

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

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Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~ Melody Beattie

November is the time for expressing gratitude, thankfulness, and showing appreciation. There are many things I am grateful for.

Every month, not just in November, I am grateful for the invaluable contributions of the DCMGA veteran and intern members. They give their time, energy, and resources to help our community without expecting anything in return. They are my heroes who work to make a difference every day.

I am grateful for the Denton County residents' continuing support and our community partners' support. Seeing our friends and neighbors enjoy our presentations and events is a joy. Our community partners share our commitment to serving the community and our mission of helping Denton County residents learn sustainable gardening practices. For that, I am most grateful.

Several DCMGA 2023 interns say, "I found my people" in DCMGA. I share that sentiment. I am thankful for the friendships and shared sense of purpose I've found being a member of this extraordinary organization.

And, lest I forget, I am grateful for the cooler weather finally arriving here in North Texas. It's magical how autumn helps us put the brutal summer heat behind us and think about the promise of spring.

All are welcome to join us at our November Monthly Meeting & Program at 10 a.m. on November 8th at Global Spheres Center in Corinth. This month's program, "Can I Eat That? Browsing for Food in the Ornamental Garden," presented by a Dallas County Master Gardener, will help you learn about some of the flowers, fruit, leaves, and roots that can be grown and eaten in North Texas.

Thank you for growing with us!

Cheryl



SWAt - Science With Attitude A Secret No More!

BY LEE ANN YATES

For years now, SWAt-ting has been one of my favorite things to do! Yes, to flies and most definitely to mosquitos, but more fun than those is to SWAt with kids! “What!??!” Master Gardeners queried collectively! My favorite SWAt is to volunteer with our Science With Attitude group of Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and 4-H leaders. Allow me to let you in on DCMGA’s best-kept secret – because it’s past time to let this cat out of the bag! SWAt is the most fun you can have while serving Denton County!

“Explain,” they said, skeptically. According to the program objectives of the Texas Master Gardener Management Guide, Master Gardener associations “will enhance 4-H programs through the establishment of 4-H horticultural clubs and Junior Master Gardener groups.” SWAt is DCMGA’s solution to these directing objectives.

The collaboration between DCMGA, 4-H, and the Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists began in 2009. It serves to advance our education mission by providing science-related education and activities to teachers, parents, and children and teens. The three organizations work together seamlessly to nurture children’s love and respect for all aspects of the outdoor world.

“What’s so special about volunteering with kids?” they asked doubtfully. Our SWAt program is truly unique. It is the premier children’s education program for DCMGA, not replicated anywhere in the state. We have been wildly successful over the last several years in reaching thousands of children and hundreds of parents and teachers in a myriad of locations – libraries, camps, homeschool groups, classrooms, after-school clubs, high school Advanced Placement classes, school gardens, DCMGA Garden Tours and Plant Sales – just about any place in Denton County where children or teens gather to learn about horticulture, animals, and nature.

Another special thing about volunteering with SWAt is that you get to meet children and teens who are actually INTERESTED in the planet, horticulture, gardening, eating foods from the garden, insects, spiders, animals, and butterflies. They LOVE this stuff and learning the science that surrounds their world. The young people who attend SWAt events WANT to be there, know a lot already, want to learn more and want to share it with others. They are excited about the natural world, their place in it, and how to protect and use it safely. Their excitement makes time spent volunteering with them a VERY FUN privilege! It is incumbent on Master Gardeners to teach and encourage the next generation to be interested in and learn to care about the natural world.

SWAt - Science With Attitude (Cont.)

“How does this collaboration work?” they asked curiously. Organizations, educators, and librarians request a SWAt program and volunteers through a link on DCMGA’s website. They can choose from over 30 programs or request an activity kit to be delivered to their facility – for FREE. SWAt volunteers created these kits and programs to align with Texas state education standards and to support the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go program from the Junior Master Gardener curriculum.

“How much of an impact does SWAt really have?” they asked with interest. Well, SWAt volunteers have been very busy this year. Between January and the middle of May 2023, SWAt volunteers had 6009 contacts with children and adults in a wide variety of activities and places!! Summer didn’t slow them down with the sixth summer camp for twenty nature and plant enthusiasts between the ages of six and ten, held at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. SWAt volunteers have continued bringing science-based horticulture information to Denton County kids every month. Master Gardeners, that is more public contacts than any other program, event, or project that we are involved in! Impressive for a secret!

“Why don’t we hear more about SWAt?” While SWAt might be DCMGA’s best-kept secret, we are working to change that – with this article and you may have noticed more about SWAt on DCMGA’s FaceBook page and other social media. It is not a secret with our county education partners – 4-H and the Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. It’s not a secret with our partner, City of Denton Parks and Recreation – the joint Outdoor Science With Attitude (OSWAt) summer camp rapidly fills to capacity every summer with a waiting list. It is not a secret at the State and International Master Gardener level. In July 2017. DCMGA’s Science With Attitude program won the International Search of Excellence, 2nd Place, Youth Category at the International Master Gardener level.



Susan Kilpatrick (left) and Tammie Manley-Gurley (right) accepting the International Search of Excellence, 2nd Place, Youth Category, at the International Master Gardener level for DCMGA's Science With Attitude Program.

SWAt - Science With Attitude (Cont.)

If you still need more encouragement to join this outstanding DCMGA group, here is what some of the VITK (volunteers in the know!) have to say:

- *“Look at all the kids we see – giving them close contact with nature! For some, it’s the only real touch they have.” Marion Arndt*
- *“Open children’s minds early to nature and they will take it with them all their lives. You never know what will turn a little switch on for them! ... Make their minds work, not their thumbs!” Linda Harvey*
- *“SWAt is an easy way to get quickly involved and they really want interns’ input at every point.” Mary Loskorn*
- *“I’ve been surprised at the level of courtesy and respect the kids show and the level of excitement they have for SWAt projects ... such diverse activities.” Brenda Martin*
- *“It IS our mission – educating kids AND parents! It’s a lot of FUN to share our knowledge with kids who are excited about horticulture and nature. We live in a world of concrete ... watching kids take their knowledge and apply it in their lives is wonderful!” Beth Sharum*
- *“We have to have people who want to help SWAt to keep doing what we do!” Tammie Gurley*

I have to put my personal “2¢” worth in here also. One of my grandsons attended many SWAt events, including four SWAt summer camps. He visited the butterfly house at the London Zoo last year and gave an impromptu lesson on Monarch butterflies to one of the workers there who had heard about them but had never seen one. Next year, he will be signing up to volunteer at the London Zoo. Science education is formative, important, and far-reaching, but needs your help to continue!

Now I have questions for you, fellow Master Gardeners. How are YOU reaching our community members? How are YOU fulfilling our public education mission? How are YOU touching the future? If you aren’t volunteering with SWAt you are missing out ... on educational opportunities, on passing gardening knowledge and enthusiasm to the next generation, on ALL THIS FUN!!

Check out the [Science With Attitude \(SWAt\) FaceBook page](#) and share it with your friends inside and outside DCMGA.

“OK! You got me! I want to volunteer for SWAt and have fun too! How do I sign up?” they exclaimed enthusiastically. Come to the next SWAt meeting – the fourth Thursday of each month at the Carroll Building. Most meetings include Continuing Education on a SWAt-related topic. Check the DCMGA member calendar for details each month. Call or email Marion Arndt or Tammie Gurley for more information. Their contact information is in VMS.



Meet A Few 2023 Master Gardener Interns

We're looking forward to welcoming the Denton County Master Gardener Association's Class of 2024. Last year, forty-four interns inspired us all by their dedication to the community. Thus far, all of them have completed 70+ hours of training and have logged over 5400 volunteer service hours to our mission of educating the community about research-based sustainable gardening.

We asked the 2023 interns about their experiences this year. Here's what a few of them had to say.

Donna Hull

It seems that I should be writing that I grew up in a family of gardeners – but I actually grew up in a family of geologists! Close enough, right? In my family, gardening can skip a generation. Fortunately, I got the garden gene as well as a mentor in my grandmother who was intent that I learn to grow plants. My first gardening memory, other than helping my grandma pick squash and cucumbers from her garden in Oklahoma, is coming home from school on my bike and seeing Grandma Sophie standing in the driveway with a shovel and two tomato plants in her hands. Standing beside her was my mom (decidedly not a gardener!) who told me to put my bike away and put on some blue jeans. Ten minutes later, I was learning how to plant my first tomato plant. I still remember exactly how Grandma told me to do it, although I confess I have strayed a little bit from her very precise instructions!



Donna Hull ('23)

I've not always lived in places where I could garden, but plants have always been my hobby. I went to college in Rochester, New York (no garden, just a plant in the window!), UT-Dallas graduate school for a doctorate in geology (had a small garden but not enough time), and then got married (he likes plants too!). We did some gardening at our first home in Richardson, but soon moved to Jakarta, Indonesia. I didn't garden outdoors in Jakarta as the tropical soil has some very unwelcoming worms and microbes, but I did live in houses surrounded by plants, and I fell in love with the tropical flowers, fruits and trees. When we moved back to Texas, I started a small vegetable garden as soon as the weather permitted. I was teaching middle and high school Earth Science and Biology then and raising two boys. We bought some property in the country in Denton County to help the boys get away from the city and screen time, and there I started what my husband calls our "vegetable farm".

I love growing vegetables, and I am learning all of the time. I win some, I fail more than I care to, but I can't seem to stop trying again every season! I'm getting wiser, very slowly, about fruit and

Meet Master Gardener Interns (Cont.)

nut trees (thank you to my mentor, Pat Moyer), and I have been experimenting with growing grapes and trying my hand at food preservation. I retired from teaching just over a year ago, which finally gave me the time to join a Master Gardener class!! I loved every Tuesday as an intern, sitting in a room learning all day with other plant lovers. I hope to take a few advanced trainings over the next many years to grow my skills and knowledge. I do love to read and write about plants, so you'll see my name here and there in *The Root* - thank you, Judy Allen, for the opportunity. And, best of all, we have just welcomed our first grandchild - a little girl named Noelle, who will likely come home from school one day and find her grandmother in the driveway with a shovel and a couple of tomato plants! I can't wait.

Janice Yoder Smith

My love and need to garden follow me through my life. I've always been a curious, observant, reach-out-and-touch person. Science and history fascinate me. I've always been persistent, too. There's often another way to do something that seems improbable to achieve. Sometimes, though, I've had to recognize that the many blockades on a path meant that I needed to change paths entirely. Those strategies and the belief that something good can be found in every person and every situation still guide my life.

Job and career experiences include being a janitor, busboy, silver reclamation from x-rays, daycare, transcriptionist, high school teacher, scientist, college instructor, and dean. Each role taught me something and opened new paths.

Gardening taught me many skills that helped carry me through life, too. Pulling Johnson grass as a child taught me that certain approaches work better than others and that sticking with a difficult project is necessary. Picking and processing vegetables and fruits from my mother's gardens reinforced that good things come from hard work and the ability to adjust as nature changes human plans.

Some people tell me that I am good at nurturing people. I do enjoy helping others and seeing them overcome their obstacles. One person might only need a seed of inspiration. Another might need a little enrichment of their soil or to reduce the frequency of watering. A person might benefit from being in a different role just as a plant may benefit from being in a different environment. Some people find themselves on the equivalent of the discount plant rack in their jobs. They can revive if someone takes a bit of time and effort to help them get into the right environment.



Janice Yoder Smith ('23)

Meet Master Gardener Interns (Cont.)

So many people took the moment and effort to pull me off the salvage rack. I am ever grateful to those who planted the seeds of determination, confidence, and ongoing learning in me. Paying forward to help others is very important to me. Becoming a Master Gardener gives me additional avenues to pay forward and help others.

Mary Loskorn

While enjoying retirement from a long teaching career, I began to look for more ways to embrace my gardening passion and ways to stay involved with my community. After spending some time researching options, I narrowed my search in the direction of the Denton County Master Gardener Association. I was very impressed with their mission statement and purpose and also with their community events offered throughout the year. I attended several DCMGA meetings and workshops and then pursued the application process. After several months, I was chosen to become an intern for the class of 2023.

Weekly classes began in January as well as many questions for our class leaders and mentors and the dreaded technology issues. All of the interns learned and prevailed through reading, tests, and a variety of hands-on opportunities volunteering at sites throughout Denton County.

Some of the best advice we received: Read all you can and volunteer in as many opportunities as possible. Sure enough, they were right! I have thoroughly enjoyed our classes, our volunteer garden dates, our special seminars, and, of course, being involved in a community of gardening enthusiasts. We all love learning, helping others, and sharing with the community.  



The December and January issues of The Root will be mainly announcements only. This gives The Root editor & and its authors time to enjoy the holidays. The February 2024 issue will be full of the gardening articles and information you have come to expect.

The Newsletter staff thanks you for your understanding.

Plant of the Month - Leafy Greens

BY IVY SUMMERFIELD

The first thought that comes to mind when I hear the words Leafy Green is a circular, shiny, cold bowl containing various shades of green lettuce. Although lettuce is the most common vegetable associated with Leafy Greens, there are so many more vegetables and herbs that fall into the Leafy Green category. Did I just say Herbs? Yes, I did. What if a friend asks you to dinner and said the meal would include a weed or wildflower dish? Would you go? Leafy Greens include vegetables, herbs, weeds, and wildflowers

Vegetables

Lettuce is the most known Leafy Green, followed by Spinach, Kale, Cabbage, and Mustard Greens, just to name a few on the long list of Leafy Green vegetables. Whether in a salad, melded in a soup, baked, boiled, steamed, added to a smoothie, or eaten raw, I venture to say that we have all indulged in Leafy Greens in one way or another. The vitamins and nutrients we receive from these plants can contribute to protection from heart disease, help keep glucose levels stable, aid sexual stamina, and can likely protect you from some cancers.



- Lettuce has vitamins A, B6, K, E, and C and contains protein, fiber, carbohydrates, and sugar.
- Spinach has vitamins A, B6, K, E, and C and can improve your energy.
- Kale contains the same vitamins as lettuce and spinach plus fiber, carbohydrates, sugar, and fat. Kale may even help with weight loss.
- Cabbage has vitamins A, B6, K, and C, along with protein, fiber, carbohydrates, and sugar. Eating cabbage supports digestion, as well as helping your cholesterol levels.
- Mustard Greens contain vitamins A, B6, and K, along with protein, and are low in fat.

These are only a few of the common Leafy Greens.

You are likely wondering how 'sexual stamina' is associated with Leafy Greens? The origin of lettuce goes back to Egyptian times when wall carvings depicted Min, the god of fertility, cultivating lettuce. The depiction was of an erect plant, thick stem, and milky sap. Min consumed the lettuce as a sacred food for sexual stamina. Wow, who would have guessed?

Leafy Greens (Cont.)

Planting Leafy Greens is possible in the spring and fall. Knowing your hardiness zone and first and last frost dates will help in having a successful harvest. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has compiled information on growing vegetables which includes Planning your Garden, all the steps needed on planting, watering, and harvesting, and Do's and Don'ts in a garden. As a side note, spring and fall are not the only times you can enjoy Leafy Greens. Growing micro-greens inside can let you enjoy delicious vegetables year-round. You will be harvesting miniature greens that have the same great flavor.



Herbs

Herbs are those plants that, when used as a garnish, make our meals look appetizing; when used in soups, make that broth just a bit more savory; and when eaten raw, add a little interest to our palate.

Herbs are comprised of Parsley, Cilantro, Mint, Dill, Basil, Oregano, Lemongrass, and many others. Herbs are said to help raise your immunity, lower your blood pressure, and have many

other claims. Herbs can be a source of antioxidants, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties. We don't claim to treat any disease or illness. Investigate any herb you might want to try, and always check with your doctor, as some herbs can react with certain medications. Safety first! For best results on planting and growing dates, as with vegetables, check your hardiness zone and first and last frost dates. Read your seed packages for valuable information on how to grow your specific herb so you will have a greater success rate. You can grow Herbs in containers for the patio or simply in the ground.

Vitamin attributes for:

- Parsley - A, B6, K, E, and C
- Cilantro - A and K
- Mint - A and C
- Dill - A, B6, and C
- Basil - high in A and also includes B6, K, and C
- Oregano - B6, high in K, and 1% of the daily intake of vitamin E in a teaspoon
- Lemongrass - B6 and C

Leafy Greens (Cont.)

Weeds

Dandelions, Purslane, and Chickweed are a few of the Weeds that are eaten raw or used in cooking recipes to enhance the flavor. Although there are many weeds that fit in this category, these three are among the more popular ones and their properties are unique. Before you pick any weeds that could be considered Leafy Greens, know your source and if they have been treated with pesticides. If you are interested in any Weeds listed on any chart, you might want to find a seed distributor and grow that Weed in a garden bed. Then you will know where it came from and how it was handled.

Dandelions are the first spring flower to sprout in the lawn. There are various types of Dandelions – short, medium, and long leaves – and all containing a yellow flower. All parts of the dandelion are edible. You can eat them raw or cook the leaves in a soup or favorite dish. The United States Food and Drug Administration (USDA) has found that Dandelions are safe to eat. Vitamins include A, B6, K, C, E. Dandelions provide antioxidants and can help with blood pressure.



Purslane contains vitamins A, B6, and C. It contains dietary fiber and is one of the few vegetables that is rich in omega-3 fatty acids. All parts of Purslane are edible, either raw or cooked.

Chickweed's vitamin list includes A, B-complex, C, and D. It contains healing agents for the skin and is considered anti-inflammatory.

Food for Thought

After reading this article, you might be sharing the story of the origin of lettuce! Eating Leafy Greens does not mean having a dull meal. Enjoy your Leafy Greens, Herbs, Weeds, and Wildflowers. Nature has so much to offer us if we just get out and look.

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, “Texas Home Vegetable Gardening Guide”

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/texas-home-vegetable-gardening-guide/>

Ohio State Health & Discovery

“How to use herbs and spices to pump up flavor and nutritional value of food”

<https://health.osu.edu/wellness/exercise-and-nutrition/how-to-use-herbs-and-spices>

You're Invited

November 2023, Monthly Meeting & Program
"Can I Eat That? Browsing for Food in the
Ornamental Garden"



A Dallas County Master Gardener will help you learn about some of the flowers, fruit, leaves, and roots that can be grown and eaten in North Texas.

November 8, 2023, 10 am
Global Spheres Center
7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX 76210

DCMGA Members & Interns

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

Raise a Glass to Texas Wine

BY VANESSA FITZGERALD

One of my favorite ways to familiarize myself with a new area is to learn about the local wine scene. My travels have given me the opportunity to try a variety of wines across the globe, each with its own distinct qualities. My favorites have been the Thomas Jefferson-inspired wines in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the rich Tuscan wines of Italy, and the cool climate Canadian wines – not to mention the bounty of wines in Washington, Oregon, and California. If you want to know about an area, talk to a winemaker. The conversation will roll from the area's culture to its climate, community, family, and food, all infused with love and celebration for the winemaking process.

As a newcomer, I was excited to learn that Texas is home to a vibrant and thriving wine industry with a deep history and strong ties to Europe. Whether you are new like me or a native, learning about the wine industry here is a wonderful way to enrich your experience. Texas wines have received national and international recognition and their reputation for delicious, high-quality wines only continues to grow. You won't find large-scale wineries or mass-produced wine here – lovely, interesting, and unique boutique wines reign. Be prepared to be surprised and delighted!

Native Grapes

European grapes were first introduced to the El Paso River Valley by Spanish missionaries in the 1600s. However, Pierce's Disease, Cotton Root Rot and fungal diseases kept these varieties from succeeding. The grape that was brought over, *Vitis vinifera*, is a different species than native grapes which are resistant to these issues. This leads to the pretty incredible work done in the late 19th century by T.V. Munson, a Texas resident and horticulturist. Munson provided resistant grape hybrid rootstock that he had developed to French winemakers which ultimately saved their wine industry from destruction caused by a plant louse. The French Government honored Munson with the French Legion of Honor Chevalier du Mérite Agricole in 1888. Munson's book, Foundations of American Grape Culture, is still widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive books on native grapes in the American Southwest.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Intern Vanessa Fitzgerald

Raise a Glass to Texas Wine (Cont.)

Texas boasts the highest number of wild grapes in the US with 13 native species. The varieties favored for winemaking are Muscadine, Lomanto, Mustang, Lenoir, and summer grapes. These natives and their hybrids are well suited to handle the Texas weather changes, pests, and diseases.

There are a handful of Viticulture & Enology specialists assigned to 5 large regions across the state to provide research-driven, unbiased support to grape growers and winemakers. Denton County is Michael Cook's territory and he has a wealth of knowledge and experience to offer as a Texas A&M Extension Viticulture Program Specialist. Grapes are a labor-intensive crop to manage and having this support available to new and established growers is so valuable to maintain momentum as the industry rapidly grows.

There are currently 8 American Viticulture Areas (AVA) in the State. An AVA is a designated wine-grape growing region in the United States, providing an official appellation of origin for the mutual benefit of wineries and consumers. The Texas High Plains AVA is one of the best places in the state to grow wine grapes. In fact, it is where 80% of the grapes are grown, and spans 8 million acres. With an elevation between 3-4000 ft, its climate is very dry. The largest AVA in the state is in the Texas Hill Country. It is the third largest certified AVA in America with over 9 million acres, right in the heart of Texas. The AVA located in North Texas is called Texoma, sitting just north of Denton. Currently there are 12 wineries using this AVA. Cook describes the wine coming out of here as "Old World, soft, medium bodied, high quality wines like Syrah, Tempranillo, Petit Verdot, Petit Syrah, and Malbec."



There are a multitude of reasons to celebrate and enjoy wine here. While much of the state's wine tourism is in the Hill County area, one of the biggest celebrations of wine happens every year in Grapevine with its noteworthy GrapeFest held every September. This event provides attendees with the opportunity to enjoy wines from around the globe as well as Texas wine.

Add the Fall Wine Trail to your October plans next year. This is a fun way to tour North Texas Wine Country at your own pace with a ticket that gets you into over 35 wineries with 100+ tastes of wine over the full month. A similar event, the Spring Wine Trail, is held every May.

Raise a Glass to Texas Wine (Cont.)

Look for more fun wine touring opportunities throughout the year or join a Wine Club to get more closely connected with a specific winery and their events. Personally, I like spending a long afternoon tasting wines at one location without being rushed, which allows for time to walk the grounds and really talk with the folks on-site and very often meeting the winemaker in person. Slowing down and savoring the experience gives me a good sense of the terroir (the distinctive qualities of the wines offered).

Grow Your Own Grapes

You don't need a vineyard-sized piece of land to grow your own grapes – they can be grown in your own yard even if you aren't interested in growing grapes for winemaking. I suggest adding a native grapevine or two to your landscaping plan. It could be purely ornamental but with the proper care and attention, you may get a good yield over time as well as lush, colorful visual interest in your space. Recommended varieties for arbors are Lenoir, Champanel, and Muscadine.



There is a lot of science, research, and hard work in getting a grape from the vine into your glass but there is also an undeniable art. For wine lovers like me, both are appreciated but my heart knows what it likes and Texas wine has found a place in mine.

Resources

Texas A&M, Aggie Horticulture, Viticulture and Enology

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

“Grape Arbors,” <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/fact-sheets/grape-arbors/>

“Texas Wine Grape Guide” (downloadable pdf)

<https://gregg.agrilife.org/files/2015/05/Texas-Wine-Grape-Growing-Guide.pdf>

“Starting a Vineyard in Texas” (downloadable pdf)

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2020/09/Starting-a-Vineyard-in-Texas.pdf>

Texas Wine Club

“Texas Wine Industry Links,” <https://www.txwines.org/industry-information/>

“5 Wild Texas Grapes Used in Wine Production”

<https://txwine.com/blogs/texas-wine-education/wild-texas-grapes>

Cross Timbers Wine Trail Association, <https://crosstimberswinetrail.com/>



What to Plant in November

- Carrots, spinach, mustard greens, radish, and turnips (seeds or transplants)
- Kale, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and artichokes (transplants)
- Trees, vines and shrubs
- Spring and summer flowering perennials (dig and divide, or new plants)
- Cool season annuals such as pansies, dianthus, and ornamental kale
- Narcissus and spring bulbs (late November)
- Sow seeds of crimson or white clover as a cover crop (Protects soil and prevents weeds. Cover crops reduce soil erosion and run-off)



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.

Results of the 2023 Onion Research Project

BY PAT MOYER

Since its approval as a DCMGA Project in 2017, the Flower Mound First Baptist Church (FMFBC) Community has focused on the dual goals of vegetable gardening education for Master Gardeners and the public as well as providing the yield of the garden to a local food bank for the community, Christian Community Action (CCA) in Lewisville. The pandemic in 2021 put an even stronger emphasis on support to CCA.

The FMFBC team, composed of both community members and Master Gardeners, has always recorded produce weight by vegetable type and used that as a measure of effectiveness. In 2021, when the team was planning for 2022, the team felt that we should refine our yield focus to better our overall performance. The team felt that if they could identify specific varieties of vegetables to evaluate for yield and weight, they could provide a more reliable source and quantity of staple vegetables to CCA.

The team decided to evaluate onions. They had already selected five varieties for the 2022 garden plan. It included five varieties of “Short Day” onions recommended by AgriLife for our area of the state.

Variety	Taste Characteristics	Growth characteristics
Yellow Granex	Mild, slightly sweet	A cold-tolerant cross between the 1015 and Bermuda
Red Southern Belle	Sweet, colorful	Cold tolerant, slow to bolt
Texas 1015Y	Sweet, mild	Early maturing, Texas original
Texas Legend	Sweet, mild, non-astringent	Early maturing, large (as much as 6")
White Bermuda	Not as sweet or mild as the others	Large and slightly flat, juicy

Onion sets of the selected varieties were planted in late January 2022 per AgriLife recommendations and monitored throughout their growing cycle. The weather, in true Texas fashion, ranged wildly and included some heavy rains in March and April. The weather damaged a few of the plants, affecting the yield quantity of the onion crop. But 149 pounds of onions were harvested, recorded, and delivered to CCA for their Food Bank.

When the team met to plan for 2023, they thought that the weather may have impacted our yields in terms of both quantity and weight. So, they decided to repeat the onion evaluation. Another area of the community garden was selected for the onion rows and the same onion set varieties were planted. Once again, the plantings were subject to Texas weather, with the exception that there were no heavy early Spring rains and there was an application of nitrogen-based fertilizer based on an AgriLife Soil Test that indicated a need for additional nitrogen.

2023 Onion Research Project (Cont.)

The onions were harvested in mid-May. The results of the evaluation were much more promising in terms of plant yield and average onion weight. See the table below:

Variety	% of successful growing slips		Average weight per onion in lbs.	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Yellow Granex	63	85	.37	.70
Red Southern Belle	84	100	.26	.55
Texas 1015Y	64	97	.27	.41
Texas Legend	90	100	.25	.48
White Bermuda	96	100	.33	.55

Other findings:

High nitrogen levels in the soil produced larger onions across all varieties than the previous year's crops. The beginning soil had a high organic content that seemed to protect the onions from flood damage during exceptionally heavy spring rains.

The results indicate:

- All the onion varieties, under proper conditions and fertilization programs, are productive and have a high yield.
- For weight, Yellow Granex had the highest average weight.
- For yield, Red Southern Belle, Texas Legend, and White Bermuda were best.
- The evaluation process was beneficial in increasing our volume of vegetables for CCA and is applicable for other staple types of vegetables (onions, tomatoes, beans, etc.) with several AgriLife-recommended varieties.

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Aggie Horticulture

“Short Day Varieties”

<https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/onions/shortday.html>

“Easy Gardening Onions” (downloadable pdf)

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2011/03/E-514_onions.pdf

Extension in Bexar County, “Onions”

<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/onions/>

Texas Master Gardener, “Planting Onions”

<https://txmg.org/somervell/news/90218>

**The Onion Team wants to recognize and thank Sandra Giesler, the Super Model, Data Wrangler, and Head Onion Minion (Ret) who collected, organized, and explained the data that was required for this study.*

Fall Into Gardening 2023 Recap

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

The Fall Into Gardening event was a vibrant and educational experience for gardening enthusiasts of all levels. At the heart of this horticultural extravaganza was the keynote speaker, Steve Huddleston, a seasoned expert in the field. During the lunch session, Huddleston shared his extensive knowledge of suburban landscape design, catering to homeowners' needs. With a remarkable 26-year tenure as the senior horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, he's recently retired as the public relations manager at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. Huddleston's credentials include co-authoring the book "Easy Gardens for North Central Texas" and being the president of his landscaping business.

The event was divided into four distinctive tracks, offering presentations, demonstrations, and information booths, ensuring attendees could focus on their areas of interest. In the "Plan & Prepare Your Landscape" track, Master Gardener guided participants through small-space gardening, composting, and vermiculture.

For those interested in "Select & Grow Your Plants," topics ranged from native plants and succulents to plant propagation and vegetable gardening. The "Maintain Your Landscape & Solve Problems" track covered rainwater harvesting, fertilizing, and drip irrigation. Additionally, an "Ask a Master Gardener" booth was available for personalized advice.



Succulent Booth



Herb Booth

"Gardening Fun" was also a key component, including art in the garden and garden photography presentations. For younger participants, the "Kids Zone Activities" provided entertainment, with activities like "Pumpkin Decorating," "Grow Cards," "Fairey Gardens," and "Plant People."

Fall Into Gardening 2023 Recap (Cont.)



Composting Class

The event wouldn't have been complete without guided garden tours. Attendees explored the Israel Prayer Garden, Beulah Acres Agroforest, Community Garden, Potager Garden, and Barnyard with the assistance of the Global Spheres Center Master Gardener staff and Master Gardener docents.

The Fall Into Gardening event brought together a community of garden enthusiasts and provided a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for a successful gardening journey. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned green thumb, this event offered a comprehensive experience to help you achieve gardening success.



**Beulah
Acres
Agroforest**



To Cut or Not to Cut - Fall Pruning Perennials

Perennial plants, just like people, need rest and a little tidying up to be fresh and look their best. The timing of this effort is essential to their health, attractiveness, and regrowth in the spring. The tricky part is knowing what to cut back, or not, and when.

Herbaceous Perennial Plants

- soft and flexible stems
- can have perennial, biennial, or annual life spans
- die down to the ground each year
- roots remain alive and send up new growth each year

Woody Perennial Plants

- strong and inflexible stems
- most have perennial life spans with stems that live for several years
- adding new growth in height and width each year (shrubs and trees)

In general, herbaceous perennials should be cut back to near the soil level, 2" to 6" high, when their foliage and stems freeze after a couple of hard freezes have occurred.

[In North Central Texas, the first freeze typically occurs in mid-November.](#)

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

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

- Ornamental grasses for winter interest (e.g., Inland Sea Oats, Mexican Feather Grass, Texas Sedge, Muhly)
- Perennials that provide food for birds such as Sedums, Coneflower, Black-eyed Susans, Sunflower, and Coreopsis
- Tender perennials such as Garden Mums, Hyssop, Red Hot Poker, and Montauk Daisy should be left standing because their foliage provides some protection for their roots (Note: Tender perennials are plants that if planted in warmer zones would be perennial and continue to grow and come back each year; many are considered annuals here in North Texas (e.g., Dahlia, Carnation, Gazania, Ornamental Peppers, Caladium, Tuberous Begonia)
- Low-growing evergreen or semi-evergreen plants such as Stella d'Oro Daylily, Hardy Geranium, Coral Bells/Heuchera, Hellebores, Dianthus, and Moss Phlox
- Ferns, such as Autumn Fern or Southern Wood Fern, can be trimmed a bit before frost, but should not be heavily cut back because their fronds help protect them in the winter



To Cut or Not to Cut (Cont.)

Prune to shape after frost:

These herbaceous perennials should be cut back to prune or shape only, typically removing 50% of the plant. Examples include Damianita Daisies, Mist Flower, Turk's Cap, Blackfoot Daisy, Salvias, and Sages.



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

Perennials such as Yarrow, Shasta Daisy, and Globe Thistle will put out new foliage at their base in the fall. With these, you should remove the flower stalks after a couple of hard freezes and leave the new basal leaf growth in place.



Cut back to near ground level after frost:

Many herbaceous perennials fall into this maintenance category. The leaves and stems of these plants will blacken or turn brown after a hard freeze, and they will appear to die back to the ground. Cut back these to near ground level, leaving 2" as a reminder of their location next spring. Examples include Bee Balm, Flame Acanthus, Gaura, Texas Star Hibiscus, Rock Rose, Skullcap, Canna, Garden Phlox, Hosta, Peony, Daylilies, Brunnera, Speedwell, and many more. A couple of exceptions include Lantana, which should be cut back to 6", and Texas Columbine, which grows foliage in winter and should not be cut back until after spring bloom.



How to cut back:

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

Resources

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Plant Classification, Herbaceous vs. Woody
<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec1258.pdf>

PennState Extension, General Perennial Plant Pruning, "Cutting Down Perennials in the Fall"
<https://extension.psu.edu/cutting-down-perennials-in-the-fall>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Specific Plant Maintenance, Native Plant Database
<https://www.wildflower.org/plants-main>

Missouri Botanical Garden, Plant Finder
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfinderssearch.aspx>

Wine Tasting 2023 Recap

BY DEE PAYNE

Denton County Master Gardeners, family and friends were blessed with the most perfect fall weather to gather for another fabulous wine tasting. On October 7, Dee Payne and the committee of seven veteran Master Gardeners, once again, set the stage for a perfect social event at the home of veteran Master Gardener Tammie Gurley. Not only were our guests blessed with beautiful weather, but they were seated amongst a host of familiar faces under a comfortable covered patio area with beautifully decorated tables.



Photos Courtesy DCMGAMember Dee Payne

For a small fee of \$28, each guest was greeted upon arrival and offered an “ice breaker” glass of wine and the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for two beautifully decorated gift baskets.

The formal sit-down tasting featured six international Wines – Far and Wide – along with a slate of hand-selected cheeses, salamis, dried fruits, and nuts, and no tasting is complete without dark chocolate.

Michael Cook, Texas AgriLife Extension Viticulture Program Specialist for North Texas, returned for a second year to share his knowledge about each wine in the tasting. Michael is a local guy who carries with him the necessary charm and personality to keep this crowd of 60 totally engaged throughout. He knew in advance the wines selected by Master Gardener Kim Shaneyfelt and team and carefully shared the history of each wine, pairing opportunities, and often his personal menu options.

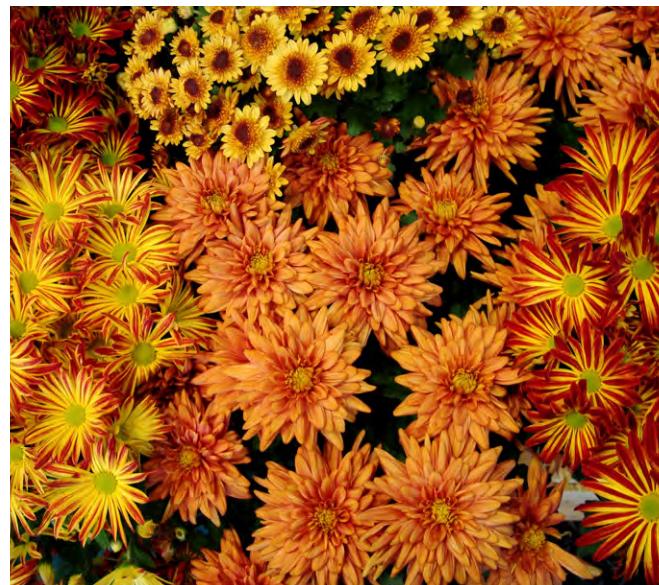
We had great feedback and compliments from our peers and guests. My personal thank you goes to these Master Gardeners: homeowner Tammie Gurley, Kaye Gross and Debby Ishee for food selection, Susan Novak for decorations, Kim Shaneyfelt for wine selection, and Sharrie Ely for publication. Our success was due to the hard work and dedication this committee put forth months in advance. Assistants volunteering at the event were Master Gardeners Tom O’Brien, Cece Kenney, and Pam Hawkins, and interns Gina Kemma and Kaitlyn Hartgrove.

Overwinter Your Chrysanthemums

The beautiful chrysanthemums we see in garden centers and florist shops during the fall season are generally not hardy enough to survive freezing temperatures in the winter. This is because the plant will not have had time to develop a strong enough root system to survive winter if planted in the fall. The best option is to pinch it back and bring it inside to the garage or house. Water it when the soil dries out.

Garden chrysanthemums, on the other hand, are planted in the spring and have the best chance for overwintering. Garden chrysanthemums bloom in the late summer and fall and come in many colors - white, yellow, pink, purple, bronze, red, and many cultivars - singles, anemones, decoratives, pompons, spoons, spiders, and standards.

Look for garden chrysanthemums in garden centers and plant nurseries in the spring. Here are some tips for planting and caring for them:



- Plant in well-drained soil with full sunlight (6-8 hours a day).
- Space them at least 18 inches or up to 36 inches apart to give them plenty of air circulation to mitigate fungal infections and provide enough space for them to develop a fully mounded shape.
- Layer 2 inches of mulch over the root zone leaving a gap between the mulch and the stem(s).
- Fertilize monthly from the time of planting until July when flower buds form. Use a complete fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 6-2-4 or 4-2-3 or a water-soluble fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 20-20-20.
- Each month, from May to July, pinch back new shoots to 3-4 inches to encourage a compact round shape and more flowers. Stop pinching back when you see flower buds, usually in July.
- Water deeply 4-6 inches when the soil is dry, in the morning to allow the foliage to dry.
- Check and treat for aphids and spotted mites with a labeled product, carefully reading and following the instructions.
- To overwinter, cut off the dead tops and cover with 3-4 inches of mulch. Uncover them in spring as soon as they start to show new growth. Divide the plants when they reach 4 inches in height.

Overwinter Your Chrysanthemums (Cont.)

Learn more about garden chrysanthemums from these articles at the below links:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Education in Bexar County, “Fall Garden Mums”

<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/fall-garden-mums-chrysanthemums/>

PennState Extension, “Chrysanthemum Care”

<https://extension.psu.edu/chrysanthemum-care>

Give garden chrysanthemums a try in your landscape next spring. You'll be rewarded with flowers in the fall when most other ornamentals have stopped flowering.

*DCMGA Help Desk Question of the Week reprint, 01-07-2020.



Pass-Along Marking

BY LIZ MOYER

Avoid Plant Sale Prep Horror!

We've all been there. It's time to pot up pass-alongs for the Plant Sale, but:

1. We can't remember which plants were outgrowing their locations and need to be thinned and/or dug around the margins (edges)
2. The ones we think probably were candidates are still too small to be sure
3. We can't remember the names of the plants, and they are too small for ID

Oh, the horror!



Knife Marker



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Flag Marker

Act now! Grab a permanent felt tip pen and a bunch of plastic knives or utility marking flags and get out there. Mark your plants now for digging in early March. It's a good idea to make yourself a diagram or some notes when you mark them. Check your markers periodically throughout the winter to be sure they are still legible and to remind yourself where they are ...

Another advantage: utility flags and plastic knives come in a variety of colors and can really add a pop to your winter landscape!



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>

D C M G A
HELP DESK
Question of the Month



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

BY HELP DESK TEAM

Q: We would like to add some fruit trees to our landscape. Can you recommend any that would be successful growing in North Texas?

A: Late fall is a great time of year to plant a new tree because it gives the tree time to adjust and spread its root system before the hot summer weather. Before selecting fruiting trees for your landscape, you need to consider a couple of things:

- Available sunlight -- Fruit and nut trees need at least six hours of sun for quality production, so choose a sunny spot with good drainage.
- Chill hour requirements -- Chill hours are the number of hours a fruit tree spends in temperatures between 32°F and 45°F during its dormant period. Chill hours are essential for fruit trees to break dormancy and set fruit in the spring. The number of required chill hours varies by species and variety. [“Chilling-Hour Requirements of Fruit Crops”](#). The DFW area averages about 800 chill hours each year.

While many varieties of fruit and nut trees can be grown in our region, some of the more successful fruiting trees include figs, peaches, and plums. For more information on recommended varieties of fruit and nut trees for North Texas and their associated care instructions, check out the AgriLife page for Fruit and Nut Resources, which provides over 40 fact sheets for types of fruit: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/> and there are links to several sites with even more information.

Dr. George Ray McEachern, fruit and pecan specialist with Texas A&M in an interview with horticulturist Neil Sperry suggested these varieties (<https://neilsperry.com/2016/02/best-fruit-varieties-for-north-and-northeast-texas/>):

- Figs: Alma variety. (Other choice: Celeste) Dr. McEachern has reevaluated winter hardiness of Alma and feels it is equal to that of Celeste. According to Dr. McEachern, “Texas Everbearing/Brown Turkey exists in too many variations and is no longer recommended.”
- Peaches: Redglobe



- Plums: “Methley plum, a good pollinator, both for itself and for other plum varieties.” Although Methley plum is self-pollinating, you will get a better yield by having other Japanese plum trees nearby.
- In the interview referenced above, Dr. McEachern makes some varietal suggestions for other fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.

Selecting and Planting

When purchasing a container-grown tree, check to ensure the roots are not girdled (tightly circling the trunk or other main roots) in the pot. Do not purchase a tree with gum coming out of the trunk, any injuries to the tree's cambium layer or crown gall (Crown gall is a bacterial disease that causes tumor-like galls to form on the roots, trunks, and branches of trees and shrubs. The galls are unsightly but don't necessarily kill mature plants. However, the galls can interrupt the flow of nutrients and water within the tree, reducing overall plant growth and vigor.) Make sure the tree's roots are a healthy white without any nodules, which could be signs of root rot nematodes. Make sure the roots are not dry. “Texas Tree Planting Guide” has helpful information on selecting a healthy nursery tree:

<https://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PickTreeAtNursery.html>

LIVING CHRISTMAS TREES

Start a new Christmas tradition. Replant a living Christmas tree into your landscape after the holiday season. Purchase one of these good choices for North Texas in a pot or as a “balled and burlapped” tree.



ATLAS CEDAR *Cedrus atlantica*

Atlas cedar is a large, evergreen specimen tree. Immature trees have a pyramidal shape, then mature into flat-topped shape with horizontal branches. Moderately drought tolerant, tolerates alkaline soil.



DEODAR CEDAR *Cedrus deodara*

Deodar cedar is a large, evergreen specimen tree. It has a pyramidal form with 2-3" long barrel-shaped cones. Prefers full sun in well drained soil.



ARIZONA CYPRESS *Cupressus arizonica* var. *bonita*

Arizona cypress is a heat-tolerant evergreen tree which can grow up to 40 to 50 feet in height. Use as a tall screen or windbreak, as well as a specimen planting. Prefers full sun and well drained soil.



AFGHANISTAN PINE *Pinus brutia* var. *eldarica*

Afghanistan pine is a fast-growing, pine suitable for alkaline soils. Good for windbreak or as Christmas tree. Low water needs; tolerates alkaline soil.



AUSTRIAN PINE *Pinus nigra*

Austrian pine is a European native that can handle colder parts of Texas. It is a moderately fast grower. Somewhat drought tolerant and tolerant of alkaline soil.

Sources: Texas A&M Forest Service Tree Planting Guide and Texas Tech University Plant Resources

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.

Landscape Design Class Registration Opens November 1st!



Earth-Kind® Design

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Learn sustainable design & installation techniques for creating or renewing your home landscape!

6:00pm-9:00pm Thursday/Friday, January 18-19

& 9:00am-4:00pm, Saturday, January 20, 2024

Denton County Elections Building, 701 Kimberly Drive, Denton 76208



Scan the QR code or
dcmga.com/events
to register

Limited class size • Individual or Companion
registrations available • Reserve your spot now!



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NOVEMBER DCMGA Upcoming Events

NOV 4 TREE CLASSES
TREES ARE ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ASSETS IN NATURE, PERFORMING MANY FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING COUNTLESS BENEFITS. IN THIS CLASS, YOU WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT TREES ARE, HOW THEY WORK AND WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU. WE WILL ALSO PLANT A TREE!
GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER 9AM-12PM AND 1PM-4PM

NOV 8 NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING & PROGRAM
"CAN I EAT THAT? BROWSING FOR FOOD IN THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN" A DALLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER WILL HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THE FLOWERS, FRUIT, LEAVES, AND ROOTS THAT CAN BE GROWN AND EATEN IN NORTH TEXAS. THE MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING WILL FOLLOW THE PROGRAM.
GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER 10AM-12PM

NOV 16 TREES AND THEIR CARE
TREES BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT, OUR COMMUNITY, SAVE ENERGY, CLEAN THE AIR WE BREATHE, AND INCREASE OUR PROPERTY VALUE. TREES ARE BEAUTIFUL. LEARN HOW TO SELECT AND CARE FOR TREES FROM ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER-TREES PAT MOYER. PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KEEP LEWISVILLE BEAUTIFUL.
LEWISVILLE GRAND THEATER 6PM-7PM

NOV 10 GARDEN ART
LET DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TAMMIE GURLEY CLUE YOU IN ON HOW TO BRING MORE COLOR AND LIFE TO YOUR GARDEN WITH THINGS YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATER OR TRIM! TAMMIE IS A MASTER AT TASTEFUL GARDEN ART, AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC SPEAKER YOU ARE SURE TO ENJOY.
DENTON SENIOR CENTER 9AM-10AM

DEC 2 PERMANENT GARDEN CLASS
TO ACHIEVE A PERMANENT GARDEN, YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE ELEMENTS AROUND IT, HOW THEY ARE CONNECTED, AND LEARN FROM NATURE BY OBSERVING, ENGAGING AND ACTIVATING YOUR "GARDEN BRAIN". OUR GOAL IS TO EQUIP YOU SO YOU CAN TAKE ACTION WITH MORE CONFIDENCE, AND NOT BE AFRAID TO EXPLORE AND BECOME THE BEST GARDENER VERSION OF YOURSELF!
GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER 8AM-5PM

DEC 8 HOUSE PLANTS
LET CAROL ROWLEY, DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER, HELP YOU PLAN AND TAKE CARE OF HOUSE PLANTS. JUST THE THING TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAYS IN THIS WINTRY WEATHER!
DENTON SENIOR CENTER 9AM-10AM

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TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County



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.

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Save the Date

November 8



General Meeting & Program - "Can I Eat That? Browsing for Food in the Edible Garden" - Global Spheres, Corinth

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Content

The Submission deadline for the December edition of *The Root* is Wednesday, November 15. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson or Communications Director Judy Allen at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

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