



Denton County Master  
Gardener Association



# THE ROOT

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Us 



## 35 YEARS AND STILL GROWING



[Buds From The Board](#)

[2024 Garden Tour  
Preview: Hidden Gem](#)

[Spotlight: DCMGA  
Succulent Team](#)

[Meet a Member:  
Succulent Team Leaders](#)

[March General Meeting](#)

[Plant of the Month:  
Plumeria](#)

[In the Veggie Patch:  
Parsley](#)

[What to Plant in March](#)

[Feature: Succulents Pt I](#)

[VOF 2024 Recap](#)

[Spring is in the Air](#)

[Gardening Grandma Says:  
Eggshells in Your Garden](#)

[Denton Youth Fair 2024](#)

[From the Archives -  
March 2005 RotoTeller](#)

[Growing African Violets  
\(March 2005 RotoTeller\)](#)

[Help Desk Q&A: Choosing  
Shrubs](#)

[Spring Pre-Emergent](#)

[DCMGA Contact Info &  
Mission Statement](#)

# Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

Howdy, fellow gardeners! March has finally arrived, and with it comes many reasons to celebrate. As nature shakes off its winter slumber, this month symbolizes renewal and growth, igniting our passion for gardening and encouraging us to nurture our green spaces.

Longer days and more sunshine. With Daylight Savings Time kicking in on March 10 and the Spring Equinox gracing us on March 19, we're treated to more daylight hours, urging us to spend more time outdoors.

It's planting season! With warmer temperatures and extended daylight, we can finally start sowing seeds and transplanting seedlings, gearing up for a fruitful growing season ahead. Check out our website's [Monthly Tips](#) and [Grow Your Landscape](#) pages for helpful gardening to-do lists and growing guides.

March brings the first blooms of spring. From daffodils and tulips to Texas Bluebonnets and Carolina Jessamine, our gardens burst into vibrant colors, signaling the start of the floral extravaganza.

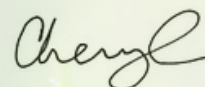
Fresh produce from the garden. Early spring crops like lettuce, spinach, and peas are ready for harvest, providing fresh produce straight from the garden. Brush up your veggie gardening skills at our [Veggie Gardening Class on March 9th](#). Learn about [growing leafy greens in the November 2023 issue of The Root](#), which are perfect for an early spring garden.

Plan your dream garden. March is the perfect time to plan and design your dream garden, select plants, and map out garden beds for the season. Head over to our website's [Plan Your Landscape](#) page for handy planning guides and tips.

Learn at gardening events and workshops. March is packed with gardening events and workshops, providing ample opportunities to learn new skills, share tips, and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Be sure to check out our [Event Calendar](#) and those of our sister associations for exciting learning opportunities in North Texas – [Dallas County MGA Events](#), [Collin County MGA Events](#), and [Tarrant County MGA Events](#).

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our [Annual Plant Sale on May 4th](#) and the delightful [Garden Tour on May 11th](#) in Flower Mound and Double Oak. You're in for inspiration and a chance to learn from our amazing Master Gardeners and horticultural experts.

Welcome to spring—it's going to be a bloomin' marvelous time!





## 2024 Garden Tour Preview

*Flower Mound, Double Oak = Four Gardens + One Community Garden*

*May 11, 2024*

*Keyhole Gardening, Mushrooms/Mycology, Erosion Control/Drainage, Drought-Tolerant Shade Plants, Design within an HOA, Oak Trees, Native Plant Ecosystems, Pollinators, and Wildlife.*

[Purchase your tickets now!](#)

### *Hidden Gem*

This ordinary Flower Mound lot is anything but ordinary. Besides the two large Savannah Hollies flanking the front door, not a single contractor plant remains. This yard has been turned into a natural garden scape and all plants must be hardy and survive with little maintenance. Wildflowers and Texas natives such as Poppies, Yellow Columbine, Gaura, Purple Coneflower, Brazilian Verbena, Larkspur, Rudbeckia, and Skullcap are allowed to freely seed and travel as long as they behave themselves.





## 2024 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

A water feature in the front yard provides a tranquil respite and the pool in the backyard is landscaped as a natural lagoon. A large selection of container gardens are integrated into the landscape.



Texas Superstars abound, along with varieties of Butterfly Bush and Rose of Sharon. There are a few hidden pockets of shade plants that manage to exist right next to their heat-loving neighbors. This yard will provide you with plenty of ideas of what can be achieved in a limited space.



## DCMGA Succulent Team

BY DONNA HULL

The DCMGA Succulent Team is alive and thriving under its new leadership and has a full schedule of activities ready to roll for all DCMGA gardeners in 2024. Approved as an official DCMGA group by the board in 2019, the Succulent Team held its first meeting under the leadership of Carolyn Tinner in July of 2019. An avid grower, propagator, and lover of all succulents, Carolyn Tinner led meetings and workshops with the help of Kaye Gross for several years until her recent retirement. Not wanting to see the team dissolve, Carolyn Stoy (Class of 2018) stepped up, locked arms with fellow succulent lover Chryl Prestemon (Class of 2018), and started planning. Member Gay Campbell (Class of 2017) offered to help, and the threesome began their leadership role.

### ***The Purpose and Goals of the Succulent Team***

The mission of the Succulent Team is “To provide research-based demonstrations to DCMGA members and the public to help develop succulent-savvy gardeners.”

The educational goals of the Succulent Team are to:

- Educate/inform succulent identification using Botanical Nomenclature, selection, growth, and propagation;
- Support the DCMGA Help Desk;
- Support the Speakers Bureau;
- Support the Plant Sale.

Their communication goals are to:

- Publish succulent information in the DCMGA newsletter, The Root;
- Develop succulent resource information for the DCMGA website;
- Develop a succulent resource list for reliable information found on websites and from associations;
- Develop a DFW succulent shopping/road trip list for our members.

A full slate of monthly presentations and activities has been planned by the team's leadership for the upcoming year (see calendar included here; go online to see the full descriptions). When asked what one message the succulent leadership would like to convey to the members of DCMGA, they all said “Come join us!!!” Meetings are open to all members, but a few meetings are at members' homes, and thus space can be limited. Check “Plan Your Week” and the calendar on the website to see if you need to sign up through SignUp Genius. Meetings are on different days of the week and they generally try to avoid Tuesdays so that interns (who are also welcome) can attend. The goal is to learn and HAVE FUN while doing so.

## DCMGA Succulent Team (Cont.)

**Abbreviated Succulent Team calendar. Full calendar on website.\***

Date & Time	Speaker	Location
Thursday, March 21 1:00pm-3:00pm	What's in a Name? Bill Uttly with the Ft. Worth Cactus & Succulent Society	Solomon's Porch, Global Spheres Center
Monday, April 24 10am-12pm	Repot and Top Dress (for Plant Sale)	Home of Carolyn Stoy Pilot Point, TX
Monday, May 20 10am-1pm	Propagation (Linda D'Amanda)	Denton North Lakes Pavilion
Wednesday, June 19 All day event	Succulent Stroll (visiting Denton plant shops)	Begin at Denton Civic Center
Tuesday, July 23 10am-12pm	Field Trip to Rooted In	Rooted In Pilot Point, TX
Friday, August 16 10am-12pm	Pest and Fertilizers (Gay Campbell)	Home of Gay Campbell, Denton, TX
Thursday, Sept 19 10am-12pm	Contain Yourself! Containers for Succulents (Carol Arment)	Denton Civic Center
Sunday/Monday TBD	Field Trip to Ft. Worth Botanical Garden	Ft. Worth
TBD	Basic Steps to Succulent Success (Chryl Prestemon)	TBD

*\*Be aware that some presentations require [SignUp Genius](#).*

*Chryl Prestemon shared this sentiment: "We learn so much from each other and I hope this group will continue to grow and have opportunities with our meetings, field trips, and projects to offer any and everyone a chance to become involved and learn with us."*





## Meet The Succulent Team Leaders

BY DONNA HULL

*The individual talents and backgrounds of each of these women compliment one another.*

**Carolyn Stoy**, originally from Indiana and transplanted to Texas in the early 1980s, has been a lifelong gardener of vegetables, flowers, and herbs. She is an avid learner of scientific names for her plants and believes that “knowing the name of your plant is key to success!” She attended one of Carolyn Tinner’s meetings as an intern and was immediately hooked on succulents. Her favorite succulent, the Prickly Pear, can be found thriving along her driveway. With 27 years of experience working in supply chain and data systems for GTE/Verizon, Carolyn brings substantial organizational skills to the team. She has fine-tuned the team’s mission and has a strong desire to incorporate members’ interests and ideas into their offerings.

**Chryl Prestemon** is a native Texan who grew up in the Hill Country. She moved with her husband and daughters to North Texas in 1997 from San Antonio. Describing herself as a “career student,” Chryl is also a Master Naturalist and has the NPSPOT Native Landscaping certification. She has also completed Advanced Training in Greenhouse Management, Plant Propagation, Rainwater Harvesting, and Tree Care. Chryl has earned DCMGA’s Educator Award (2023) and has donated her time and knowledge time and again to gardeners around North Texas. She loves all plants, enjoys “watching a plant be at its best”, and is keen on expanding her knowledge of native succulents and how they can be utilized with other natives in our changing Texas landscapes.



**Chryl Prestemon, Gay Campbell,  
Carolyn Stoy (Left to Right)**

**Gay Campbell** is another “native”, growing up in Central Texas and moving to North Texas at the age of 20. Artistic and energetic, Gay brings her enthusiasm, lifelong love of gardening and general willingness to help the team with whatever job needs to be done. She is passionate about antique roses, having grown numerous varieties over the past 34 years. She became interested in succulents at the home of a friend and art collector who had large, unique succulent arrangements. Her friend encouraged Gay to try growing them (“if I can grow them, you can grow them!”). She bought her first succulent and the rest is history. She now has an art studio filled with unusual and exotic succulents of all shapes and sizes, many in beautiful pots designed and created by Gay in her studio.



# *You're Invited*

March 2024, Monthly General Meeting & Program  
"Korean Natural Way Gardening"



Join Hunter Zmolik of EarthAid Organics as he introduces Korean Natural Way gardening. Dedicated to fostering harmony between people and the Earth, they advocate sustainable practices, enriching soil, and creating thriving ecosystems for a greener planet.

March 13, 2024, 10 am  
Global Spheres Center  
7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX 76210



DCMGA Garden Tour - May 11, 2024  
[Purchase Your Tickets Now!](#)





## Plant of the Month - Plumeria

BY DONNA HESTERS

Like most people you can't go to Hawaii without falling in love with Plumerias. That is exactly what happened to me. So of course, I bought a Plumeria stick at the airport and brought it back to Texas to give it a try. Now you can buy Plumeria at Amazon!

Plumerias, are small, fragrant, flowering trees native to Mexico, the Caribbean, and parts of South America. There are several species of plumeria grown as ornamental trees, all members of the dogbane family. In the proper growing conditions, they bloom freely from spring throughout the fall and are often grown in the garden as an ornamental shrub or small tree. In a tropical garden, they are a great addition with pretty flowers and fragrance.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Donna Hesters

### Hawaiian Rainbow Plumeria

#### *Propagation*

I enjoy propagating Plumeria from cuttings, and it is fairly easy. Using Sterilized pruners, I take a cutting from a Plumeria tree, and just about any size will do. Remove the leaves so all its energy will produce roots. Allow the cut to dry out, this will take approximately a week.

Use a clean pot with good drainage and 2/3 perlite and 1/3 potting soil. Keep in mind that Plumerias naturally flourish in volcanic rock soil and have excellent drainage. Dip the cutting tip into a root hormone powder, this will encourage root growth from your cutting.

## Plumeria (Cont.)

Put the plumeria in a warm place and wait 4-8 weeks for it to take root. During this stage, plumerias require very little water and should only be watered about once every 10 days. You'll know it's growing when you start to see new buds forming on the top of the cutting.



### *A few Plumeria Facts:*

- Plant in late spring, early summer, or early fall
- Full sun exposure, 6 hours. In August the Texas heat can burn the leaves so I move them to partial shade.
- Needs well-drained and slightly acidic soil, never soggy.
- Water deeply and less frequently, reducing watering in cooler temperatures.
- Fertilize a few times during the growing season. A product with more phosphorous, such as 10-30-10, will promote more flower growth. Giving them too much nitrogen will only result in more foliage growth and less flowering.
- Prune in late winter/early spring before new leaves emerge
- Propagate seeds and cuttings in spring.
- Hardiness zones - 10 to 12, 65-80 degrees F



Canva Photo





## In The Veggie Patch

### *Parsley: Plant for People and Pollinators*

BY JANICE YODER SMITH

#### ***Origin and Benefits***

Parsley (*Petrolinum crispum*) originated in the eastern Mediterranean region. Parsley is the host food source for black swallowtail caterpillars. Naturalists recommend planting enough parsley for culinary use and some extra for the caterpillars. Parsley provides vitamins A, C, K, and folate, along with minerals iron, calcium, magnesium, and potassium. Parsley stars in Tabouleh salad. Historical records show parsley was sometimes used to treat a variety of ailments.

#### ***Plant Requirements***

Soil: Rich, organic; pH 6 - 7; well-draining

Light: Full sun, 6-8 hours/day

Temperature: 50-70°F (benefits from shade in high heat)

Moisture: Consistent moisture, 1" water per week if no rainfall

#### ***Varieties to grow in North Texas***

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recommends Italian flat leaf, moss curled, pagoda, plain Italian, and triple curl parsley for North Central Texas. Curly parsley varieties grow to about 8-14" tall and wide. Italian and plain parsley varieties can grow 2-3' tall and wide.



**Mature Parsley**

#### ***Planting***

**Grow from Seed:** Soil temperature must be near 70°F for optimal germination, which can take 12 days to 5 weeks. Success improves when seeds are soaked in water overnight before planting them 1/8-1/4" deep and 4-6" apart. Thin 2-3" tall seedlings to 12-18" apart based on the variety's mature size.

**Grow from Propagation:** Collect seeds from flowers or by making cuttings. Identify a stem to use and cut to a 4-6" section directly below a leaf node. Cut off all but the top two leaves. Place the stem in a glass of water in bright light. Change the water as needed. Transplant cuttings when roots are 2" long.

**Purchase seedlings:** If you only want to grow a few parsley plants, select seedlings from a retail store. Plant at pot depth in early spring.

## In The Veggie Patch - Parsley (Cont.)

### *Maintenance and Care*

Apply 5-10-5 fertilizer once or twice during the growing season. Provide afternoon shade when temperatures exceed 85°F. Do not allow the soil to completely dry out between watering. Use a light mulch to retain moisture and deter weed growth. Plants may survive a frost if covered and the roots are mulched.

### *Harvesting and Storage*

Harvest a stem from the outside and bottom of the parsley plant. Use parsley fresh and preserve extras by drying or freezing. Dry by hanging bundles upside down in a dry, dark, warm place or by spreading leaves in a single layer on a baking sheet. Place in a 100-110° oven for a few minutes. Check often to avoid burning. Store in a tightly sealed container in a cool, dark place. Parsley may be frozen in small, air-tight bags or chopped and placed in ice-cube trays covered with water or broth.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Yoder Smith

**Parsley is a host food source  
for the Black Swallowtail  
Caterpillar**

### *Resources*

*Our Herb Garden*, "History of Parsley – Proverbs and Folklore"

<http://www.ourherbgarden.com/herb-history/parsley.html>

*University of Rochester Medical Center*, "Parsley Nutrition Facts"

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=76&ContentID=11297-3>

*University of Minnesota Extension*, "Growing Parsley in Home Gardens"

<https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-parsley#preservation-938312>

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*, "Vegetable Variety Selector"

[https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/publications/veg\\_variety/](https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/)

*Serious Eats*, "Tabouleh Salad Recipe"

<https://www.seriouseats.com/tabbouleh-salad-recipe>





### *What to Plant in March*

- Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and vines
- Cold-hardy perennials
- Cool-season annuals such as snapdragons and petunias
- Herbs such as lavender, basil, mint, and sage transplants
- Continue outdoor seed planting of vegetables such as beets, carrots, and most greens
- Late March plant bean seeds outdoors

For more monthly tips:

<https://www.dcmga.com/maintain-and-solve-problems/maintain/monthly-gardening-tips/>

#### TOP GARDENING TIPS

### March

Plant cool season vegetables.  
Plant cool season flowering annuals.  
Prune winter damage from perennials & shrubs.  
Allow spring bulb foliage to die & dry before removal.  
Protect tender plants from late freezes.

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DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

### *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>

# Succulents - Part I

## *Light and Water*

BY LEE ANN YATES

Succulents are everywhere! They are currently riding high on a tide of popularity. Succulents are cute, diverse, come in cool containers, and are easy to care for. Whoa, Nelly! How many succulents have you killed? My personal count is nearing double digits. Succulents thrive in low-maintenance situations, but that doesn't mean they are no-maintenance plants! Let's dig in and learn how to keep those cuties alive!

### ***What is a Succulent?***

According to Britannica's online dictionary, a Succulent is any plant that has thick fleshy tissue in leaves and/or stems that are adapted to water storage. Many have deep or broad root systems. Some are native to deserts; some are found in semi-arid locations. While there are over sixty succulent plant families, Aizoaceae, Cactaceae, and Crassulaceae are the largest ones. And yes, all cacti are succulents too!

The basics of all plant care involve proper lighting, watering, and soil mix, but each type of plant has specific requirements. If you love succulents, you know how special they are. Let's learn how to adapt our practices to their needs.

### ***Light***

Succulents make great indoor container plants, but need a bit more light than what streams in from most windows. In their natural environments, many succulents get tons of bright sunlight every day, so they need to be in the absolute brightest light you can give them inside your house, but not necessarily direct sun. South or west windows out of direct sunlight are a definite YES. North windows and many east windows are not naturally bright enough. You can use a light meter to gauge how bright your inside light really is. Yes, you can put them in a bathroom window or a low-light room, but only because they are very forgiving plants – slow to grow and slow to die. Succulents know how fabulous their lovely fleshiness is and love the spotlight! Shine a grow light on them inside in those less sunny spots.



In our hot climate, if you plant your plump little cherubs outside, look for an area that receives only partial sun and some shade in the afternoon. If they sit in direct sunlight in baking temperatures all day, they can get as spotty and sunburnt as a Texas teenager in August. That's



## Succulents - Part I (Cont.)

not a good look, so give them some afternoon shade. In the bed, bring in at least six inches of specialized soil. This can lay on top of the existing soil – maybe make a mini raised bed for your marvelous succulents. They are drought resistant, but in the way that camels are. They can go awhile without water, but eventually, they need a big drink!

### Water

In their natural environments, succulents have adapted to survive with very limited water sources, such as mist and dew, so while they do need water, they certainly don't need as much as other plants. I said earlier they have the ability to store water for the plant to use as needed which means you hardly ever have to water them, right? This has been my biggest challenge in growing succulents! It is not that simple, therefore we need to discuss watering more in-depth.

Watering succulents is a major challenge for growers and overwatering is quite easy to do. Drainage is the key to successful watering. Since succulents need less frequent watering than most plants, it can be tricky to know exactly how much water to give each time. First, any container used for succulent plantings must have a drainage hole and you should not place a saucer underneath to collect extra water. Allowing the pot to sit in water keeps the soil in the bottom of the pot too wet. Root rot will quickly set in – cells close down in the roots, leaves fall apart, and the result is the certain, albeit slow, drowning death of your beloved succulent.



How does one know when is the right time to water? “Ohmmm, Drench, then Dry” is your new succulent-yoga mantra. David Reed, Associate Dean of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University and an AgriLife Extension Service Horticultural Specialist suggests sticking your finger down into the soil an inch or slightly more to determine how dry the soil is. If the soil feels dry “like a piece of fresh bread, not like toast” – some moisture, but no wetness – it's time to water. If it feels wet, then wait – that's the second part of your mantra – “Wet, then Wait.”

Each time you water, pour on the water until you see it seeping out the bottom hole. You want to drench it! This does two things – 1) ensures that enough water is getting to all the root ball and 2) helps avoid that icky white salt build up on top of the soil. You must allow the water to drain freely. You can see why that drainage hole is so important!

## Succulents – Part I (Cont.)

Letting the soil dry out completely between waterings can damage the root system, so barely damp is the sweet spot. All succulents, cacti included, are very efficient water users. One trick almost all succulents use is to open their under-leaf stomata for transpiration only at night, not during the day as most plants do. The loss of water during the hottest, driest part of the day is minimized while carbon dioxide uptake occurs in the dark. Another helpful tip is to pair succulents only with other succulents rather than with plants that require richer soil and more moisture when planting in a pot or the ground.

### ***Growth Rate***

Succulents generally grow pretty slowly, so exercise patience with them. Because of the lack of organic material in proper succulent soil, you can fertilize regularly with a low-dose, water-soluble fertilizer, but only during the time of year when the plants are actively growing. There is no point in fertilizing when a plant is in dormancy. I've included links to a couple of dormancy charts (see below) to help you determine dormancy times. Feed at half the recommended rate on the package, perhaps every two months, no sooner. Succulents are opportunistic growers – they will grow when conditions are right and slow down when conditions are not ideal. So before pouring on the fertilizer, adjust the water and light conditions first.

### ***Pests***

Succulents are not often pest magnets; however, because they are so juicy, bugs with sucking mouth parts, like mealy bugs, aphids, or thrips, are common nemeses. Good air circulation around the plant helps to keep pests at bay. If you do get invaded, you can use cotton swabs dipped in a solution of 70% alcohol and 30% water to wipe them away or use it as a spray. For particularly bad infestations, a systemic houseplant insect control may be more appropriate.

### ***Succulent Team Meeting March 21***

If you are interested in learning even more about the world of succulents and how to care for them, join me, Carolyn Stoy, and TONS of gardeners at the next Succulent Team meeting on March 21 at Global Spheres (7801 S Interstate 35, Corinth), at 1:00 pm. Bill Uttley from the Ft. Worth Cactus and Succulent Society will be the guest speaker! You don't want to miss it!

### ***Coming up Next Month (April 2024) – Succulents: Part II***

In April's issue, I will talk about the importance of using the right soil mix and share some succulent soil recipes. In addition, I'll discuss succulent propagation and touch briefly on a few of the many types of succulents you might like to grow. Until next month, Happy Gardening!

## Succulents - Part I (Cont.)

### ***Dormancy Tables***

*Succulents and Sunshine*, "Succulent Dormancy: What you really need to know"

<https://www.succulentsandsunshine.com/succulent-dormancy-table/>

*Succulents Box*, "SUCCULENT DORMANCY 101"

<https://succulentsbox.com/blogs/blog/succulent-dormancy-101>

### ***Resources shared by Carolyn Stoy, Succulent Team Project Manager***

*The Succulent Eclectic* - A favorite site for information and pictures; 7 Steps to Succulent Success; How to Care for Succulents (and not kill them)

<https://thesucculentelectic.com/>

*Ohio State University Extension*, "Succulents part 1: The wonderful world of cacti" - PowerPoint

[https://franklin.osu.edu/sites/franklin/files/imce/Program\\_Pages/ANR/The%20Wonderful%20World%20of%20Cacti.pdf](https://franklin.osu.edu/sites/franklin/files/imce/Program_Pages/ANR/The%20Wonderful%20World%20of%20Cacti.pdf)

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<https://www.britannica.com/plant/succulent>

*Texas A&M AgriLife, Somerville Master Gardeners*,  
"Succulents: How to care for and propagate"

<https://txmg.org/somervell/news/108939>

*Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Today*,  
"How To Care For Succulents"

<https://today.tamu.edu/2020/06/01/how-to-care-for-succulents/>

*The Succulent Source*,  
"A Guide On How To Plant Succulents"

<https://thesucculentsource.com/blogs/succulent-cactus-news/a-guide-on-how-to-plant-succulents>

Parts of this article were taken from  
*The Root*, DCMGA's E-magazine

[November 2019, Plant of the Month. "Succulents," page 7](#)





## DCMGA Volunteer Opportunity Fair *Volunteering is a Work of Heart!*

BY KELLI BIXLER, VICE PRESIDENT

The 2024 DCMGA Volunteer Opportunity Fair was held on Wednesday, February 14th, also affectionally known as Valentine's Day. The sun was out, and the love of volunteering was in the air for the 170+ members, interns, and visitors attending the fair at Soloman's Porch on the Global Spheres Center campus. The theme for the fair was "Volunteering is a Work of Heart!" and Project Managers and Committee Leaders took the theme seriously as the entire room was banked in hearts and red and pink décor. In addition, Valentine's Day treats and trinkets were in abundance and offered by most of the projects. Breakfast and coffee were served at this annual event organized for the incoming intern class and veterans seeking volunteer opportunities with DCMGA. Thirty-five DCMGA projects and committees were represented, and attendees were encouraged to sign up and volunteer for opportunities that interested them. This year, Project Managers were asked to highlight not only volunteer opportunities, but educational offerings as well.

Brochures, videos, posters, and photographs of the outstanding (and award-winning!) projects were available to see at the VOF. Attendees could learn about projects and committees, ask questions, seek out groups that met their interests or find a project near their home. Offerings included community gardens, public speaking opportunities, beautification, hospitality, working with youth, special interests, and more. One intern said, "I'm so excited to attend the Volunteer Fair today. It was a great event and I'm now EVEN MORE excited about being a part of this incredible organization!"



**Communications Director Judy Hill, The Root Editor Karen Gibson, Communications Assistant Donna Hull (back row, l. to r.), Writer Extraordinaire Barbara Brown, Plan Your Week Editor Trish Percy (seated, l. to r.)**

Interns and veterans could learn about our newest projects, such as Community Strong Farm or Fall Into Gardening. Or they could explore special interest groups and chat with the new Program Managers for the Succulent Group, Herbal Branch, and the Propagation Team. Did you know that FMFB Community Garden has a grove of fruit and nut trees? We all know now! The Aubrey Area Library Series and the Speakers Bureau both have new Project Managers this year, and their tables had many visitors interested in sharing research-based horticulture information with the

## DCMGA Volunteer Opportunity Fair

residents of Denton County. Annual DCMGA projects such as Garden Tour, Plant Sale, and Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show (which had a new location last year) were also visited by many interns and veterans. These projects occur in the spring, just in time for interns and members to earn volunteer hours while interacting and learning from seasoned Master Gardeners.

This year, Project Managers have been offered many tools to “advertise” work days and educational opportunities. Look for notifications via Facebook, Plan-Your-Week, Sign-Up Genius, and personal texts or emails letting members and interns know project meeting days. These meeting times and dates can also be seen on the member calendar on the DCMGA website.

Volunteering is indeed a work of heart, and DCMGA members put love into the projects they represent and organize. It was evident, with the number of interns and certified Master Gardeners in attendance at the Volunteer Opportunity Fair, that we are ready to get to work and to start serving and educating Denton County with all of our hearts! It's going to be a great 2024.



**Volunteering is a Work of Heart!**



## Spring Is In The Air

BY BARBARA BROWN

It has been an exceptionally warm February in North Texas making gardeners anxious to start planting their landscape beds and gardens and cleaning up their turf areas. Although we should be understandably cautious, knowing that early spring weather can turn cold even in late March, we can create a landscape plan, plant hardy flowers and shrubs, and clean up our lawns and landscape plants.

### *Early spring lawn care*

The green plants visible in our lawns in early March are most likely weeds and undesirable grasses. Although unsightly, most of these will be eventually overpowered by vigorously growing turf grass when the weather warms. However, if you need to remove them, you can remove the invaders by digging them out. Be sure to get all the roots; even a small root system can produce a new plant.

If you choose to apply chemicals to control weeds in your turf grass, it is important to identify the type of weed—broadleaf, grass, or sedge to select the appropriate treatment. Texas A&M AgriLife offers pictures and descriptions of common weeds at <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-weeds/>

Herbicides, used to remove weeds, are classified in three ways:

- Pre-emergent or post-emergent
- Contact or systemic
- Selective or nonselective



**Be sure to get all the roots.  
Even a small root system can  
produce a new plant.**

**Pre-emergence herbicides** kill weed seedlings as they try to emerge. A pre-emergent herbicide is a preventive treatment recommended for application in North Texas in early March. Post-emergence herbicides control actively growing weeds. **Post-emergent herbicides** may be either contact (kills on contact) or systemic (works within the plant to kill leaves and roots). According to the University of California Integrated Pest Management team, “**Selective herbicides** kill target weeds without damaging desirable turfgrass species. They are toxic to only certain plants or weeds. For example, 2,4-D selectively kills only broadleaf plants and not grasses; fluazifop selectively kills only grasses and not broadleaf plants. **Nonselective herbicides** kill all or most vegetation including turfgrass.”

Begin mowing when your grass turns green. The recommended cutting height for Bermuda grass is 1 to 2 inches and 2 ½ to 3 inches for St. Augustine grass. Remove no more than one-



## Spring Is In The Air (Cont.)

third of the leaf area with any one mowing. Fertilize your turf grass only after two to three mowings.

Be very careful when choosing a **weed and feed product** for your turf grass. First, check the correct timing because weed control and fertilizer timing are different. **Caution** -- the weed control in weed and feed products, if accidentally spread onto landscape plants, will kill them.

### *Landscape planting and maintenance*

Clean your landscape beds by removing any dead branches from shrubs, trees, and foliage. If you are not sure a branch is dead but may be only dormant, wait a while before removing it. Prune shrubs and trees for aesthetic purposes.

Early in March is the time to plant cool-season annual flowers and vegetables. Wait to plant warm-season annual flowers and vegetables until late in the month after the average last freeze date of March 12 or the first day of spring on March 20.

If you prefer not to have to plant annuals every year, consider adding tough perennials to your landscape. We are fortunate in North Texas to have many native and adapted plants that tolerate our summer heat, our challenging soils, and occasional watering restrictions. Common perennial favorites include salvias, verbenas, purple coneflower, daylilies, spider lilies, lantana, and Turk's cap.



**Turk's Cap,  
A Perennial Favorite**

### *Resources*

**Texas A&M AgriLife Earth-Kind®** - A list of great options for ground covers, vines, flowering plants, and landscape grasses, <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/>

**Denton County Master Gardener Association** - Selecting Plants  
<https://www.dcmga.com/select-and-grow/selecting-plants/>

**Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center database** - Lists native plants that do well in North Texas  
[https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX\\_northcentral](https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_northcentral)

**Trinity Forks chapter of the Texas Native Plant Society** - list of favorite native plants for North Texas and the locations of several nurseries that carry native plants  
<https://www.npsot.org/chapters/trinity-forks/trinity-forks-resources/>



# Gardening Grandma Says...

BY BARBARA BROWN

*Humans transitioned from hunting and gathering to growing their food about 12,000 years ago. Over the millennia they found some tricks to increase their harvest. What they learned they passed down to their children. Today, some of us are fortunate to have a grandmother, aunt, or neighbor who continues the tradition of sharing old-fashioned gardening wisdom. Much of that shared knowledge is helpful but sometimes it was just a superstition with a long history. The Gardening Grandma series of articles puts these tips and tricks to the test of modern science by answering the question, "Does it really work?" Or, is it a myth?*

*"Putting eggshells in your vegetable garden adds calcium, an essential nutrient, to your garden soil. Eggshells placed around tomato plants eliminate blossom end rot. Eggshells deter snails, cats, deer and repel slugs and cutworms." Let us check it out.*

## ***First, do eggshells add valuable nutrients?***

Yes, according to the University of Illinois Extension, but "The trick is to grind up the eggshells. The smaller the particle size, the better. A study from Alabama Cooperative Extension compared coarsely ground eggshells (crushed by hand) to finely ground eggshells (resembling a fine powder), along with a comparison to pure calcium

Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and agriculture lime. The Alabama study revealed the coarsely ground eggshells "were not much better than nothing at all." However, the finely ground eggshells performed just as well as the pure calcium."



## ***Does the calcium in eggshells prevent blossom end rot?***

No. Mississippi State Extension reports that although "Blossom end rot is a calcium deficiency, that deficiency is normally caused by uneven water availability to the plant. In other words, even if your soil has plenty of calcium, the plant can't take it up if there isn't enough moisture in the soil. So, it's best to keep soils evenly moist, especially when they begin to bloom. If your plants wilt because of inadequate moisture, the fruit are more likely to develop blossom end rot." <https://extension.msstate.edu/blog/can-eggshells-prevent-blossom-end-rot>

## Gardening Grandma Says... (Cont.)

### *Next, what about deterring pests?*

- University of Florida comment: “Set up diatomaceous earth or eggshells around plants as barriers against snails” <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP629>
- University of California begs to differ: “Crushed egg shells or coffee grounds have not been shown to be effective deterrents (for snails and slugs).” <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7427.html>
- Many non-research-based websites supported the belief that egg shells deter cats from your garden. However, State Extension Service sites recommend physical barriers to keep cats out, not eggshells.
- What about deer? Although spoiled (smelly) eggs are often an ingredient in commercial deer repellent, there is no evidence that egg shells placed in a vegetable garden will keep deer from enjoying your growing plants.



## Growth at the Denton Youth Fair 2024

BY LYNDIA HARVEY

The Denton Youth Fair continues to grow and evolve in 2024. The Denton Youth Fair is a full “country fair” with a Livestock Show, Rodeo, and contests for Home Economics, Horticulture, Tractor driving, Public Speaking, and more. The distinctive difference with this fair is that all of the entrants are students, between 8 – 18 years old. These hard-working youngsters live in Denton County and are members of 4H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), or Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). The Denton Master Gardeners have been supporting the Horticulture Show for over twenty years. The 2023 judge and tabulating crew were proud to volunteer.

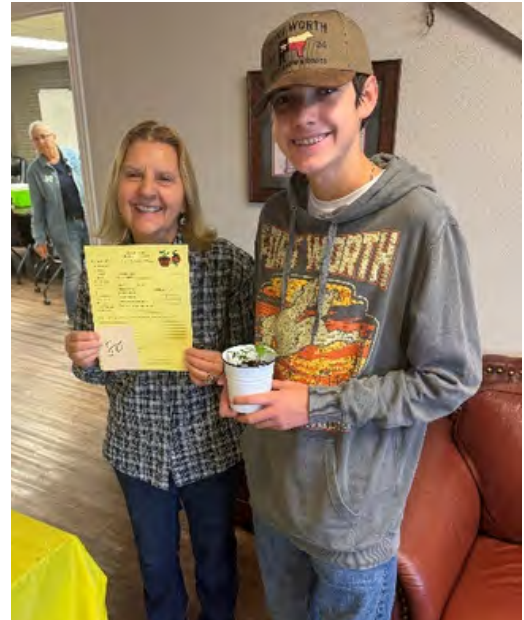
The Horticulture Show has had a metamorphosis over the years building on successes and introducing new features. A new Plant Class (category) and two new Floral Arrangement opportunities were announced for this season. Plus, a new record was already reached in 2024!

The Master Gardener contribution starts well before the fair with a Horticulture Workshop for the 4H Clubs. Each year, an interactive lesson is offered to any 4H club to learn about the importance of plants and to stimulate interest in the Youth Fair. In the past, the kids have enjoyed the hands-on experience of growing plants from cuttings, herb tasting and growing, making mini-terrariums, starting microgreens, and identifying Texas Native plants and invasives. The workshop this year was an educational game of matching seeds with their seed packet/picture. They discovered it was easier to identify beans, squash, and peas that looked like their edible version, but it was hard to distinguish broccoli from basil seeds!



## Growth at the Denton Youth Fair 2024 (Cont.)

Plant Validation on February 10, 2024, was for registration of new plant projects to be grown until submission in the Youth Fair Show on March 27, 2024. Plant Validation is done approximately six weeks before the Show to measure and photograph each plant to mark the start of care. A Horticulture Guide goes home with the plant to coach the growth process. 4H Clubs with entries included Argyle, Ag Leadership, Heart of Denton, North Texas Veterinary Science, Pilot Point, and Trivium. FFA chapters from Guyer and Lewisville LISD were well represented. A new record was set with the highest registration count of 84 plant entries! (The prior record was 79.) Lynda Harvey, the Horticulture Superintendent, is shown with Cal Kervin displaying his Entry #80 which crossed the recordkeeping threshold.



**Horticulture Superintendent Lynda Harvey and Cal Kervin displaying his Entry #80.**

The judges will have a wide assortment to evaluate. The Plants Department has twelve Plant Classes (categories). The newest Plant Class (category), Texas Natives, has five entries for a fine start for the introduction. The most popular Class (category) is a tie between Foliage and Succulents with 13 exhibits each. Other popular groups are Trailers/Vines, Herbs, Flowering, Terrariums, and Dish Gardens. Plants are scored on the ten qualities, including growth, condition, and distinctiveness. Their decisions are very difficult because of the quality results. Judges write constructive suggestions and compliments for each plant to encourage the future gardeners.

The Floral Arrangements Department was introduced in 2017 and had four initial entries. Each subsequent Youth Fair has burst with color, scents, and boundless creativity. Last year saw the popularity of Floral Arrangements grow to 27 breathtaking entries! Floral has ten criteria to guide the judges in making their decisions.

The Floral Class categories have been Vase, Non-vase Container, Mono-color, and Holiday theme. The 2024 Floral registration count is not known yet, but has great growth potential with two new Class areas for Wearable Floral (such as corsage, crown, boutonniere, and floral jewelry) and Bouquets (including nosegay and tussie-mussie). Another change is that plant and floral drop-off has been moved to the morning followed by judging shortly after for all projects to have a fresh look.

## Growth at the Denton Youth Fair 2024 (Cont.)



**Reserve Champion  
Will Haass**

The public and all Master Gardeners are welcome to enjoy the Plant and Floral Arrangement exhibition at the Show on Thursday, March 28, from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm and Friday, March 29, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Denton Youth Fair is held at the North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton, Texas. Please join us for the excitement at the Silent and Live Auction on Saturday, March 30, at 11:00 am.  
<http://dentonyouthfair.com/auction/>

Full details of the Horticulture Show are in the Denton Youth Fair Handbook starting on page 55 at

<http://dentonyouthfair.com/assets/Uploads/2024-Denton-County-Fair-Livestock-Premium-Book-r1.pdf>

A source of pride and a great incentive for students is the honor of going to auction. The Horticulture Best of Class winners may sell in the Silent Auction. Beginning in 2023, the overall Horticulture Grand and Reserve Champions were eligible for the Live Auction. Reserve Champion Will Haass took the inaugural walk into the arena with his winning dish garden.



**The 2023  
Judge and  
Tabulating  
Crew**



## From The Archives - March 2005

BY JERRY AND GLORIA ALEXANDER

As we prepare to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of DCMGA, we thought it only fitting to bring you some highlights from *The Roto-Teller*, DCMGA's first newsletter. For members, *The Roto-Teller* is archived on the Member section of the DCMGA website under Member Resources. Take some time this year and go see what **YOUR** organization was doing way back when!

We will attempt to take you back in time to the earlier days of the Denton County Master Gardeners Association (DCMGA). Some of you are still here and hopefully, will remember these times. For those of us who were not around, let your imagination work with you, as you can see the veteran master gardeners busy with fun projects and setting the neighborhood communities on fire with blooms.

The article highlighted for March 2005 was "Growing African Violets" by Adele Petty. She was particularly fond of this plant because she said "African Violets really brighten up the indoors, especially in the winter."

### Updates

- The Dirt 2005 Conference had 58 or more registrants /participants. The cost was \$35 and was held at the Doral Hotel and Golf Club.
- The Speakers Bureau had an intern, Rodney Solwalskie, who made a presentation to The Colony Early Childhood PTA. The topic was "The Three Keys to Successful Gardening."
- The Hospitality Committee was requesting volunteers to provide refreshments for their September and October evening meetings.
- There were several volunteer opportunities available for master gardeners and interns. Some of these included: North Denton Branch Library (Xeriscape), Children's Arbor Day Project (Redbud Seedling Distribution), Bayless-Selby House Victorian Gardens work days and Highland Village Elementary School Outdoor Classroom workdays.
- The minutes from the previous month's meeting was held on February 2, 2005. Carolyn Tinner was president and there were twelve attendees, in including Carolyn.
- Mary Morrow was secretary and Linda Williams was treasurer, reporting on the current account balance. These are just a few of the people who helped to lay the foundation for where we are today.







## From The Archives - March 2005 *Growing African Violets*

BY ADELE PETTY



I have grown African violets off and on all my adult life. My mother and grandmother grew African violets, and I always thought they were beautiful. I attended an African violet show sponsored by the First Denton African Violet Society several years ago, and I decided to join the club to seriously learn how to grow and show African violets. I love African violets because they come in various sizes, have beautiful blooms that last several weeks, and are easy to grow and propagate.

African violets are easy to grow provided they are given the correct cultural environment. African violets were discovered growing in Tanzania in East Africa around 1892 by a German, Baron Walter von St. Paul, and were given the genus name *Saintpaulia*. Because the flowers had a resemblance to a violet, it was given the species name, *ionantha*. Therefore, the Latin name for African violets is *Saintpaulia ionantha*.

Since the natural habitat of these plants is near the equator, they thrive in temperatures between 68 to 77 degrees with humidity of 40 to 50%, which makes them perfect houseplants since most of our homes are kept around those temperatures.

African violets can be grown in natural light or fluorescent light. They cannot tolerate direct sunlight, so place them several inches away from any window that gets direct sun. An east window is usually ideal. Fluorescent lights are probably the best light source. Double tube fixtures are best with the lights left on 12 to 14 hours a day (do not leave the lights on all day and night—the plants need rest, too!), and the plants should be 8 to 10 inches below the tubes.

The plants should be potted in a soilless mix especially made for African violets. They should be placed in pots according to the size of the plant. There are three sizes of African violets—standard (12 to 14 inches), semiminature (8 inches), and miniature (6 inches). NEVER POT AN AFRICAN VIOLET IN A LARGE POT IF YOU WANT IT TO BLOOM. An African violet must be root bound in the pot in order to bloom. A regular-size standard violet should never be potted in a pot over 4 1/2 inches. The semiminature and miniature violets should never be potted in pots over 2 1/2 inches.

African violets may be watered from the top, the bottom, or by wicking. Unless a wicking system is used, be sure to water only when the top of the soil feels slightly dry to the touch. Most growers use a constant feed method of fertilizing—using 1/4 teaspoon of African violet fertilizer to one gallon of lukewarm water each time they are watered. Do not let the pots sit in the fertilizer solution for more than 20 minutes.

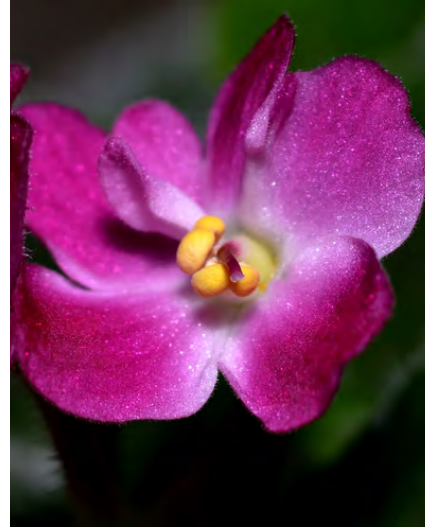
## From The Archives - March 2005 *Growing African Violets (Cont.)*

Be sure to give violets plenty of space to grow. Crowding them together can stop airflow and cause powdery mildew and other diseases to occur. Keep dead leaves and faded blossoms removed.

There are several methods of propagating violets. The most common way is by leaf cuttings. Remove a fresh leaf from the plant; cut the stem to about 1 ½ inches long, and plant in a mix of half vermiculite and half perlite. Many plantlets will come up through the mix and can be separated and started in small pots.

There are excellent websites that give detailed instructions on growing African violets. Plants, soil, and other supplies can be ordered. One of the best websites is [The Violet Barn](#). The [African Violet Society of America](#) is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to helping African violet enthusiasts.

I love all plants, but I am very fond of African Violets. They really brighten up the indoors, especially in the winter.





#### BY HELP DESK TEAM

*Q: This week we're going to answer several questions we've received about selecting shrubs for the landscape. The questions have ranged from finding a 3-foot flowering shrub, shrubs for a privacy fence, replacing freeze-damaged shrubs, and selecting a hedge shrub for a fence line.*

**A:** When choosing any plant for your landscape, there are several factors to take into consideration. For shrubs, we'll break those factors down into 3 categories: The purpose or function, the aesthetic considerations, and site conditions.

Shrubs in the landscape can serve several purposes or functions. As you think about the shrub selection, determine what you want the shrub to "do" in your landscape. Are you looking for a

- Fence or boundary formed by closely growing bushes or shrubs, also known as a hedge
- Focal point in the landscape
- Foundation planting to integrate the home into the landscape
- Screen for privacy or wind
- "Garden" room or a way to separate outdoor spaces from each other

- Defining a walkway
- Way to minimize drainage issues or erosion

The desired appearance and aesthetics of the shrub selection are also important. These include:

- The growth habit, i.e., is the mature shape pyramidal, columnar, spreading, . . .
- Does the shrub bloom, in what season, and what color?
- What does the foliage look like: color, texture, and shape? And, does the foliage color change by season?
- Is the plant's appearance interesting in winter, e.g., bark, twig/branch structure, fruit, or berries?
- Does the plant offer benefits to wildlife such as food or shelter?

And, most importantly, the planting site conditions to keep in mind when selecting shrubs for your landscape:

- What is the sun exposure - full sun (6 - 8 hours), part sun (afternoon sun), part shade (morning sun), deep shade (dappled or very little sun)?
- What are the moisture conditions - is the soil perpetually moist or mostly dry?
- Is the plant site exposed to wind and temperature extremes?
- What type of soil is in the planting site, i.e., clay, sandy loam, sand, etc.
- What is the hardiness zone? North Texas is in zones 8a and 8b.
- Are there other plants in the space that will compete for water and nutrients?
- Are there below ground obstructions such as pipes, electrical lines, tree roots?
- Are there overhead obstructions such as electrical or telephone lines?



Once you've thought through and determined the plant's desired purpose and appearance, and most of the site conditions, have a test done on the soil from the planting site. It will provide you with a detailed analysis of your soil and recommendations for how to improve the soil fertility. This link on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website will tell you more about soil testing and the steps to having one done:

<https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

Then, check out these websites to help you make the right shrub choice for the purpose, desired appearance and planting site in your landscape:

"Outstanding Shrubs for Texas," *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/table4.html>

"Texas Superstar® Plants," *Texas AgriLife Research*

<https://texassuperstar.com/texas-superstar-plants/>

"Native and Adapted Plants for North Texas," *Texas A&M AgriLife Research Extension*

<https://www.ntmwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/top100.pdf>

Shop for shrubs at a reputable nursery or garden center. Check the plant's overall appearance for health; pull the plant out of the container and look for roots that are light-colored and firm; look for circling or girdling roots indicating the plant has been in the container for too long; and the trunk should be straight and branches should have no signs of injury. For more information on what to look for when selecting plants and shrubs go to this website:

"Selecting Trees and Shrubs,"

*Iowa State University Extension*

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2005/8-10/select.html>

Taking the time to consider all these factors will help you make a wise investment and add lasting beauty to your landscape.



Image: Canva Pro, royalty free

*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.*

LATE WINTER PREP FOR YOUR  
SPRING TURF

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

**LATE-FEBRUARY THROUGH EARLY MARCH**  
THERE'S A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME TO APPLY



Apply Late-Winter pre-emergents before the soil temperature has warmed to 55 degrees F. For weeds that tend to sprout throughout the summer, a second application may be required in June or July.

**STOP THE GROWTH OF SUMMER WEEDS**  
PREVENT CRABGRASS AND SANDBURS WITH A PRE-EMERGENT APPLICATION AT THE CORRECT TIME.

A pre-emergent application will inhibit the seeds before they can "emerge" or germinate. Applications of Team, Halts, Balan, and Dimension may be used to prevent crabgrass and sandburs. Remember to carefully follow ALL directions on any herbicide you use.



**REMEMBER, TIMING IS KEY**  
DON'T MISS THE BRIEF WINDOW FOR TREATMENT



For summer weeds such as sandburs and crabgrass you can apply pre-emergents 2 to 3 weeks before the average killing freeze date in your area. Check your local forecast. In North Texas this can be from the end of February to the middle of March. If you miss this timeframe for treatment, you will have to wait until next year to apply pre-emergent. Timing is key!

**WHAT NOT TO APPLY**  
AVOID WEED AND FEED APPLICATIONS AS IT IS TOO EARLY TO APPLY FERTILIZERS TO YOUR LAWN



Over fertilizing and over watering can lead to more weeds and disease in your turf.

Annual and Broadleaf weeds can be treated after they emerge.  
HerbPublicationSC5200713.indd (tamu.edu)  
Turfgrass Weeds / AggieTurf (tamu.edu)

**MORE INFO FROM TEXAS A&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\\_Herbicides%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf](http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Herbicides%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf)

Refer to <http://AggieTurf.tamu.edu> for more information on turfgrasses and identification tools for common turfgrass weeds and insects.

Denton County Master Gardener Association  
Questions? Contact our Help Desk  
email: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com)  
PHONE: 940-349-2892




*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.*



# Denton County Master Gardener Association

## Upcoming Events

### **MARCH 7** Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden

Work Day! Learn and grow veggies to help the community. Wear comfortable shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Bring water.  
1901 Timber Creek Rd. Flower Mound, 9AM-11AM

### **MARCH 7** Native Plants

You can reduce your cost in plants and water and your maintenance chores, and still have a beautiful landscape. Let Tammie Gurley, Denton County Master, show how adding Texas native plants to your landscape provides you year-round interest and increases your property's attractiveness to butterflies and other wildlife. Free.  
Betty Foster Public Library, 405 Shaffner Street, Ponder 1PM-2PM

### **MARCH 8** Container Gardening

Let Charlotte Canion, Denton County Master Gardener, help you plan for beautiful container gardens for your home. If you are cramped for space or just have an area that needs a little pick-me-up, container gardening is for you!  
Denton Senior Center, 509 N. Bell Avenue, Denton 9AM-11:30AM

### **MARCH 9** Veggie Gardening Class

Planting your own food is one of the most amazing things you can do! In this class, you will learn about identifying natural patterns in your backyard, assessing what you already have in place, and gardening with efficiency. Free  
Global Spheres Center, Corinth, 9AM-12PM

### **MARCH 9** Tree Class

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 and with you! After the class presentation, we will go outside and plant a tree together, demonstrating proper tree planting procedures that you can replicate yourself.  
Global Spheres Center, Corinth. 1PM-4PM

### **MARCH 12** Garden Art

Garden art can play a big part in bringing the look and feel you want in your garden. Whether you are looking for restful and thoughtful or artistic and whimsical, Lori Barr of the Denton County Master Gardener Association can give you some new ideas for making your own from upcycled materials. Free.  
Grayson County Courthouse 100 W. Houston, Sherman 11:30AM-12:30PM



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.



# Denton County Master Gardener Association

## Upcoming Events

**MARCH  
12**

### **Seed bombs**

Seed bombs are a fun craft and a wonderful way to get children involved in gardening. Denton County Master Gardener Cheryl Huckabee will teach us all about how to make them and how to drop them for best germination. Free.  
Carrollton Public Library at Josey Ranch Lake 2:PM-3PM

**MARCH  
13**

### **Monthly Meeting & Program Korean Natural Way Gardening**

Join Hunter Zmolik of EarthAid Organics as he introduces Korean Natural Way gardening. Dedicated to fostering harmony between people and the Earth, they advocate sustainable practices, enriching soil and creating thriving ecosystems for a greener planet. The DCMGA monthly business meeting follows the program. Free.  
Global Spheres Center 10AM-12PM

**MARCH  
21**

### **Succulent Team**

Join us for our March meeting with guest speaker Bill Uttley from the Ft. Worth Cacti and Succulent Society. He will be speaking about plant identification, What is in a Name. This is the number one topic request from our 2023 survey. Remember, Knowing the name of your plant is the key to success! If you have a plant that you would like help with identification feel free to bring it!  
Global Spheres Solomon's Porch 1PM-3PM

**MARCH  
28**

### **Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area**

Richard Freiheit, Restoration Manager, will enlighten us on all aspects of this impressive resource. Sponsored by the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, In person and via Zoom. Free but registration for Zoom is required. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztYodeCtzoIE9LnBQR0XcOYymsF2Li5-B4G>.  
Your confirmation email will contain the meeting link.  
In person at: Ann Stuart Science Complex, TWU, Denton 8:30PM-8:30PM

**April  
1**

### **Gardening tips**

Denton County Master Gardener Charlotte Canion will share her favorite tips and tricks for a successful, low-work garden. Free  
Denton Senior Center- 1PM-3PM



**Check out [dcmga.com](https://dcmga.com) for more details.**

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

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S

# Plant Sale

**May 4, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. or Until sellout,**  
**RAIN or SHINE!!!**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**633 Hobson Lane, Denton**

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

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

For more information,  
Visit our Website: [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)  
Email: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov)  
Call Help Desk phone: (940)349-2892

\*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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

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



DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

# 2024 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 11  
9 AM TO 4 PM



## TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

**Advanced purchase \$15      Tour day \$20.  
Children 12 and under are FREE.**

Inspiration abounds with self-guided tours of five unique properties in Flower Mound/Double Oak including the FMFBC Garden.  
Learn about native perennials and trees, erosion control, wildflowers, mycology, herbs and more!  
Make plans to visit gardening vendors along the way.

**HIDDEN GEM**  
FLOWER MOUND TX



**CENTURY OAK**  
DOUBLE OAK, TX



**SHADES OF EDEN AND ART**  
FLOWER MOUND, TX



**POSSUM CREEK**  
FLOWER MOUND, TX



**SCAN TO BUY TICKETS  
OR ON DCMGA.COM .**





**Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden**  
1901TIMBER CREEK, TX 75028

A Christian Community Action truck will be onsite to collect non-perishable items such as applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken.  
**No charge to tour the public garden**

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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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### Social Media

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<https://twitter.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

### Save the Date

- March 13 DCMGA Monthly Meeting & Program, "Korean Natural Way Gardening," Hunter Zmolik of EarthAid Organics
- April 10 DCMGA Monthly Meeting & Program, "Wicked Plants," Kevin Burns

### Contact Information

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### Content

**The Submission deadline for the April edition of The Root is Friday, March 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 [jupiterjudyjudy@gmail.com](mailto:jupiterjudyjudy@gmail.com).

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