Cont.)

Here's a link to some information on sharpening and cleaning tools, but fair warning some of the links embedded in it no longer work:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EAGF-2017-Garden-Tool-Care.pdf>

See "Resources" for more links, plus there are plenty of videos on sharpening and cleaning tools on YouTube.

Location, Location

Now, where should those new beds be placed in your landscape? Locate your beds with the sun in mind. Generally, vegetables and most flowers need 6-8 hours of sunlight for optimal production, earlier in the day, the better. Very few enjoy the blazing sun of Texas summer afternoons, however, some are weird that way. Some prefer partial, or dappled, sun or even shaded areas, so be sure to check your plant tags and seed packets carefully before planting.

Will you plant in raised beds or in the ground? Either works well, but many gardeners prefer the ease of growing in raised beds (once they are built, of course!). Planting in the ground demands a soil test to discover which amendments you will need to add. If you don't want to do the work of clearing grass off a bed site, cover the area with a couple layers of cardboard or at least seven layers of newspaper, build the frame on top, and fill. By planting in raised beds filled with compost on top of native soil, gardeners get a jump start on growing – especially if you have clay soil. Clay soil is hard to dig, needs careful attention to watering, and several amendments. If you have sandy soil, water and fertilizer needs will take most of your attention, because both run quickly through the soil.

Healthy Soil

Healthy soils with high levels of organic matter are able to absorb more water during heavy rains and are better able to hold that water in the soil during dry times. As our weather tends increasingly toward extremes, implementing efficient water strategies is more important than ever.



Organic Matter - Compost

Garden Bed Preparation (Cont.)

The easiest way to turn dirt into soil is to feed it by adding compost, also called organic matter, in copious quantities. Copious Compost – sounds like a garage band with a killer air guitarist! How much is "copious"? You want about 1/3 of the depth of your bed to be compost. Total depth of a planting bed, whether raised or in the ground, should be 10" to 12" deep. Feeding your soil builds the below-the-surface ecosystem of micro-organisms that break down organic matter, infusing the soil with nutrients for your plants. Feed your soil and it will feed your plants!

Sandy soils don't hold enough water, while clay soils hold too much water and doesn't allow enough oxygen to enter the soil. Vegetables and flowers need deep, well-drained soil with lots of organic matter. Compost will loosen tight clay, helps sand hold more water, makes soil easier to dig, and adds nutrients. A soil that has good tilth, (fancy gardening term for being in good condition) is magic!

New Bed Beginnings

To start a new bed in ground, first clear all grass, weeds, and debris. Then, add three to four inches of compost on top of the soil, then turn the soil and compost with a shovel or till the compost into the 12" depth. In an existing bed, dig in two to three inches of compost to rejuvenate the soil every year. (Honestly, I never thought I would have to use so much math in the garden – I should have paid better attention in junior high algebra! It will add much needed nitrogen to your soil that your plants will consume voraciously. Not quite like Audrey II in "Little Shop of Horrors" but you get the idea! You can buy bags of compost, have it delivered to your driveway by the ton if you are really ambitious, or you can make your own. Whichever way you prefer, get compost!

Some gardeners like to use various types of animal manure in their beds – horse, chicken, and rabbit are good choices. Cow, cat, or dog manure are NOT healthy choices for your garden! Those need to stay in the field or in the trash bin! If you choose to add manure to raise the nitrogen level, ensure that it is well-rotted. That means that it has been allowed to age, or decompose, for several months to a year. Like fine wine, healthy compost gets better with age. Add manure sparingly due to the phosphorus that is in it. If you plan to use manure, it's a good idea to incorporate it with your compost, but in smaller amounts.

Watering System

Before you plant your flowers and vegetables, set up your watering system. Drip irrigation, an easy DIY project, is the best system to use in beds as it puts water right at the plant's roots with low incidence of water running off uselessly. It will also greatly lower your chances of pest and disease problems. If you have overhead sprinklers, run them in the early morning so water has time to dry from the leaves to mitigate disease and pest invasions.

Garden Bed Preparation (Cont.)

What to Plant?

Now, you are ready to plan what you are going to plant! Veggies or flowers, or both, together or separately. Check out companion planting where you place plants that are best friends in close proximity so they can help each other out. Choose plants that will do well in Denton County – your best bets are at local independent nurseries. They know local growing conditions and stock accordingly, where big box stores buy their plants en masse,

not for specific markets. This is important for flowers as well as vegetables.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

Finished New Bed

Finally, it's time to shop! Seeds, transplants, tools, appropriate fertilizers and pesticides. This is the time to experiment and have fun! You've done all the prep work, now go forth and GARDEN!

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Winter months a good time to prepare for spring gardening" – AgriLife Today
<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2016/12/04/winter-months-good-time-prepare-spring-gardening/>

"Soil Preparation"

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/soil-preparation/>

"Texas Earth-Kind™ Gardening Guidelines" – Aggie Horticulture

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/earthkind/ekgarden.pdf>

NRDC – Natural Resources Defense Council

"Regenerative Agriculture Techniques"

[https://www.nrdc.org/stories/regenerative-agriculture-101?](https://www.nrdc.org/stories/regenerative-agriculture-101?gclid=CjoKCQIA95aRBhCsARIsAC2xvfz_o2oDlOH9CVHfePvlGRyfOERD6WC6FoI8nvVkkJEGRLvZoYL0a7saAp2WEALw_wcB#techniques)

[gclid=CjoKCQIA95aRBhCsARIsAC2xvfz_o2oDlOH9CVHfePvlGRyfOERD6WC6FoI8nvVkkJEGRLvZoYL0a7saAp2WEALw_wcB#techniques](https://www.nrdc.org/stories/regenerative-agriculture-101?gclid=CjoKCQIA95aRBhCsARIsAC2xvfz_o2oDlOH9CVHfePvlGRyfOERD6WC6FoI8nvVkkJEGRLvZoYL0a7saAp2WEALw_wcB#techniques)

"How to Turn Your Patch of Earth From Barren to Bountiful"

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/how-turn-your-patch-earth-barren-bountiful>

Garden Bed Preparation (Cont.)

Resources (Cont.)

DCMGA – Denton County Master Gardener Association

“Preparing Garden Soil”

<https://dcmga.com/files/2019/10/soil-prep-for-vegetable-gardens.pdf>

Tools

University of Florida – Gardening Solutions

“Sharpening Your Tools”

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/tools-and-equipment/sharpening-your-tools.html>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

“Gardening Tool Care & Maintenance”

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EAGF-2017-Garden-Tool-Care.pdf>

DCMGA – Denton County Master Gardener Association

“Going Old (Tool) School, Help Desk Q&A, January 2021 The Root

<https://dcmga.com/files/2021/01/The-Root-January-2021-Newsletter.pdf>



Spotted in Members' Gardens



Photo: DCMGA member Barbara Brown

Black Pearl, Black Prince, & Cherokee Purple Tomatoes
Solanum lycopersicum

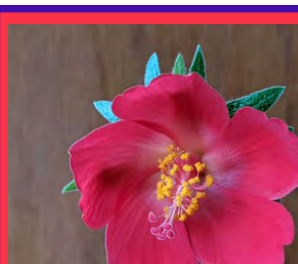


Photo: DCMGA member Lea Watson

Heartleaf Rosemallow
Hibiscus martianus



Photo: DCMGA member Joanne Spurgin

Mexican Flame Vine
Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides

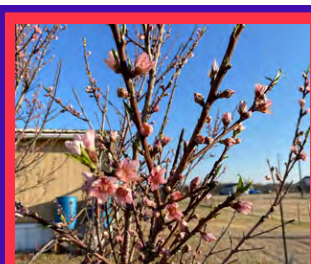


Photo: DCMGA member Joanne Spurgin

Peach Tree
Prunus persica



DCMGA Garden Tour - May 7, 2022
Purchase Your Tickets Now!



Make Your Yard a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary

BY KATHY RAINEY

Who doesn't love butterflies? Butterflies are not only among the most beautiful insects; they are also a pollinator and food source for other species. Nearly 90 percent of all plants need a pollinator to reproduce, and as bee populations drop, the role of the butterfly becomes more vital for plant reproduction. Additionally, butterfly larvae are a hearty meal for birds, their young, and other animals. (Interestingly, Monarch caterpillars and butterflies sequester toxins from the milkweed plant, making them not good bird food.) Nearly two-thirds of all invertebrates can be connected back to the butterfly in the food chain.

Should you be concerned about butterflies?

According to the Monarch Watch organization, the population of monarch butterflies has declined 90% since the late 1990s. Development, widespread use of herbicides, and land management practices of regular mowing along roadsides have resulted in a lack of shelter and food for butterflies and other wildlife.



Monarch Butterfly

The monarch butterfly is a conservation flagship species, but many other pollinators benefit from monarch conservation efforts. Female monarchs lay eggs on milkweed host plants because their caterpillars only eat milkweed leaves. Without milkweed, there would be no monarch butterflies. Once the caterpillar is fully developed, it typically leaves the host plant to find a safe place to pupate. After the adult butterfly emerges from its chrysalis, it uses its long straw-like mouth to consume nectar from various flowering plants. Thus, monarchs need milkweed and nectar plants as they breed during their annual migratory cycle from Mexico to Canada in spring and back to Mexico in the fall.

How can you help?

Texans living along the I-35 corridor are in the primary migratory path of monarch butterflies, where host and nectar plants have significantly declined. By creating a habitat in your home garden for monarch butterflies and other pollinators, you can support restoring the monarch butterfly population. Your monarch garden (waystation) can be any size as long as it includes milkweed and nectar plants that bloom throughout the migration season.

Butterfly Sanctuary (Cont.)

How to Build a Monarch Waystation

First, choose a sunny spot in your yard for your monarch garden. Butterflies prefer to feed in sunny areas sheltered by the wind. Removing a section of lawn, cultivating the bare ground, using an existing gardening area, or planting in containers is all you need. A fence or shrub can serve as a windbreak and provide a good place for pupation. Testing garden soil can determine whether the area is suitable for growing plants or needs amendments. Next, identify native perennial plants for your garden. Many nurseries specialize in native plants and have garden specialists to help you make your selection. It is important to plant a diverse array of plants that flower at different times to attract butterflies throughout the growing season.

Butterflies are attracted to large splashes of color like red, orange, yellow, purple, so group plantings by color to maximize their attraction to your garden. Bushy skullcap (*Scutellaria wrightii*) and Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) are two evergreen plants that bloom in spring. Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*), Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*), and Zexmania, (*Wedelia acapulcensis*) bloom in spring through fall; and Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) bloom in fall. These are just a few examples of nectar plants to choose from. Don't forget the milkweed! Several milkweed varieties grow native to North Texas, including Antelope Horns (*Asclepias asperula*), Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*), and Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*).



**Top, L. to R.: Coral Honeysuckle, Mealy Blue Sage, Texas Lantana.
Bottom, L. to R.: Black-eyed Susan, New England Aster, Swamp Milkweed.**

Butterfly Sanctuary (Cont.)

When you're ready to plant, dig a hole just large enough for the plant's roots. Use soil to cover the roots so that only the plant's leaves and stem are above ground. Add mulch around the plants to retain water in the soil and prevent weed growth. Water newly planted plants. Alternatively, you can plant seeds in prepared bare soil in spring or late winter. When preparing your garden, remove weeds and invasive plants before spreading seeds. Removing weeds, including roots, before planting will help prevent onerous maintenance of your garden. Cover seeds with a thin layer of mulch to conserve moisture.

To maintain your garden, water plants following the vendor's directions until plants are well established. Once established, native plants typically do not need additional water but consider that supplemental watering may be necessary during dry spells. Weed your garden by hand. Avoid using herbicides and insecticides as they may be harmful to beneficial organisms. Remember that host plants (milkweeds) serve as food for caterpillars, so chewed leaves signify that they are doing their job. Regular monitoring for pests on milkweed is advised. Any aphids detected can be sprayed off with water.

By creating and maintaining your monarch waystation, you are joining conservation-minded individuals across Texas and the United States who contribute to monarch butterfly conservation. Mayors throughout Texas have also demonstrated support by pledging to complete specific actions to increase the monarch population.

Additional resources on monarch way stations and gardening for monarchs:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Beneficials In the Garden

"Beneficials in the Garden. The Pollinators: Butterflies"

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-66_pollinators-butterflies.htm

National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

The Mayors' Monarch Pledge

<https://www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge/About/Pledge-Action-Items>

Monarch Joint Venture

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

Monarch Watch

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

Look for Pollinator Plants at the
DCMGA Plant Sale!

April 23, 2022

<https://dcmga.com/2022-plant-sale/>



Leopard Plant

BY JERRY & GLORIA ALEXANDER

The Leopard plant is an herbaceous perennial belonging to the Aster family. The botanical name *Farfugium Japonica* and the specific cultivar in our garden is 'Aureomaculata'. It is a perennial with large shiny green foliage from late spring until late fall or the first hard frost. Ours stayed green with lovely yellow blooms until after December 5, 2021. (Photo 1) This plant requires partial to full shade, but we have noticed that it will take some morning sun. The soil needs to be organically rich or well mulched and kept moist. More water is required if the plant is in dappled sunlight. They can also be grown in outdoor containers with the same light requirements – however, more watering is necessary. The blooms are a bright yellow and can last up to several weeks during the fall of the year. They can reach three to four feet tall with a two- three foot, spread.

Leopard plants are native to Eurasia, but will grow in North Texas in hardiness zones 7 through 10. The plant dies down if temperatures drop below 30 F. (Photo 3) Even when temps dropped below 30 F, ours came back in the spring. However, we do water if there is little or no rain during the winter months. Also, you will want to wait until spring before cutting off the dead foliage. The dead foliage will protect any early new growth should there be a late frost.

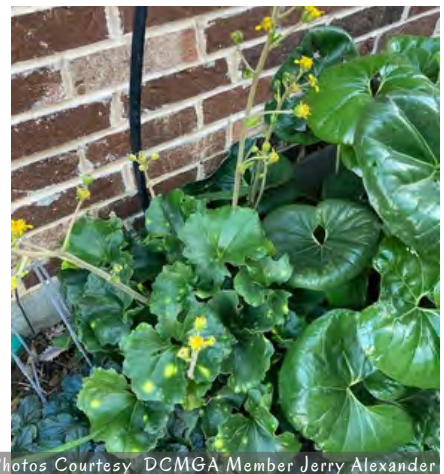
One other interesting thing that we found is another common name for leopard plant is "tractor seat plant." When you look at the leaves, can you see that the leaves resemble a tractor seat? If you have a shady spot in your garden, you may want to consider the leopard plant. There is also a variegated variety that actually has spots like a leopard, which you may be able to see part of in Photo 3. The care is basically the same. 🌸



Lovely Yellow Blooms
(Photo 1)



Die Back After a Freeze
(Photo 2)



Variegated Leopard Plant (Photo 3)

Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Jerry Alexander

Design Your Yard Recap

BY LEE ANN YATES

The Design Your Yard with Earth-Kind® Landscaping Public Course was developed by Shirlee and Claud Singer in 2011 as a way to bring landscape design information to Master Gardeners and to the public we serve. Over the years, several Master Gardeners have served as instructors and design guides helping people from all over Denton County design from scratch or rehabilitate their personal landscapes.

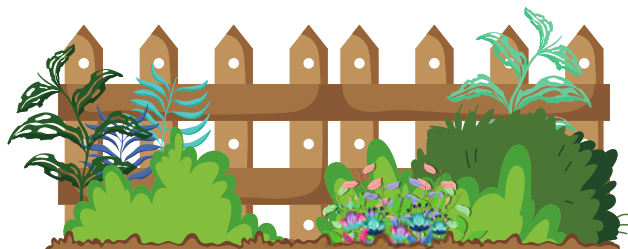
The course has gone through many iterations as the instructors have included the latest research and sought to make it as "hands on" as possible. The pandemic interrupted those efforts, but the team pivoted to a class over Zoom with breakout sessions using Master Gardener Zoomers as guinea pigs in January through February, 2021. With the help of their feedback and slowing COVID-19 rates, the DYY team has revamped the course once again.

In January, 2022, the DYY-EKL class became a two-part class. The first phase consisted of eight Zoom sessions covering Needs and Desires, Weather and Firewise Information, Principles of Art, Hardscape, Earth-Kind Principles, Elements of Design, and Plan Implementation and Plant Selection. The instructors included Shirlee and Claud Singer, Carol Arment, Kathy Rainey, and Lee Ann Yates, with administrative and technical assistance from Donette Alexander, Carolyn Stoy, Pat Moyer, Cheryl Huckabee, and Tom O'Brien.

There were 39 participants, 14 of whom were Denton County Master Gardeners. Each class met for about an hour, one evening a week, with plenty of question and answer time, and many helpful comments from participants about their own gardening knowledge and journeys. Phase One was another example of gardeners helping each other and enjoying each other's company, even virtually.

Phase Two of the DYY-EKL course will take place in late summer or early fall. Completing Phase One is a pre-requisite to taking Phase Two. This is intended to be a series of in-person classes where participants will learn how to put a landscape plan on paper in one form or another and then to implement their plan. It is in the final planning stages now. Most of the Phase One participants have already expressed interest in taking the second series and the team is excited about presenting this revamped series.

The whole course will be offered at least once a year in the future, so stay tuned for future dates!




Back Together Again The March 2022 General Meeting & Program

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

The March 2022 General Meeting and Program was a meeting of firsts – the first in-person General Meeting & Program since the pandemic shut down in March 2020, and our first hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. And, I have to say it was a roaring success! Seventy-five participants joined the meeting virtually, and around 50 attended in person.

Marilee Crawford, a Collin County Master Gardener, presented an outstanding presentation on building and caring for terrariums. Lucky 2022 Intern Penny Davis won the opportunity to design a terrarium to take home with Marilee's guidance.

DCMGA President Kathryn Wells presented the President's Volunteer Service Awards for 2021 service hours during the business meeting. Fifty-one members were awarded the Bronze award for 100 hours of service, eighteen members received the Silver award for 250 - 499 hours of service, and five members received the Gold award for 500 + hours of service.

It was so good to have the opportunity to socialize together in person and virtually, participate in an excellent educational program, and recognize the exemplary service of so many of our members. Thank you to all that made these firsts happen - President Kathryn Wells, VP-Projects/Technology PM Tom O'Brien, Past-President Pat Moyer, Global Spheres Center technical support Isaac, Programs Chair Tracy Durmick, and Hospitality Team Lisa Lebsack and Diane Sloan. 



Great Garden Companions: A Companion-Planting System for a Beautiful, Chemical-Free Vegetable Garden, 2nd Edition by Sally Jean Cunningham. Harmony/Rodale (May 19, 2000).

Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region by Sally Wasowski. Gulf Publishing; 2nd edition (September 28, 2003).

How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest by Jill Nokes (Author), Kathryn Miller Brown (Illustrator). University of Texas Press; Revised edition (May 15, 2001).

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

2021 President's Volunteer Service Awards

Bronze - 100 Service Hours



Jerry Alexander	Kathi Fast	Susan Murphy
Judy Allen	Karen Gibson	Carol Noble
Russ Allen	Lee Greer	Susan Novak
Daniel Arenas	Bethany Griffin-Loftis	Tom O'Brien
Ann Athey	Mary Harned	Dee Payne
Suzanne Barnard	Edsel Harrell	Dale Powell
Lori Barr	Lynda Harvey	Chryl Prestemon
Barbara Beane	Cindy Helm	Amy Prindle
Barbara Brown	David Huffman	Susan Schattle
Vicki Campbell	Beverly Ivey	Carolyn Stoy
Janie Cindric	Cece Kenney	Ruth Tweto
Mary Cissell	Sandy LaQuey	Sherri Ursini
Rhonda Curtright	Clarice Luce	Melissa Weaver
Linda D'Amanda	Shirley Manfredi	Deborah Williams
Sheila Daniel	Susan Marchus	Melinda Woolley
Claudia Duckworth	Anne McMahon	Katherine Woodward
Sharrie Ely	Melissa Migis	Lee Ann Yates

2021 President's Volunteer Service Awards

Silver - 250 to 499 Service Hours

Beckey Cortines
Susan Cosio
Beverly Duncan
Don Edwards
Pat Edwards
Janet Gershenfeld



Karen Roberts
Beth Sharum
Shirlee Singer
Pam Spooner
Joanne Spurgin
Steve Spurgin

Gold - 500+ Service Hours





DCMGA Resources & Education Opportunities

For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics.

.....

Denton County Master Gardener Association YouTube Playlists

Flower Arranging

Herbs & Vegetables

Organic Gardening

Other Gardening Topics

Permaculture

Seasonal Tasks & Tips

Waterwise Gardening

Wildlife Habitat Gardening

Houseplants

Landscaping

Pollinators

Roses

Shade Plants

Tree Care

Turf Care

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

New!

DCMGA & Keep Lewisville Beautiful

April 7, 2022. 6-7 pm

"Butterfly Gardening" presented by DCMGA member Bonnie Ambrose.

Location: Lewisville Grand Theater, 100 N Charles St., Lewisville.

Advance registration required.

<https://keeplewisvillebeautiful.org/register/>

Put the class topic in the "Other" box.

New!

Butterflies & Pollinators, Oh My!

April 21, 2022. 7-8 pm

Join Denton County Master gardeners in a program featuring plants and tips to make your yard a butterfly and pollinator paradise.

Location: Doubletree Ranch Park Barn, Room 101, 310 Highland Village Rd, Highland Village.

New!

DCMGA General Meeting Presentation

April 13, 2022. 10:00 am to Noon

Open To The Public

"Gardening as a Therapeutic Resource" presented by DCMGA member Raeline Nobles.

Location: Global Spheres Center, 7801 S Interstate 35, Corinth, TX

You may also join virtually via Zoom. Advance registration required for virtual attendance.

To Register:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpf-2rqz8iHtW85FhF_cf8CADia1L9ySnI

New!

Children's Garden

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

April 7, 2022 - "Ladybugs"

April 14, 2022 - "How to Compost"

April 21, 2022 - "How to Grow Seeds in Containers"

April 28, 2022 - "Pillbug Experiment"

10-11 am for all dates.

Location: Fair Oaks Senior Housing, 1950 Lattimore St, Denton.

DCMGA Members

Plan Your Week emailed each Friday has the most current Online CE Opportunities.



BY HELP DESK TEAM

Q: Is a galvanized steel stock tank safe to use for growing vegetables?

A: The materials used for the containers we grow plants in are important. Without careful consideration, all the benefits of growing vegetables can be undone, or worse, by using unsafe materials for raised beds.

Galvanized Steel

There are many advantages to using galvanized steel containers for growing plants. They come in a variety of sizes and don't require assembly. Their standing height may make it easier to tend to the plants. Galvanization is a process that applies a zinc coating on steel to resist oxidation prevent rust and corrosion.

Safety of Galvanized Steel

Generally speaking, using galvanized steel containers for growing vegetables is safe. That said, if you're using a salvaged galvanized container, it is critical to know the history of the container's use. *Do not use it to grow edibles if used for holding herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides.*

If the container was used to store petroleum products, it should not be used to grow edibles. All of these considerations apply to using galvanized corrugated metal for building raised beds.

Other Raised Bed Materials

Other materials commonly used to construct raised beds include wood, cement blocks, synthetic plastic, and composite wood products.

Let's address using lumber for raised beds first. Because the wood is in contact with soil and water, it's important to use naturally decay-resistant or treated wood to build the bed. Decay-resistant types of wood include cedar, black cherry, oak (bur, chestnut, post, white), black locust, Osage orange, or redwood. (Source: USDA Forest Products Lab). Many types of chemical treatments are applied to wood to prevent insect attacks and fungal diseases. Many of these treatments, particularly in salvaged wood, are not safe in raised beds for growing edibles.



Toxic Chemical Wood Treatments

Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) was the primary treatment for wood material from 1970 to the early 2000s. Studies found that

CCA-treated wood *should not be used for raised beds* because rainfall and solar radiation increased arsenic leaching from the wood. Fortunately, CCA-treated wood is no longer on the market.

Creosote is a patented wood preservative. It is a mixture of 200–400 different compounds. It is a restricted pesticide primarily to treat railroad cross ties, utility poles, marine structures, and some bridge timbers. It has an objectionable odor and oily texture that can ruin apparel and footwear and cause sun sensitivity to exposed skin. And it may be carcinogenic. It is not permitted for interior use and *should not be used if it will contact food, feed, or drinking water*.

Pentachlorophenol (Penta) was developed in the 1930s and is now a restricted use pesticide with no interior use. It is an oil-based preservative used on utility poles, fence posts, bridge timbers, foundation piling, and glue-laminated timbers. Penta is a potent biocide (a substance that destroys living things) that can cause skin irritation, plant damage, or plant death. Penta-treated wood *should not be used for raised bed construction*.

Safe Wood Preservation Methods

According to the University of Maryland Extension, there are several safe methods for preparing lumber to limit the damage caused by insects or fungus.

- Paint the wood with exterior latex paint to minimize soil contact with treated wood (Source: Oregon State Extension)
- Treat the wood with a semi-transparent oil-based stain (Source: USDA Forest Products Lab)

- Apply a heavy plastic liner between the treated wood frame and your garden soil, allowing for soil drainage (Source: Iowa State University, Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection)

Alkaline Copper Quaternary (ACQ) treated wood has been available since the 1990s and is the most widely used preservative for residential applications today. ACQ does not contain arsenic but does contain copper. It is considered to have relatively low risks and is essentially non-toxic with normal skin or oral exposures. Learn more about the health risks associated with ACQ-treated wood on the National Pesticide Information ACQ Information page:

<http://npic.orst.edu/ingred/ptype/treatwood/acq.html>.

Cement Blocks and Poured Concrete

Masonry products are long-lasting but more expensive than wood for constructing raised beds. Cement, cinder, and concrete blocks are made with cement mixed with sand or small rocks. Fly ash, a by-product of burning coal, is often used to produce these blocks. Fly ash contains heavy metals and other hazardous materials. Typically, the product labels for these blocks do not list the types of aggregate used in their manufacture. The blocks can be sealed with polymer paint to reduce the risk of leaching the toxins into the soil.

Poured concrete is another long-lasting (and more expensive) option for building raised beds. Verify that any curing compounds, stains, sealers, or release agents are safe in edible gardens.

Learn more about using safe building materials for raised beds below.

Sources and Resources

"Growing Vegetables in Galvanized Containers." University of California Cooperative Extension
https://solanomg.ucanr.edu/newsletters/Seeds_for_Thought64596.pdf

"Toxicity Concerns about Raised Bed Materials." Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms/toxicity-concerns-about-raised-bed-construction-materials>

"The Safety of Materials Used for Building Raised Beds." University of Maryland Extension
<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/safety-materials-used-building-raised-beds>



*If you have questions about any horticulture-related subjects,
 please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892
 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov.
 It's free of charge, and our pleasure to assist you.*



NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH

Denton County Master Gardener Association



Photo courtesy of DCMGA member Kathryn Wells

**Lonestar Gumweed &
Long-Horned Bees at Clear Creek Natural
Heritage Center**

It's time to enjoy the outdoors again

Tired of being cooped up in the house because of cold weather and pandemic concerns? Nature invites you to come out and play. April's warmer temperatures deliver an abundance of beautiful flowers, grasses and spring-green leaves at our local parks and public gardens.

Click the link in this post to view the list of hidden garden treasures in Denton County prepared by Master Gardeners Judith Allen and Melissa Megis.

Denton Parks And Trails
dcmga.com

We're Back!

CHILDREN'S GARDEN

GREAT PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS & THEIR CHILDREN
PRESENTED BY DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

April 7 "Ladybugs"
April 14 "How to Compost"
April 21 "How to Grow Seeds in Containers"
April 28 "Pillbug Experiment"

10:00-11:00 AM
FAIROAKS SENIOR HOUSING
1950 LATTIMORE ST, DENTON, TX 76209-4705

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROGRAM PROVIDER. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS OF TEXAS COOPERATING

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S

Plant Sale

April 23, 2022
9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M. or *Until sellout!!*

Trinity United Methodist Church
633 Hobson Lane, Denton

- Texas native plants, tough-as-nails perennials, and no-fuss roses
- Hard-to-find ground covers, bedding plants, and herbs
- Special container plants
- Pass-along plants from Master Gardeners' own gardens
- Master Gardeners available to help you make your selections and answer your gardening questions

Bring your own wagons or carts so you can take home as many of these wonderful plants as your garden can hold.

For more information, visit our website: dcmga.com,
Email: master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov
Call Help Desk phone: (940)349-2892

"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 County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance."

"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."



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

- Self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties
- Master Gardener docents on-site in each garden
- Learn about:
 - Native Bees
 - Butterflies & Pollinator Gardens
 - Accessible Gardening
 - Raised Garden Beds
 - Roses
 - Soil Testing
- Ask a Master Gardener at Big Sky Oasis

ALL ABOUT TICKETS

- Advanced purchase \$15, at the gate \$20
- Children 12 and under are FREE
- Purchase online until 5 PM May 6, or from a DCMGA Master Gardener



Scan to buy tickets



Tickets also at dcmga.com

No Refunds. Ticket Sales Final. Tour will happen rain or shine.

GROW WITH US!



Help Desk
940-349-2892
master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov



Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex,

BarB Legacy Farms & Garden

Cross Roads, TX



Big Sky Oasis

Pilot Point, TX



Rockin' B's Creekside Wilderness

Aubrey, TX



Urban Butterfly Haven

Aubrey, TX



at the MARKET GARDEN TOUR

Shop for goodies to decorate your
garden & home from local artists &
Master Gardener crafts people

Wild n Woolly Creations
Ana's Crystals / Garden Art
Green Metal Art
Oliver's Gardens
Go Garden
Texas Gourd Society

Sketchy Friends*
Carvings by Gary
Purple Goat Clay
Inspired Naturalist
Rockhill Design

Vendors at Bar B Legacy Farms & Garden, Cross Roads, TX
Sketchy Friends at all 4 gardens

Saturday, May 7, 9 am - 4 pm

A family-friendly event you won't want to miss!
Self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties
Master Gardener docents on-site
Advanced purchase \$15, at the gate \$20. Children 12 and under are FREE.
Purchase tickets at dcmga.com or from a Master Gardener

**Denton County Master
Gardener Association**

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The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County
Cooperating Extension Service are equal opportunity providers.



What's Growing On

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Upcoming Events

Apr
1

Raised Bed Gardening Tips for Seniors

Presented by Denton Master Gardener Charlotte Canion.
1:00-2:00 pm, Denton Senior Center

Apr
2

Rainwater & Rain Barrel Demo

Presented by Beulah Acres Agroforest Master Gardeners.
9:00 am-noon, Global Spheres Center

Apr
2

Composting

Presented by Beulah Acres Agroforest Master Gardeners.
1:00-4:00 pm, Global Spheres Center

Apr
7

Butterfly Gardening

Presented by Denton Master Gardener Bonnie Ambrose in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful
6:00-7:00 pm, Lewisville Grand Theater

Apr
13

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "Gardening as a Therapeutic Resource", presented by Raeline Nobles, Denton County MG,
10:00 am - noon, Global Spheres Center & by Zoom

Apr
23

DCMGA Annual Plant Sale

9:00 am - 2:00 pm or sell-out. Trinity United Methodist Church, Denton, TX

Apr
7-28

Children's Garden

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am . Fair Oaks Senior Housing, Denton, TX

May
7

Garden Tour

9:00 am - 4:00 pm . Four Denton County properties in Aubrey, Crossroads, and Pilot Point

May
18

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "Gardening for Wildlife" presented by Ben Jones, Executive Director, Texas Conservation Alliance. 10 am - noon, Global Spheres Center

May
5-26

Children's Garden

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am . Fair Oaks Senior Housing, Denton, TX

For detailed information: dcmga.com/upcoming-events

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.





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.

2022 Board of Directors

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

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

- April 13 General Meeting & Program, "Gardening as a Therapeutic Resource" - Global Spheres & also Virtual (Registration Required for Virtual)
- April 23 DCMGA Plant Sale
- May 7 DCMGA Garden Tour

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Content

Submission deadline for the May edition of *The Root* is Friday, April 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 Cheryl Huckabee at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

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