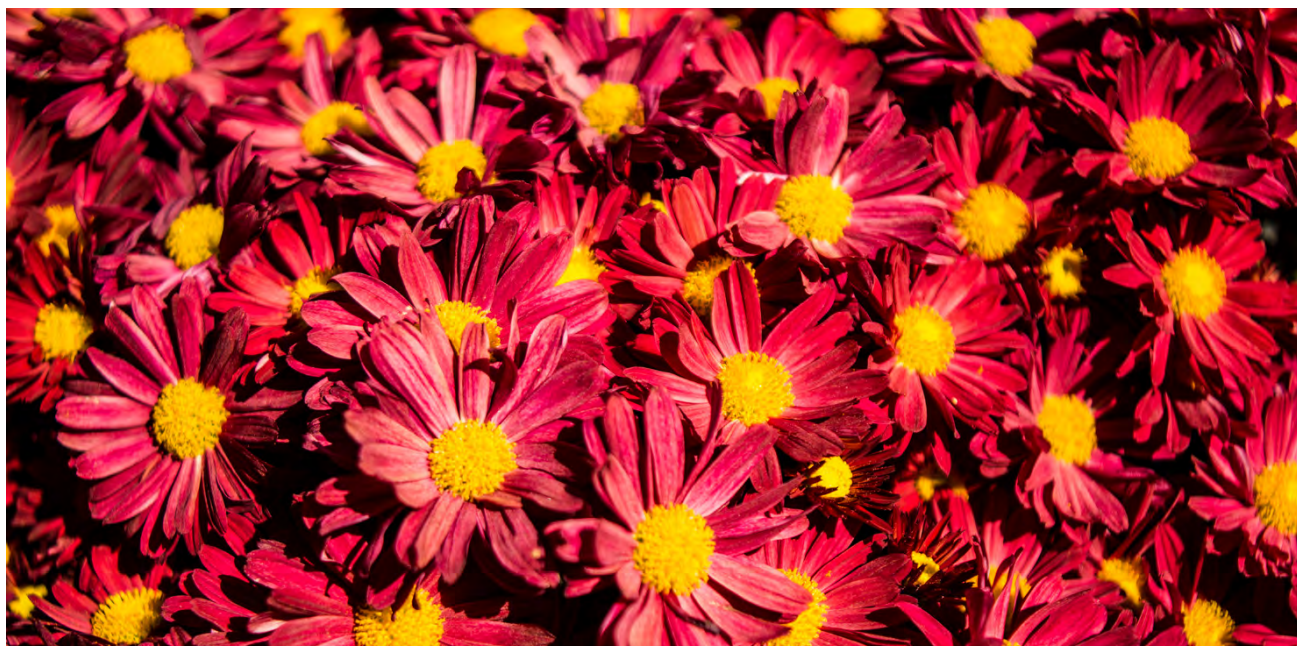


Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



## WHAT'S GROWING ON



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# Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

*"September tries its best to have us forget summer." ~ Bernard Williams*

Hello September! I'm doing my best to think about the cooler months to come and am itching to get back outside to the garden.

The September weather forecast for Denton County is promising temperatures gradually dropping to the mid-80s by the end of the month. Although, it appears it will be another dry month, with rain forecasted to be 2 inches below average. Ugh!

Two of my favorites are September's birth flowers – asters and morning glories. In North Texas, the Fall Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*) is a Denton County Master Gardener favorite. This drought-tolerant plant blooms in the fall when everything else has given up from the summer heat. The medium violet-blue lightly scented flowers appear from September to frost on 2-3 ft tall plants with a mounding growth habit. Texas Superstar® Plant 'Blue Daze' (*Evolvulus glomeratus*) is a member of the morning glory family. This heat and sun-loving bloomer has brilliant blue trumpet-shaped flowers. It's a low-growing spreading annual and should be treated as a tender perennial in North Texas.

September is the time to sow wildflower seeds in North Texas. The cooler autumn weather and rain help the seeds break dormancy and germinate for beautiful color in early spring. These early blooms are an essential food source for pollinators in early spring. Our Gardening Basics Fact Sheet "Growing Wildflowers from Seed" will help you get started. Don't forget to review our Monthly Gardening Tips on our website for all the gardening tasks to complete in September.

Denton County Master Gardener Association is delighted to help you get back into the swing of gardening this fall. Our Fall Into Gardening event on September 30th is filled with presentations, demonstrations, information booths, and kids' activities to jump-start the spring growing season. Learn more about this fun event on page 21 of this issue.

Upcoming presentations by Master Gardeners and horticulture experts will get you growing too:

- Sep 7th – Collecting & Saving Seeds Presentation, 6 pm at Lewisville Grand Theater
- Sep 13th – Edible Landscape Design Monthly Meeting Program, 10 am at Trinity Presbyterian-Denton
- Sep 21st – Cacti & Succulents Presentation, 6 pm at Lewisville Grand Theater
- Sep 21st – Dog scaping Presentation, 7 pm at Aubrey Area Library



## Buds From The Board (Cont.)



**Monarch on Fall Aster**



**Blue Daze**

If you love gardening as much as we do and are interested in sharing your knowledge with the community, maybe you'd like to become a Master Gardener. Denton County Master Gardener Association accepts applications for the 2024 class through October 20th. You're also welcome to join us for an Informational Meeting on Friday, October 13th, at 10 am at Global Spheres Center. Learn more about becoming a Master Gardener on the [Become A Master Gardener](#) page on our website.

Together, let's wish summer farewell and welcome the cooler days of autumn to come. Happy Gardening!

*Cheryl*



# Shiloh Community Garden

BY NANCY DIMARCO

The garden began in 2011 as a ministry of Denton Bible Church. Gene Gumfory, a legendary Denton businessman, decided to plant a garden that would feed hungry people. "I think a community garden is important. It brings peoples together." ~ Gene Gumfory

Shiloh Field Community Garden quickly grew and gained loyal volunteers. In the second year, over 2,600 volunteer hours were given to grow fresh produce for the hungry in Denton County.

Gene read Matthew: 14:16 where Jesus said, "Feed my people" and took him seriously. In a community where 21% of people are food insecure, he had compassion for people who do not know where their next meal is going to come from.

In 2020, Gene passed away at the age of 80 years old. His legacy continues through the garden and the team that carries it on.

The first year, he harvested 12,071 pounds (about twice the weight of an elephant) of food. The second harvest was 23,453 pounds (about the weight of a school bus). Friends of Shiloh Garden was established as a 501c3 non-profit on May 29, 2019. As of this writing, we are 13,000 + pounds ahead of where we were this time a year ago, and well on our way to a record year. Shiloh has grown and distributed over 340,000 lbs. (about 154221.28 kg) of produce in the last thirteen years and operates the largest community garden in the U.S. The garden is at 1650 Nottingham Drive, 76209, just south of the railroad tracks and Denton Bible Church.

The mission of Shiloh is to feed hungry people and those who do not have access to quality food. We currently provide produce to over 15 different food centers, banks, and kitchens in Denton County, such as Our Daily Bread, Friends of the Family, Freedom Food Pantry, Denton Community Food Center, and Cumberland Children's Home.



**Gene Gumfory**



**Shiloh Garden Volunteers**



## Shiloh Community Garden (Cont.)

Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Nancy DiMarco



**Tomato Harvest**



**Broccoli Harvest**



**Shiloh Harvest**

In addition to growing food for others, we also have ~ 50 – 15' x 15' garden plots for individuals that are renewed on a yearly basis. Members apply and are granted a plot if their plots are maintained. They are provided with water to help their gardens grow. Members must also volunteer in the garden to supplement their membership.

The garden has ~15 acres (about twice the area of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool), 100 – 4' x 25' raised beds, two high tunnels, a nursery, a storage barn, a washing facility, and this past year we added a new Chevy truck to deliver fresh produce as soon as it is harvested. In addition, we raise chickens and harvest eggs, have two prolific blackberry fields, and also vineyards. A local beekeeper, Mark Huckabee, maintains beehives in the garden to promote pollination. Many local arborists bring their tree clippings, leaves, etc., to the garden to provide the basics for producing our own compost.

Master Gardeners play a significant role at Shiloh as veterans and interns earn many of their required volunteer hours at Shiloh, contributing their expertise, helping in the fields, and preparing food for delivery. The current workday for Master Gardeners is on Thursday, beginning as early as 6:30 a.m. during the scorching summer months. Nancy DiMarco (Class of 2021) serves as the project manager.

This year began a series of workshops to give both Master Gardeners and community members additional training and hands-on experience. We learned how to build a raised bed, how to grow, maintain, harvest, and prune blackberries, and a class on watering in North Texas. The classes were taught by Greg Scott, the new Operations Director of Shiloh, a degreed horticulturist who ran his own successful landscaping business before joining the non-profit garden and is bringing creative, science-based best practices to Shiloh. This fall, three additional workshops will be offered.

## Shiloh Community Garden (Cont.)

The last two summers, Shiloh, in collaboration with DCMGA, and the City of Denton Parks and Rec, has offered a mini day camp for children 6 – 11 years of age. The successful camp hosted enthusiastic, eager, excited kids to learn about what growing plants need, ladybug anatomy and why they are so important, wriggly worms, and bees and their tremendous work of pollinating, and a field trip to Denton Community Food Center, where director, Tom Newell gave a tour and discussed why the food center exists, and who uses it.

The garden has a board of directors that meets monthly and is dedicated to helping raise both awareness and monies to expand capabilities and outreach. Julie Wright is the Texas Health Resources, Program Manager for Denton & Wise Counties, and chairs the board of directors. Currently, we are working on developing expansion plans for the garden, including a teaching facility, so stay tuned to see how you can get more involved.

Check out these social media offerings, plan to volunteer on a Monday, Thursday, or Saturday for harvest, or donate your monies to help us feed more people. The need is growing, and there will be an even greater need to grow more food:

- Facebook: [Friends of Shiloh Garden-Shiloh Field](#)
- Website: [www.shilohfield.com](http://www.shilohfield.com)
- Our story: <https://www.shilohfield.com/story>
- What is Shiloh Field: <https://www.shilohfield.com/give>
- Email: [info@friendsofshilohgarden.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:info@friendsofshilohgarden.onmicrosoft.com)

*"I've never considered myself a gardener, but I loved harvesting the vegetables knowing they were going to feed someone in my community!"*

*~ A Shiloh Community Garden Volunteer*



### 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>

## Shiloh Community Garden Statistics

January 01, 2022 to June 30, 2022		
MONTH:	HOURS:	# Vol.
JANUARY: 2022	701.75	254
February: 2022	756.75	295
March: 2022	1583.75	594
APRIL: 2022	1448.50	564
MAY: 2022	884.25	383
JUNE: 2022	1096.75	460
TOTALS:	6471.75	2550

January 01, 2023 to June 30 , 2023		
MONTH:	HOURS:	# Vol.
JANUARY: 2023	799.75	371
February: 2023	994.00	345
March: 2023	1621	601
APRIL: 2023	1838.75	635
MAY: 2023	1458.50	456
JUNE: 2023	1229.00	508.75
TOTALS:	7941.00	2916.75

January 01, 2022 to June 30, 2022		
MONTH:	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS:
JANUARY: 2022	831.00	*****
February: 2022	0.00	*****
March: 2022	1231.00	295
APRIL: 2022	2043.75	*****
MAY: 2022	3022.25	*****
JUNE: 2022	8877.25	*****
TOTALS:	16005.25	1200

January 01, 2023 to June 30 , 2023		
MONTH:	HARVEST TOTALS	EGGS:
JANUARY: 2023	40.25	*****
February 2023	1254.00	*****
March: 2023	2186.00	*****
APRIL: 2023	4607.50	*****
MAY: 2023	9638.25	323 Dozen
JUNE: 2023	12092.50	229 Dozen
TOTALS:	29818.50	1,961 Dozen



# Shiloh Community Garden Statistics (Cont.)

PRODUCE:	YEAR to DATE:2022
Beets	603.25
Bitter Melon	336.25
Blackberries	308.25
Bok Choy	173.25
Broccoli	0.00
Cabbage	392.50
Cabbage, asian	424.50
Cabbage, napa	572.50
Carrots	1677.00
Cauliflower	25.75
Chard	120.00
Collard greens	0.00
Cucumbers	566.75
Cucumbers, Green Dragon	0.00
Cucumber, Manny	8.00
Cucumbers, Mini Me	543.75
Cucumber, Straight Eight	0.00
Egg Plant	0.00
Kohlrabi	0.00
Lettuce, Black seeded simpson	35.25
Lettuce, Butterhead	194.75
Lettuce mix	0.00
Lettuce Romain	658.50
Lettuce, Salanova	0.00
Mustard	0.00
Mustard, Asian	301.50
Mustard, Florida broad leaf	890.50
Mustard, Mizuna	105.25
Okra	4.25
Onions, bunching	0.00
Onions, Red	0.00
Onions, 1015	746.50
Onions, texas legon	2075.50
Peaches	0.00
Peas, Snow	0.00
Peas, Sugar Snap	126.75
Peppers, Anaheim	64.00

Peppers, Bannana	93.75
Pepper, Bell	3.00
Pepper, Chile	0.00
Pepper, Cubanelle	13.00
Pepper, Jalepeano	0.00
Pepper, Pablano	0.00
Peppers, Serrano	0.00
Plums	0.00
Pok Choy	97.75
Potatoes, Irish	1674.25
Potatoes, Red	904.75
Radish, French breakfast	713.25
Radish, Daikon	140.25
Radish, Korean	0.00
Radish, Sora	0.00
Radish, White Icicle	195.25
Spinach	60.25
Spinach, Noble	0.00
Squash, butternut	58.50
Squash, Pumpkin	4.25
Squash, Yellow	609.00
Squash, Zucchini	371.00
Tomatoes	112.50
Harvest Totals:	16005.25

PRODUCE:	YEAR to DATE:2023
Beets	996.75
Bitter Melon	86.25
Blackberries	1219.00
Bok Choy	0.00
Broccoli	386.75
Cabbage	2428.50
Cabbage, asian	50.50
Cabbage, napa	1311.00
Carrots	3276.75
Cauliflower	373.50
Chard, Swiss	309.75
Collard greens	746.50
Cucumbers	575.00
Cucumbers, Green Dragon	4.25
Cucumber, Manny	0.00
Cucumbers, Mini Me	4.00
Cucumber, Straight Eight	4.50
Egg Plant	79.25
Kohlrabi	117.25
Lettuce, Black seeded simpson	0.00
Lettuce Butterhead	716.75
Lettuce mix	242.75
Lettuce Romain	154.50
Lettuce, Salanova	1362.25
Mustard	314.50
Mustard, Asian	0.00
Mustard, Florida broad leaf	0.00
Mustard, Mizuna	0.00
Okra	0.00
Onions, bunching	22.00
Onions, Red	283.75
Onions, 1015	0.00
Onions, texas legon	5944.50
Peaches	3.50
Peas, Snow	496.00
Peas, Sugar Snap	0.00
Peppers, Anaheim	208.25

Peppers, Bannana	360.50
Pepper, Bell	576.50
Pepper, Chile	3.50
Pepper, Cubanelle	98.50
Pepper, Jalepeano	164.50
Pepper, Pablano	117.00
Peppers, Serrano	3.50
Plums	19.00
Pok Choy	142.50
Potatoes, Irish	511.25
Potatoes, Red	1223.25
Radish, French breakfast	110.00
Radish, Daikon	0.00
Radish, Korean	286.50
Radish, Sora	54.50
Radish, White Icicle	0.00
Spinach	0.00
Spinach, Noble	886.00
Squash, butternut	0.00
Squash, Pumpkin	0.00
Squash, Yellow	945.50
Squash, Zucchini	1145.25
Tomatoes	1452.50
Harvest Totals:	29818.50



# Plant of the Month - Mexican Oregano

BY BARBARA BROWN

It is a shrub. It is a long-flowering perennial. It is a bee magnet. It is a culinary herb. WOW! Mexican oregano can do it all for you. Caveat: several plants go by the common name Mexican oregano including *Poliomintha longiflora*, *Lippia graveolens*, and *Monarda fistulosa* var. *menthifolia*, none of which are true oreganos. This article focuses on *Poliomintha longiflora*, which I grow and love for its pink to lavender blooms from May through November and its ability to flavor a variety of foods.

## About Mexican oregano

A bushy shrub it typically grows 3 to 4 feet tall and wide but can reach 5 feet in height and spread. It is winter hardy in our area although it may die back if challenged by an exceptionally cold winter. However, it is root hardy and should return in the spring. It actually likes our hot and humid conditions and is somewhat drought-tolerant. It is native to the state of Nuevo Leon in Mexico but has adapted well to growing in most of Texas. The plant attracts bees, butterflies, and birds.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

Mexican oregano leaves are used to flavor a variety of dishes including salsas, pico de gallo, meat, and bean dishes. It can also be used on dishes typically invigorated with true or Mediterranean (Greek and Italian) oregano including tomato-based sauces. It is strongly flavored so a small amount may be sufficient.

## How to grow Mexican oregano

The best time to plant shrubs including Mexican oregano is in the fall (September through December). Fall planting gives the Mexican oregano plenty of time to get settled and establish its root system before the challenge of our hot summer. Add a 3-inch layer of mulch around, but not touching, the plant to offer insulation from REALLY cold or hot temperatures. Select a site that will allow good air circulation around the mature plant. Full sun is best although it will tolerate some light or partial shade

Like most plants, when young or just planted, it prefers friable soil with lots of organic material. Integrating a bit of sand may be helpful but is not essential. Keep the soil moist for a couple of weeks until the roots begin growing, then water only when the soil dries out one inch below the surface. In the beginning, add a bit of balanced fertilizer where the roots will be growing. Once established, Mexican oregano does not require extra fertilization. Mexican oregano plants usually are not bothered by pests or diseases.

## Mexican Oregano (Cont.)

### *How to propagate Mexican oregano*

You can use cuttings or layering to propagate Mexican oregano. Purdue University Extension Services recommends taking cuttings, "from the succulent, new growth that occurred this spring also are referred to as softwood cuttings. These cuttings usually root easier and faster than cuttings taken from harder wood later in the season. Make cuts just below a node, the area where the leaf joins the stem. A 4-6 inch length is ideal. Remove the lower leaves and insert the cut ends into a moist rooting media such as vermiculite, perlite or potting mix. Place your cuttings in bright but indirect light while they are rooting. Check the media frequently for watering needs. When roots reach about 1 inch long, the cuttings are ready to pot up in a good quality soil mix" or into prepared ground.



To propagate by layering, bend a low-growing, flexible stem to the ground. Cover part of it with soil, leaving the remaining 6 to 12 inches above the soil. Bend the tip into a vertical position and stake it in place. "Plant Propagation by Layering": (<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/plant-propagation-by-layering-instructions-for-the-home-gardener>).

You may have to search nurseries a bit to find Mexican oregano plants, but getting your own lovely, flowering shrub is worth the effort.



*Resources & Education Opportunities  
for Master Gardeners and the Community we serve  
can be found on the Calendar at  
Upcoming Events.*

*For non-DCMGA events, Continuing Education Opportunities.*

### DCMGA Members & Interns

*Plan Your Week (PYW) has the most current VS/CE Opportunities  
and is sent via VMS every Friday.*



# *You're Invited*

## September 2023, Monthly Meeting & Program "Edible Landscape Design"



Photo: Blue Sky Agriscaping

Shawn Mayfield, owner of Blue Sky Agriscaping, will present about designing edible food scapes.

September 13, 2023, 10 am  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
2200 N Bell Ave., Denton, TX 76209

# Experimenting with Interspecific Hybrid Fruit Trees in Denton County

## *Looking for Success from Low-Chill Fruit*

BY JANET GERSHENFELD

### *What is an Interspecific?*

Interspecific Hybrid Fruit Trees are crosses from different fruit tree species to make a unique new fruit. Examples are crosses between Plums and Cherries to make a Pluerry™. Other examples include crosses between a 3/4 Plum and an Apricot called a Pluot™. Similarly a 3/4 Apricot and plum is an Aprium™.

### *My journey in exploring Interspecifics*

As many of you may know, I have several passions. One is gardening. Another is grazing food while walking through my garden. There is so much personal satisfaction in it. There is nothing like pulling a fully ripe fruit warm from the sun straight from a tree and popping it in your mouth. It truly is a heavenly moment. It also allows me to know that the food was grown with no chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

When I started as a Master Gardener over two decades ago, our group was involved with a number of research trials. Our Extension agent at the time had a history with the fruit and nut industry. He showed us how to plant and prune. That was when I started putting in the good old standard fruit trees, like Santa Rosa plum, Celeste figs, Grannie Smith apples, and peaches, as well as a couple of apricots. Needless to say, I was young and eager. Not too wise, however.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Janet Gershenfeld

### **Minnie Royal and Royal Lee cherry crop**

I live in an HOA on a suburban lot of about 1/2 acre, so I tried dwarf trees, espalier, anything to be able to fit many different types of fruit into a small garden. I tried all sorts of trees but ran into several common problems – low to no fruit production, and pests and diseases ran rampant. Add in crazy Texas weather being super freezing in some winters and blazing hot through several summers and I was getting downright discouraged.



## Experimenting with Interspecifics (Cont.)

But my mentor John Cooper told me to keep at it and do a little research. He explained chilling hours to me and the need for extra cross-pollination for increased yields. He gave me the names of other employees at AgriLife (then known as Cooperative Extension) who were doing research. I went and visited them, but most were doing citrus research like Dr. Moy in central and southern Texas on the Arctic Frost series of mandarin oranges because that was where commercial production was headed. Grapes were also being studied but no one was doing much with the kind of fruit I was interested in. I went to advanced training seminars given by AgriLife in New Braunfels for fruit growing for years and sat alongside commercial fruit farmers who thought I was nuts. They suggested olives and pomegranates. Even I knew those would never make it through our cold temperatures long term.



**Flavor Delight aprium crop  
May 2023**



**Plumcot blooms being  
pollinated spring 2023**

So I decided to roll up my sleeves and do what I was taught to do. Research and trial. My motivation...a love of cherries and apricots, but they just don't do well here and are very expensive to buy. The apricots bloom in February and always get frozen out. In the 15 years that my apricot trees lived, they only set 3 fruit and those dropped before they were ripe. Cherries...well, they usually grow in Michigan where they get the 1500 chilling hours they want. We get 650-800 hours here reliably. What was a fruit-fetish girl to do?

That is when I remembered a conversation I had with a longtime farmer friend of mine from Chowchilla, California, who lives in the Central Valley. He told me about a man just up the road in Modesto who was growing low-chill cherries for the area. A major revolution!

## Experimenting with Interspecifics (Cont.)

That was when I discovered the Royal Cherry series. They were hybridized by a humble yet brilliant and hardworking man named Floyd Zaiger. All of his new fruit tree varieties are non-GMO, which I found amazing. He did it the hard way. They are hybrids resulting from traditional hand-pollinated cross-pollination breeding of two or more species, using carefully studied and selected pollen parents and seed parents, usually through multiple generations. Floyd's company, Zaiger Genetics, does not conduct any sort of direct genetic manipulation as has been done for some varieties of some food crops, such as corn. "Genetics" in the name "Zaiger Genetics" simply refers to their expertise in 1) genetic (inheritable) trait expression in deciduous fruiting plants and 2) the tendencies of particular varieties to throw specific traits to their progeny. Through his family's efforts, breakthroughs in fruit hybridizing are yielding new fruit types and cultivars with especially desirable new flavors, aromas, textures, degrees of sweetness, and appearances. Floyd worked primarily with the *Prunus* species *salicina*, *armeniaca*, *persica*, and *avium* (plum, apricot, peach/nectarine, and cherry).

Eureka!! Well the hunt was on! I finally managed to find and purchase Minnie Royal and Royal Lee cherry saplings. These hybrids require only 300 chilling hours. There were a few setbacks. I lost the first Lee from planting it in the wrong spot. The trees require amended soil (6.5 ph is optimal) and good drainage. Regular adequate watering for the first few years. After three years I had good growth but they did not bloom at the same time. They were off by about two weeks,



**Minnie Royal and Royal Lee  
cherry planted together in a  
raised bed to align bloom  
time**

so I made the decision to dig up Lee and place him in the same raised bed snuggled up next to Minnie. As the root systems grew together it worked. Within 18 months they were blooming together and setting fruit!

Meanwhile, one of my apricot trees just up and died. Instantly. No warning. So I went to look at the research on the new hybrid interspecific. As a Master Gardener, I decided to experiment. I had identified my problem...the tree bloomed too early for our late spring freezes. Perhaps a hybrid would bridge that gap. I ordered a Flavor Delight Aprium, a Dapple Supreme Pluot, a Spring Satin Plumcot, and a Sweet Treat Pluerry. Most are self-fertile but produce better yields with friends. They are hardy to at least -30F, so storm Yuri didn't even phase them.



## Experimenting with Interspecifics (Cont.)

They bloom early and produce bushels in May/June. They are also not bothered by pests like my Santa Rosa plum. I plant alliums around the base of my *prunus* trees to stop that. Notably, not a single worm was found in any of the interspecific fruit. I did find worms in the Santa Rosa plum. I will monitor that to see if that continues over a number of years. It took between 3-4 years before I got fruit, but the saplings I purchased were small. Now that the trees are 5-8 years old, I am harvesting more than I can use. The trees are 15-20 feet tall but can be kept to around 10 feet tall with regular pruning.

Aprium are apricot-dominant. Pluots are more plum-dominant than plumcots, which are 50/50. Some pluerries are a hybrid of Burgundy plum or Santa Rosa plums and cherry trees.



**Aprium fruit set in March 2023**



**Flavor Delight aprium crop 2023**

### *Sun and Temperature*

They prefer full sunlight with at least 6 hours of direct light per day. They grow best in USDA zones 6 through 9. The reason they don't grow well in the subtropics is that they need on average 400 chill hours between 32 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

To ensure young trees don't suffer cold damage, plant them with a tree wrap to keep them warm in cold temperatures below 32 degrees. Bud drop occurs in excessive cold and fruit drop occurs in excessive heat. In high-heat areas, provide some shade in the late afternoon.

Start by feeding roots 3 to 4 gallons of water once per week in the first year of growth. Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses in the morning to provide water early in the day, and then in the afternoon in high heat or during fruiting in mid-June to promote a full sweet flavor.

Interspecifics need 1 to 2 inches of water per week, just like apricots. Ensure the top 24 inches of soil are moist, but not waterlogged. When it's rainy, watering may not be necessary.

## Experimenting with Interspecifics (Cont.)

They can handle poor soils as long as they are well-draining. They have a better flavor with amendments. I fertilize using the EarthKind® method of hardwood mulch and oak leaf mulch, as well as homemade comfrey tea. If you want to use store-bought fertilizer, trees will benefit from a full-spectrum, balanced, slow-release fertilizer twice per year. In March, apply one cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer per year of growth in the drip line around the base of the tree, keeping it away from the trunk. Apply again in August. Newly planted trees benefit from a 1/2 cup of calcium nitrate fertilizer applied in mid-June.

### *Pruning*

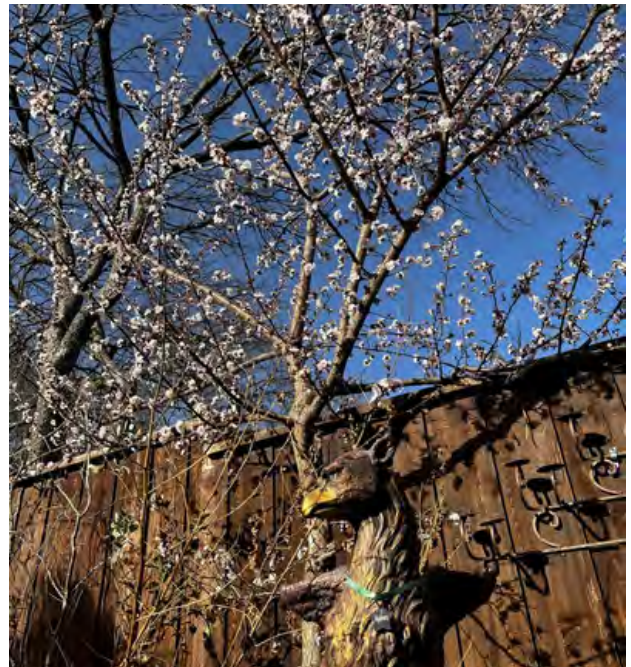
In the first year, the tree can be pruned to 28 to 36 inches tall in the winter season or early spring season when the tree is dormant. In subsequent years, prune branches around an upright central leader branch. Leave a few evenly spaced branches around the central leader to promote an open center. Remove diseased or damaged branches and suckers annually. In the 3rd and 4th years, prune above the buds to 18 inches.

In the following maintenance years, prune branches to maintain the desired shape, so they don't cross one another. Remove damaged or overcrowded fruits to prevent disease in the fruiting season and help others grow into a delectable flavor. In the fall season, the

leaves turn yellow and drop naturally. Never take more than 1/4 of the tree at one time. Propagation is done through grafting but most plants are patented. Seeds are unreliable.

### *Harvesting*

Test for ripeness by gently grasping the fruit and pushing up. It should have a firm texture and dark skin (or if it's a light-colored variety, should be the color it's meant to be). You can pick them early to ripen them indoors. If they come off the plants easily, they're firm, and they smell sweet, that's a sign they're ready. You can harvest them from the ground, too. If most of your sweet, firm pluots are still on the plants, shake a branch to catch them in a tarp, or use a pole picker to bring the sweet fruit into your kitchen for storage. A step stool or an extending picker pole helps you to access higher fruit. (I always need a new fun tool). Once you've picked them, sort out damaged ones. Share those with the local wildlife.



**Flavor delight aprium in bloom  
spring 2023**



## Experimenting with Interspecifics (Cont.)

### *Storing*

Aprium, pluots, and pluerry have excellent storability and keep 2 weeks on average if they are picked when they're slightly underripe and their skin is dark yellow. Other varieties keep their sweet flavor at room temperature for 3 days. In the refrigerator, they keep for 1 week. Cut and pitted fruit store well for 8 to 12 months in the freezer in freezer bags. Fruit dried in a dehydrator and stored in airtight containers keep well for 3 months at room temperature and 1 year in the refrigerator. Preserved in jams or jellies, they keep for 2 years. I can mine and give them as gifts. They taste great as jam or as a glaze on meats or mixed with vinegar for salad dressing. I always save some fruit for cordials, which I store in the fridge.

### *Growing Problems*

Trees can get stressed in situations where the roots are waterlogged too long in a rainy season. Ensure good drainage is present. I have all of my trees planted on the high ground of retaining walls or in raised beds. Similarly, the leaves will yellow and prematurely drop in high heat without adequate water in the summer, so don't underwater!

If crowded fruits are not removed to allow others to grow, this could cause dark lesions on the skin, or the fruit to remain yellow and not ripen as easily. This can also cause other skin abrasions. Protect the skin by removing overcrowded fruit.

### *Pests*

You may see the green metallic bodies of Japanese beetles congregating on pluots. They skeletonize leaves to the point of defoliation. Handpick them and drown them in a solution of soapy water. Apply neem oil diluted in water to the entire tree in the morning, as long as it isn't flowering. I try to keep it organic, but Pyrethrin sprays can be used in conjunction to keep further infestations away, and milky spore powder may be an effective preventative measure against their grubs.

Spider mites and aphids feed on the sap of your pluots, leaving behind yellow stippling as they go. They feed on the pluot's skin too. To remove them, start with a strong stream of water from a hose. Introduce predatory mites, lacewings, or ladybugs to take the remaining mites or aphids out. Neem oil or insecticidal soap is also effective.

### *The world is your fruit cup*

There is now a world of choices due to hybridizing and selecting the best of plant characteristics. The list from just Zaiger growers is now over 10 pages long! A complete reference list of interspecific and hybrids is available at

<https://www.davewilson.com/about/zaiger-genetics-partnership/>

## Experimenting with Interspecifics (Cont.)

These days we are truly blessed and can be better gardeners due to the efforts of research horticulturalists like Dr. Moy and Mr. Zaiger, along with so many others. Floyd Zaiger passed away in 2020 at the age of 94. His children continue his legacy.

<https://www.growingproduce.com/fruits/fruit-breeder-extraordinaire-floyd-zaiger-dies/>.

I hope that you will be tempted to try the new varieties that can be easier to grow and have success with. As Master Gardeners, we should try new things and not be afraid to fail, especially in Texas. The rewards are literally endless. Go get your hands dirty!



### Minnie Royal cherry crop 2023

*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.*



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# Fall Into Gardening

PRESENTED BY:

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION,  
UPPER TRINITY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT & BEULAH ACRES

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**  
GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER, CORINTH, TX

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
**STEVE HUDDLESTON**  
AUTHOR "EASY GARDENS FOR NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS"

GARDENING WORKSHOPS, DEMONSTRATIONS, GARDEN TOURS,  
& KIDS ACTIVITIES





## Cover Crops

BY JUDY ALLEN

Most of the information you come across speaks of cover crops and their use on the farm. Recently, however, gardeners, homesteaders, and environmentalists have discovered cover crops and their benefits in a more urban setting. As we see more extreme weather and a changing climate, cover crops will increase in their value to the city dweller.

Cover crops are beneficial in many ways:

- They help prevent weeds. As they cover the soil, weeds are weakened.
- Legumes add nitrogen to soils.
- They help prevent erosion, slowing down any fast-running water from rains or irrigation.
- As cover crops bloom, they attract and feed our necessary pollinators.

Cover crops are planted by seed. Some are tilled into the soil up to 1.5 inches deep. There are many types of cover crops. Here are a few that have proven to work well in our Texas climate.

**Buckwheat** has a short root structure. This makes it a great choice to use in raised garden beds. You can easily pull it up and leave it on top when you want to plant your vegetables or flowers. You can also do a "chop and drop" where you cut it an inch high or so and just leave it all on top of the bed as mulch. This method continues to provide nitrogen to the soil. Buckwheat is not frost tolerant. However, it does re-seed if you let it remain after it flowers. I always let mine flower and go to seed. The bees and beneficial insects love it. I do have buckwheat that reseeds every year in unusual places, but it pulls up easily if I don't like its location.

**Crimson clover** is a legume, which means it can mine nitrogen from the air and return it to your soil. It can also retrieve nitrogen from the soil, making it available to your plants. Plant clovers in the fall for best results. They need continuous moisture to germinate. They will quickly cover an area after germination. Their flowers are quite attractive to pollinators. Most clovers need to be replanted each year. They work best when cut low to the ground after they die back in the summer. They make a tremendous mulch when left in place.

Legumes such as **cowpeas** are a great summer crop. They are not frost-hardy and should be planted after your last spring frost. They will make a full cover all through the summer.

**Cereal Rye** (winter rye) is a tough cover crop. It has deep roots and is winter-hardy. Rye should be sown in the garden around 6 weeks before your first fall frost. You can, however, sow as late as the week of a projected frost. A mowing or two is recommended when the rye is 12 inches tall. When all this residue is left in place, it will decompose, further enhancing your soil. Rye is more difficult to remove, so a "chop and drop" method would work best for any of the rye cover crops. Rye is better used in an inground bed so that a mower can be used.



## Cover Crops (Cont.)



Photo by KENPEL, CC by-SA 3.0

**Crimson Clover**  
(*Trifolium incarnatum*)



Photo by H. Zell, CC by-SA 3.0

**Buckwheat**  
(*Fagopyrum esculentum*)

All these cover crops are beneficial for protecting your soils from erosion and weather damage. Even our much-desired rain has a negative effect when hitting bare soils. Cover crops act as a protective mulch and add nitrogen back into the garden. When used in the fall, they have time to reinvigorate our gardens before our next spring plantings. For more in-depth information, please check out the included resource links.

*University of Vermont, UVM Extension*

"Winter Rye: A Reliable Cover Crop"

<https://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/winterrye.html>

*Texas A&M, AgriLife*

"Crimson Clover"

[https://aggieclover.tamu.edu/planting\\_guide/test/](https://aggieclover.tamu.edu/planting_guide/test/)

"Cover Crops Play Important Role in Resilient Agriculture"

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/01/13/cover-crops-play-important-role-in-resilient-agriculture/>

*Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)*

"Buckwheat"

<https://www.sare.org/publications/managing-cover-crops-profitably/nonlegume-cover-crops/buckwheat/>



# Fall Into Gardening

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

8:15 AM-2 PM

GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER, 7801 S I35, CORINTH

ADULTS \$14, CHILDREN \$8; BOX LUNCH INCLUDED

DONATE 3 NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO ENTER TO WIN A GIFT BASKET!

Denton County Master Gardener Association, Beulah Acres, and Upper Trinity Regional Water District are excited to invite you to the second annual Fall Into Gardening Event on September 30, 2023. This year's event is bigger and better than ever, with presentations, information booths, and demonstrations to help you grow the garden of your dreams. Kids can get into the fun, too! Let me tell you a little about it.



## *Learn about planning and preparing your landscape*

Steve Huddleston will give the keynote presentation, "Residential Landscape Design." Steve is the former senior horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and is now the public relations manager for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. He co-authored the book "Easy Gardens for North Central Texas," a Denton Master Gardener favorite. Steve's book will be available for purchase during the event.

Master Gardener Bonnie Ambrose will help you learn to get the most out of your space to grow plants for color and food in her presentation about **small-space gardening**.

In the presentation **soil and composting** by Master Gardener with Composting Advanced Training Daniel Arenas, you will learn all about the importance of soil and how to make compost to replenish and nourish your garden.

Master Gardeners Linda D'Amanda and Kathy Preston will give you a brief introduction to **vermicomposting** or composting with worms. In their demonstration, you'll learn about the materials needed, set-up, harvesting the compost, and where to get the worms.



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Steve Huddleston, co-author**  
**of "Easy Gardens for North**  
**Central Texas."**



## Fall Into Gardening (Cont.)



### *Learn to grow plants that thrive in Denton County*

Liz Moyer, a Denton County Master Gardener and Native Plant Society of Texas member, will present **Texas native plants** discussing how to incorporate them into your landscape. Native plants support our native ecosystems to encourage the population growth of pollinators and other beneficial critters.

Learn how to assemble succulents for beautiful, long-lasting arrangements. In the **cacti and succulent** presentation by Chryl Prestemon and Carolyn Stoy from the DCMGA Succulent Team, you will learn how these unique plants bring new interest to your patio or windowsill with minimal effort.

Would you like to learn to reproduce your favorite plants? Learn tips and tricks for **propagating plants** for your landscape or sharing them with others from Kathi Efflandt, Linda Barker, and Pam Long, Denton County Master Gardeners with Propagation Advanced Training.

In the **vegetable and herb gardening workshop**, you'll learn the basics and how to prepare for a bountiful spring harvest from Master Gardeners with Herbs Advanced Training and the Flower Mound First Baptist Church Community Garden Master Gardener team.

Two information booths will help you learn about the best plants for your landscape. At the **Texas Superstar® Plants** booth, you'll hear about plants that are tested and selected for superior performance in Texas from Master Gardeners with Advanced Training in Texas Superstar® plants. Members of the **Native Plant Society of Texas** will be on hand to share information about the value of native plants, native habitats, and healthy ecosystems essential to the well-being of living things and our quality of life.



### *Learn to Maintain Your Landscape and Solve Common Garden Problems*

Learn from Denton County Master Gardener Lee Greer to collect and store rain for reuse. In Lee's presentation, **rainwater harvesting**, you'll learn to conserve water by capturing rain and the importance of water conservation.

Plants' nutrients come from fertilizers, compost, or manure. Learn the "what, why, and how" of **using fertilizers** to help your plants grow from Master Gardener Lynda Harvey's presentation.

Learn to install and maintain **drip irrigation systems**, one of the most efficient and water-wise methods for irrigating your landscape and garden. Master Gardeners Edsel Harrell and Steve Spurgin will demonstrate how to set up a system and the equipment you'll need.

## Fall Into Gardening (Cont.)

There's more to gardening than tending to weeds and plants. It also requires **proper tool maintenance and care**. Master Gardener Nick Barrows will demonstrate how to clean and sharpen your garden tools to do your gardening jobs right.

At the **Ask A Master Gardener booth**, Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions using research-based evidence, training from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and their experience gardening in North Texas.



### *Explore the Fun Side of Gardening*

Let Master Gardener Tammie Gurley clue you in on bringing more color and life to your garden with things you don't have to water or trim! In Tammie's **art in the garden** presentation, she'll share how to incorporate tasteful art into your landscape.

No matter the size of your garden, you can capture beautiful images of plants. Master Gardener and professional photographer Lea Watson will share **garden photography** tips and techniques.



### *Add a little fascination to your child's life*

In the **Kids Zone**, Science with Attitude (SWAt) will be on hand to help your children learn about horticulture through fun activities. – creating Grow Cards, Fairy Gardens, Plant People, Decorating Pumpkins, and more! An adult must accompany children at the Fall Into Gardening event.



### *Tour Gardens to see it all put into practice*

On the grounds of Global Spheres Center, tour the beautiful Israel Prayer Garden, Beulah Acres Agroforest, Community Garden, Potager Garden, and the Barnyard. Master Gardener docents will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.



SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO  
DCMGA.COM TO REGISTER TO ATTEND





# Considering Becoming a Master Gardener: An Intern's Perspective

BY JANICE YODER SMITH

Applications for the 2024 Denton County Master Gardeners Association (DCMGA) training program will be available soon. Are you thinking about applying but wonder what really goes on in that training program? Sharing my experiences may provide some insight.

December 2022

Hooray! I'm accepted into the program! I receive contact information and important dates. I send my reply that I want to be in the program and pay my course fee immediately. I am excited!

January 2023

Additional instructions arrive. My mentor calls me. She introduces herself as a veteran Master Gardener. She explains her role and answers questions. I'm in a group called a pod. She invites her mentees to a local coffee shop to become acquainted. I meet my pod members. Classes will meet on Tuesdays starting the last Tuesday in January. I'm excited until the weather forecast for icy roads is correct. Our first class meeting is delayed by ice. Leadership puts safety first.

February 2023

We go to our first class. Program leaders, mentors, and 45 interns mingle. Seeing my pod mates comforts me. We receive a lot of information in one day. The class schedule clearly defines weekly reading assignments and quiz dates. We receive assurances that we will soon master the class routine. We go to a Volunteer Opportunity Fair on Wednesday after our first class. There are over 40 projects. Interns and veterans alike can gain vital experience and volunteer hours. I choose several projects of interest that fit my schedule. Veteran members, especially our mentors, encourage and support us. They understand the new "intern" experience. They welcome questions. We learn to use Sign Up Genius online to volunteer at gardens that are on the annual tour and other events. We learn to track our volunteer hours in the online VMS system. Leadership reinforces the importance of the garden tour and the plant sale as key events for the organization. At volunteer events, leaders encourage us to take breaks and switch activities as needed. Regardless of physical ability, we find we can fully participate as volunteers. We realize we have the intern routine down by the end of the month.

March 2023

Do I have enough volunteer hours? Class leaders remind us that earning six hours a month will yield over 70 hours by year's end. I'm enjoying my classmates. They come from many



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Yoder Smith

**Mentor Melissa Weaver with  
Interns Janice Yoder Smith, Jeff  
Hardgrave, & Lisa Marlowe (L to R)**

## Considering Becoming a Master Gardener: An Intern's Perspective

occupations, life stages, locations, and lifestyles. We share enthusiasm for gardening and making the world a better place. I find new friends!

### April 2023

I have more than 70 volunteer hours and decide to work toward 100 hours so I can earn a butterfly pin. We enjoy our engaging and fun classes. Every presenter is an expert. My fondness for my mentor and pod mates grows. Veterans and interns dig and pot plants donated to the plant sale. I foster parent 36 donated plants, plus the 35 I'm donating. Some plants die. Veteran gardeners remind us everyone loses plants sometimes. The plant sale set-up day is intense. Patient veterans guide us. The event hits a new sales record.

### May 2023

The Garden Tour happens on Mother's Day weekend. Everyone plays a role. I'm a greeter and ticket taker. This year's turnout exceeds last year's. Fatigue lingers when we go to class on Tuesday. A field trip brings new info and experiences. Wait, how can classes be over? How do we stay in touch? What will we do on Tuesdays? We enjoy the end-of-class celebration at a restaurant.

### June 2023

I'm invited to be on a new committee. I complete training to serve on the DCMGA Help Desk. I go to various DCMGA meetings. I miss my pod and classmates. We stay in touch. Interns get to debrief about the classes last spring and our intern experiences so far. We have a good turnout.

### July 2023

The Communications team wants more material for publications, so I propose this article and start writing. Our lead class administrator, my mentor, and my pod mates agree to be reviewers. Sharing our experiences reminds me how lucky I am to be an intern with a marvelous mentor and a close-knit pod. Few organizations welcome newcomers as wholeheartedly as DCMGA does. I feel like I've found "my people" when I am with Master Gardeners and interns. I learn much every week, use skills acquired throughout my life, and help others. I have 195 volunteer hours.

Now you know one intern's perspective of training to become a Master Gardener. Do I recommend the Master Gardening internship program to others? Absolutely! The DCMGA website provides details of the application process and timelines at <https://www.dcmga.com/connect/become-a-master-gardener/>. I look forward to learning and serving with you.








2024 DCMGA membership renewal opens Sep 1  
Veterans and 2023 Interns \$20 until Jan 31, \$30 after  
Scan the QR code or go to the Member Home Page



## A Few of Our Favorite Resources

### ***Garden Basics with Farmer Fred***

Tips for beginning and experienced gardeners. New episodes arrive every Friday. Fred Hoffman has been a U.C. Certified Master Gardener since 1982 and writes a weekly garden column for the Lodi News-Sentinel in Lodi, CA. A four-decade fixture in Sacramento radio, he hosted three radio shows for Northern California gardeners and farmers: The KFBK Garden Show, Get Growing with Farmer Fred, and the KSTE Farm Hour. Episode Website: <https://gardenbasics.net>

#### **Listen on Apple Podcasts:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-no-till-market-garden-podcast/id1441886206>

***The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener: How to Grow Your Own Food 365 Days a Year, No Matter Where You Live***, by Niki Jabbour, Storey Publishing, LLC; (December 2011).

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**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

*Q: We have property along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River between Denton and Aubrey. We've seen several trees near the river and on fence rows dying. Identification apps indicate that those are Texas ash trees. The bark is discolored with chunks of bark just peeling off. There are squiggly burrows revealed on the surface where the bark falls off. An app said the damage comes Emerald Ash Borers. Is there danger to other trees? Is there anything we need to do?*

**A:** Discovering sick or dead trees raises concerns about disease contagion and control. Denton's Urban Forester is Haywood Morgan. His expertise allows him to determine tree species, whether the signs observed indicate Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease, and whether treatment may be effective. He will also know whether to report the observation to the National EAB hotline. Reading about his experiences with EAB in Denton provides additional insight. [Emerald Ash Borer in Denton TX.](#)

Haywood Morgan  
City of Denton Urban Forester  
940.349.8337  
[Haywood.Morgan@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Haywood.Morgan@cityofdenton.com).

National EAB Hotline is (866) 322-4512.  
[USDA EAB Report Form](#)

Some additional information may help us understand what Mr. Morgan explains.

Several kinds of ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.) live in Texas, including Arizona, Carolina, Green, Mexican, Texas, Water, and White. Texas A&M University hosts a tree identification website to help the public identify trees. ([Texas Tree Identification](#))

Specific moths and beetles produce larvae that harm ash trees. Some ash trees are resistant to some borers. Rutgers University lists the Ash/Lilac Clearwing moth borer (*Podosesia syringae*), the Banded Ash Clearwing moth borer (*Podosesia aureocincta*), and Ash Bark Beetle borers (*Hylesinus* species), along with the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). The first three listed infest stressed or damaged trees but do not always kill them. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) can damage healthy ashes and will kill 99% of the North American ash trees infested.

([Rutgers University Wood Borers of Ash Trees](#))





Emerald ash borer damage

Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPO, Bugwood.org

Signs of borer infestation include increased woodpecker activity, leafy shoots on the trunk, and dead branches toward the top of the canopy. TAMU and Rutgers note the presence of 3mm (1/8 inch, the thickness of two stacked U.S. pennies) D-shaped exit holes as documentation of EAB infestation. Other borers make larger, rounder holes. EAB larval galleries form tight serpentine shapes. [Texas Forestry Service Emerald Ash Borer](#)

The USDA regulates movement of ash trees in the nursery trade. The TAMU Forest Service recommends chipping infested wood to destroy EAB larvae. Professional arborists who hold pesticide applicator licenses may use emamectin benzoate-containing insecticides to prevent or limit EAB infestations. If Mr. Morgan recommends contacting an arborist, the [Trees Are Good](#) website provides a helpful search engine to find one locally.

## SEPTEMBER TURF TIP

# TIME TO APPLY PRE-EMERGENT TO YOUR NORTH TEXAS LAWN

### MID-SEPTEMBER THROUGH EARLY OCTOBER

THERE'S A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME TO APPLY



Apply Fall pre-emergents when soil temperatures drop to around 70F for 4-5 consecutive nights or when nighttime lows are 60-65F. This will vary a lot from year to year and region to region. For North TX, this is typically between mid-September to early October. Your time is limited!

### STOP THE GROWTH OF COOL WEATHER WEEDS

ONCE THE COLD WEATHER USHERS IN WITH RAIN AND A COLD FRONT - IT'S TOO LATE

A pre-emergent application will inhibit the seeds before they can "emerge" or germinate in the cooler weather.



### REMEMBER, NOW IS THE TIME

DON'T MISS THIS BRIEF WINDOW FOR TREATMENT



If you miss this deadline, then the cool-season annual seeds will germinate and it will be another year before you can treat them.

### WHAT TO APPLY

CORN GLUTEN MEAL OR BENEFIN?

Corn Gluten Meal can have a success of up to 60% if it does not receive rain for five to seven days after it is applied. Benefin will only be effective if applied in the short time frame from mid-September to October. To read more about these options, visit <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Preemergence-Herbicide-Guide-4.pdf>



### CHECK OUT MORE INFORMATION

ANOTHER RESOURCE FROM TEXAS A&amp;M



To learn more about weed identification and treatment for cool and warm season weeds, be sure to visit

[http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF\\_LANDSCAPE/PUB\\_turf\\_Herbicide%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf](http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Herbicide%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf)

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Questions? Contact our Help Desk

email: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com)

PHONE: 940.349.2892



*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](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov).*

*It's free of charge, and our pleasure to assist you.*





**TEXAS MASTER GARDENER**  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
Denton County

# DCMGA

## Upcoming Events

**Sept 7** **Collecting and Saving Seeds**  
*Collecting and saving seeds is an ancient tradition of successful gardeners. Learn how to collect and store seeds of your most successful plants from Denton County Master Gardener Cheryl Huckabee. Presented in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful.*  
**Lewisville Grand Theater 6-7PM**

**Sept 13** **Please join us for our Monthly Meeting & Program**  
*"Edible Landscape Design" Shawn Mayfield, owner of Blue Sky Agriscaping, will present about designing edible food scapes. The monthly business meeting will follow the program.*  
**Trinity Presbyterian Church 10AM-12PM**

**Sept 21** **Cacti and Succulents**  
*Learn all about how to put together succulents for beautiful and long-lasting arrangements. These are bound to bring a new interest to your patio or window sill with minimal effort or upkeep. Our speaker is Bonnie Ambrose, Denton County Master Gardener.*  
**Lewisville Grand Theater 6-7PM**

**Sept 21** **Dogscaping**  
*Learn how to create safe spaces for your pups while keeping your landscape beautiful. Presented by Denton County Master Gardener Carol Arment in partnership with the Aubrey Area Library*  
**Aubrey Area Library 7-8PM**

**Sept 28** **Wild DFW and the North Texas Ecotone**  
*Nature is more than someplace we visit — it's where we live. In this talk from naturalist and journalist Amy Martin, author of Wild DFW: Explore the Amazing Nature Around Dallas-Fort Worth, discover North Texas's rare prairies, diverse bottomland forests, limestone escarpments, wetlands, and more. Presented by Native Plant Society*  
**Ann Stuart Science Complex 6:30-8:30 PM**

**Sept 30** **Fall Into Gardening Event**  
*Presentations, demonstrations, and information booths to help you grow! Learn from Master Gardener experts how to plan and grow the garden of your dreams. Presented by Denton County Master Gardener Association and Beulah Acres. Keynote Speaker is Steve Huddleston. "Suburban Landscape Design for Homeowners." For 26 years, Steve served as the senior horticulturist for the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden. He is now the public relations manager for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. He co-authored Easy Gardens for North Central Texas, a Master Gardener favorite.*  
**Global Spheres Center 8:15AM-2PM**

**Oct 5** **Designing a Pollinator Garden**  
*Adding a pollinator garden to your landscape is a wonderful way to support the insects and birds that enable all things to grow, and a wonderful way to interest children and adults alike in nature and the outdoors. Let Denton County Master Gardener Mike James help you with design tips to assure your pollinator heaven is also an aesthetic asset in your landscape.*  
**Lewisville Grand Theater 6-7PM**



# AUBREY LIBRARY GARDENING SERIES

Location- Aubrey Area Library  
226 Countryside Dr., Aubrey, TX 76227

**Jumpstart your gardening this Fall with our free  
educational series on the 3rd Thursday  
Brought to you by Denton County Master Gardeners!**

*Fall is the best time to have a  
garden. Find out why and  
how to extend the season  
with fresh veggies!*

**AUGUST 17**

7-8:00pm

**Fall Vegetable Gardening**

*Cheryl Huckabee*

*Learn how to create safe  
spaces for your pups while  
keeping your landscape  
beautiful.*

**SEPTEMBER 21**

7-8:00pm

**Dogscaping**

*Carol Arment*

*Follow these steps for putting  
your yard to sleep for the  
Winter.*

**OCTOBER 19**

7-8:00pm

**Put your Landscape to Bed**

*Mike James*



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. We seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this program and ask that you notify the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office of the auxiliary aid or service that will be required.



## Fall Into Gardening

PRESENTED BY:  
DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION, &  
BEULAH ACRES

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**  
**8:15 AM-2:00 PM**  
GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER  
7801 S I-35, CORINTH, TX

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER Steve Huddleston



Steve will present suburban landscape design for homeowners. For 26 years, Steve served as the senior horticulturist for the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden. He is now the public relations manager for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. He co-authored Easy Gardens for North Central Texas, a Master Gardener favorite.

**\$14 ADULTS, \$8 CHILDREN;  
INCLUDES BOX LUNCH**

**DONATE 3 NON-PERISHABLE  
FOOD ITEMS TO ENTER TO WIN A  
GIFT BASKET!**



SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO  
DCMGA.COM TO REGISTER TO  
ATTEND

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.

### Presentations, demonstrations, & information booths to help you grow!

Let us take you on a gardening journey. Learn from Master Gardener experts how to plan and grow the garden of your dreams.

 <p><b>Plan &amp; Prepare Your Landscape</b> Small Space Gardening Soil &amp; Composting Vermiculture</p>	 <p><b>Select &amp; Grow Your Plants</b> Native Plants Cacti &amp; Succulents Plant Propagation Vegetable Gardening &amp; Herbs Texas Superstar® Plants</p>	 <p><b>Maintain Your Landscape &amp; Solve Problems</b> Rainwater Harvesting Fertilizing Drip Irrigation Caring for Garden Tools Ask A Master Gardener</p>	 <p><b>Gardening Fun</b> Art in the Garden Garden Photography</p>	 <p><b>Kids Zone Activities</b> Grow Cards Pumpkin Decorating Plant People Suck-a-Bug</p>	 <p><b>Garden Tours</b> Israel Prayer Garden Beulah Acres Agroforest Community Garden Potager Garden Beulah Barnyard</p>
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## Denton County Master Gardener Association



### JOIN US TO LEARN MORE

General Meeting & Program  
October 11, 2023, 10 am-noon  
&  
2024 Intern Informational Meeting  
October 13, 2022, 10 am-noon

Both at the Global Spheres Center  
7801 S I-35, Corinth



Scan the QR code or go to  
[dcmga.com/become-a-master-gardener](https://dcmga.com/become-a-master-gardener) for details & to apply

Now Recruiting for Our  
2024 Intern Class

## Want to Be a Master Gardener?

Online Applications  
Available Aug 30 - Oct 20 at  
[dcmga.com](https://dcmga.com)

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### Mission Statement

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

### Extension EO/EEO Statement

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

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### Save the Date

September 13 General Meeting & Program - "Edible Landscape Design" - Trinity Presbyterian Church, Denton

September 30 Fall Into Gardening, Global Spheres, Corinth

### Contact Information

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### Content

The Submission deadline for the October edition of *The Root* is Friday, September 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 Judy Allen at [dcmga.communications@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com).

Unless otherwise attributed, all photos are courtesy of Denton County MGA.