



Denton County Master  
Gardener Association



# THE ROOT

Grow  
With  
Us 



## 35 YEARS AND STILL GROWING



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# Buds from the Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

As we welcome September in North Central Texas, it's the perfect time to dig back into our beloved gardening routines. The weather forecast predicts warm days and cooler nights, with a slight chance of rain to keep our plants happy and hydrated. Let's make the most of this delightful transition from summer to fall.

Here are some gardening tasks to tackle this month:

- Plant Cool-Season Veggies: Broccoli, cauliflower, and spinach.
- Add Fall Colors: Chrysanthemums and pansies will bring vibrant hues to your garden.
- Divide and Transplant Perennials: Prepare for a burst of blooms next spring.
- Soil Care: Add compost and mulch to keep your soil rich and your plants cozy.
- Lawn Care: Apply preemergence herbicide to avoid spring weeds.

Find more gardening tips for September on our [Monthly Tips](#) website page.

We also have some fantastic presentations lined up for you this month:

- [September 10, 11 am: Compost & Soil at Little Elm Public Library](#)
- [September 11, 10 am: Steeped in Success: Mastering Tea Cultivation in Texas at Global Spheres Center](#)
- [September 13, 9 am: Preserving Your Harvest at Denton Senior Center](#)
- [September 26, 6:30 pm: Bringing Native Plants to Our Communities at Ann Stuart Science Complex](#)
- [September 28, 10 am: Tour of the Grove at The Grove at Sandy Jacobs Government Center](#)

Denton County Master Gardener Association is thrilled to help you get back into the swing of gardening this fall. Don't miss our **Fall Into Gardening event on October 19th**, filled with garden tours, presentations, demonstrations, information booths, and kids' activities to jump-start your spring growing season. Learn more about this fun event on [page 22](#) of this issue.

If you love gardening as much as we do and are interested in sharing your knowledge with the community, **consider becoming a Master Gardener**. Denton County Master Gardener Association accepts applications for the 2025 class through October 21st. Join us for an Informational Meeting on Friday, October 11th, at 10 am at Global Spheres Center. Learn more about becoming a [Master Gardener in our October 2023 issue](#) and the [Become a Master Gardener](#) page on our website. Happy Gardening!



# Plant Propagation Team Update

BY JOANNE SPURGIN

*Who doesn't love free plants!*

Most gardeners automatically practice propagation methods and techniques that work for them. Whether scientifically proven, methods passed down from generations, or just Mother Nature doing its thing, creating new plants by trying different propagation methods and techniques is a challenge enjoyed by many gardeners.



In a nutshell, plant propagation is broken down into two types – sexual and asexual. Sexual propagation involves the floral parts of a plant to produce a seed, thus creating genetically different plants. Asexual propagation takes parts of the original plant by cuttings, divisions, layering, or grafting to make a new genetically identical plant. Basically a clone.

Because gardeners enjoy propagation so much, years ago the Propagation team was formed to teach various techniques. In the past, the team focused on teaching propagation education to the intern class. But there was pent-up demand by DCMGA veteran members to also advance their skills. To address this need, the project leadership changed and a new curriculum was developed.

The new project managers, Kathi Efflandt and Janet Gershenfeld, seasoned Master Gardeners, took the lead and worked with members to develop a new curriculum. They decided the first year would be devoted to training members and interns first, so that the second-year training could be extended to the public.

In late fall of last year, they held a planning meeting, attended by 40 members, to determine the new agenda. Topics specifically requested by members were propagation of ferns, grapevines, coleus, succulents, orchids, and roses. Because different plants have different propagation needs, the 2024 agenda included propagation by leaf and stem cuttings, division techniques, seed germination and after care. Members also stepped up and offered their personal gardens to host the monthly training events where attendance has surpassed expectations!

Included in the 2024 agenda was training and educating veteran members on techniques so they could assist with the annual intern propagation class. Those who volunteered attended a full day of training which included both sexual and asexual propagation techniques. In April at the scheduled intern propagation class, over 30 DCMGA members assisted with the training.



## Plant Propagation Team Update (Cont.)

Intern feedback commented that the propagation hands-on training was by far their favorite class, taking home so many new plants was a positive, and they enjoyed meeting and interacting with veteran members.

What a great first year! Given the enthusiasm shown by interns and members, planning is now underway for the 2025 agenda to continue addressing the needs of our interns and members but to also develop and include classes for the public. What a great future!

Speaking of the future, at the end of 2024 Kathi will be stepping down as project manager due to other priorities. Although she won't be in the management mode, she has agreed to continue being involved as a resource and teaching when needed. My husband Steve and I were asked to step in and help as Kathi transitions out and to take the project management position in 2025. Janet will continue as project manager and the three of us are now busy planning a great agenda for 2025.

**Stem  
Cutting**



**Coleus  
Propagation**



**Grape Propagation**



## *You're Invited*

September 2024, Monthly General Meeting & Program  
"Steeped in Success: Mastering  
Tea Cultivation in Texas!"



Indulge in a Sip of Homegrown Bliss! Join us to discover the secrets of cultivating your very own tea right here in Texas. From plant varieties to brewing tips, Denton County Master Gardener Lynda Harvey will spill the tea on everything you need to know for a thriving tea garden. Don't miss out on this aromatic adventure!

September 11, 2024, 10 am  
Global Spheres Center  
7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX 76210

### *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>



## Plant of the Month - Agarita Shrub

BY LIZ CHANEY

The Agarita shrub (*Mahonia trifoliolata*) is a prickly shrub that will make a point, literally. Leaves of this evergreen shrub are similar to a holly but function like thorns, making it a fantastic deterrent for trespassers, both humans and large animals. In early spring, yellow flowers appear that provide a source of nectar for birds and other pollinators. After the bloom season, red berries create food for birds and wildlife. Animals are not the only ones who benefit from Agarita; the bark can be used to make a dye for fabrics, make a tea to soothe an upset stomach, and the berries are used for jams, jellies, or wine. Clearly, this plant has a lot to offer.



Photo Courtesy [Henderson, Mary S. and Mary Hall, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

**The Agarita's red berries create food for birds and wildlife**



Photo Courtesy [Marcus, Joseph A., Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

**The Agarita shrub is prickly, making it a fantastic deterrent for trespassers**

Agarita shrubs are naturally found on the rocky terrains, prairies, and thickets in the plains of Texas, but with a little soil amendment and monitoring, it can be grown in our area. As with any plant, it is important to know your eco-region and soil chemistry. In Denton County, the eco-regions are either "Cross Timbers" or "Blackland Prairie." A view of this interactive map <https://www.npsot.org/resources/native-plants/ecoregion-map/> will help determine which applies to your location. Soil sampling can be done through the Texas AgriLife Extension office in Denton located in the Hulcher Building, 611 Kimberly Dr., Suite 151, Denton, TX 76208, to determine the soil's composition as well as chemistry.

Being a native plant it is a tough shrub that can tolerate our extreme weather conditions. Nevertheless, it does have some specific conditions needed for it to thrive. Agarita requires a

## Agarita Shrub (Cont.)

slightly acidic soil with a 6.0–6.5ph, full Texas sun, and well-drained soil. Some plants can tolerate a deviation of plus or minus .5 in terms of ph. Soil ph can be reduced with the use of aluminum sulfate or iron sulfate. It will require consistent application as the effectiveness will decrease over time. If an increase in ph is needed then limestone can be used. This is why soil amendment and testing are important. These websites provide information on amending soil for soil acidity (lower ph):

- <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/changing-the-ph-of-your-soil/>
- [https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/facts\\_about\\_soil\\_acidity\\_and\\_lime\\_e1566](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/facts_about_soil_acidity_and_lime_e1566)

Be careful with fertilizers as they can raise the ph of the soil and kill your shrub. Agarita will tolerate well-drained loam, clay, and limestone soils. Our Agarita bush thrives in well-drained clay soil that tested at a ph level of approximately 7.2, in full sun with twice weekly watering. Once established the Agarita shrub requires minimum maintenance and will probably be around four feet tall and wide but in optimal conditions it can reach as tall and wide as 10 feet.

Generally, these shrubs will not be found at large box store nurseries. Instead, Agarita will most likely be found at nurseries that specialize in native plants or online. Nevertheless, given its diverse applications from food and shelter for wildlife to homestead resources, the Agarita shrub is definitely worth a place in your yard.

### Resources

*Texas A&M University, Aggie-Hort*

“Agarita, Agarito, Algerita, Agritos, Currant-of-Texas, Wild Currant, Chaparral Berry,”

<https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/mahoniatrifol.htm>

*Texas Master Naturalist, Alamo Area Chapter, “Agarita”*

<https://txmn.org/alamo/area-resources/natural-areas-and-linear-creekways-guide/agarita/>

*Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center, “Changing the pH of your soil,”* <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/changing-the-ph-of-your-soil/>

*Michigan State University, MSU Extension, “Facts about Soil Acidity and Lime,” Bulletin E1566, Laura Bast (Nov. 9, 2015)*

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/facts\\_about\\_soil\\_acidity\\_and\\_lime\\_e1566](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/facts_about_soil_acidity_and_lime_e1566)

*Native Plant Society of Texas, “Texas Ecoregion Map*

<https://www.npsot.org/resources/native-plants/ecoregion-map/>



# In The Veggie Patch: Collard Greens

BY JANICE YODER SMITH

Collard greens are nutrient-dense cousins of kale. An unsalted one-cup serving provides 63 calories of low-fat, high-fiber, mineral-and vitamin-rich nutrition. They can be eaten raw, sautéed, or boiled. Fresh greens in a plastic bag last up to five days refrigerated. Blanched greens in air-tight packing last up to a year frozen.

## History

Evidence exists that the collard green, *Brassica oleracea* var. *acephala*, originated in what is now Türkiye before written history. Collards and closely-related kale like cool temperatures but tolerate heat, making them easy to grow. As people moved further into Europe and Asia or traded with those in the Middle East and Africa, they took collards and kale to new locations and developed vegetables including broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and bok choy from them.



Photo Courtesy Barbara H. Smith ©2023 HGIC, Clemson Extension

## Georgia Collard

Written evidence of collard greens in North America dates to 1669. Like black-eyed peas and okra, collards came to America from Africa through the slave trade. Slaveowners did not think those vegetables were suitable for their own tables, but they let the slaves grow them. That is how collard greens became associated with Southern home-cooking. Some people view collards as a sign of their slave ancestors' resistance to adversity. Collard greens can survive the cold, even a light freeze. They can survive heat better than most green leaf vegetables. They can be cut and live to make more leaves. During the Civil War, white people learned to eat and like collards when the Union army destroyed other crops.

## Varieties for North Texas

The *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension* recommends the Blue Max, Champion, Flash, Georgia LS, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, and Vates varieties of collard greens for Texas. Recommended seeding dates in the north Texas area are February 1st - March 3rd for spring and August 25th - September 20th for fall. Indoor seeding may occur about a month earlier. Full sun and loose, rich, moist soil at least 10" deep best support collard green growth. High clay soils need enrichment with 4" of compost to support collard greens. Apply and mix in a 10-10-10 fertilizer before seeding. Plant seeds 0.5" deep and 18"-36" apart. Keep soil evenly moist. Every four to six weeks, provide manure or slow-release fertilizer to meet the high nutrient demand of these plants.



## In The Veggie Patch: Collard Greens (Cont.)

Companion planting of cabbage moth-repellant plants can help protect collard greens. Harvesting leaves from the bottom of the plant allows continuing growth through the season. If desired, the seeds can be collected after the plant has bolted. Seeds saved in a dry, dark, cool environment should be good for a year or more.

Aphids, cabbage loopers and beetles avoid marigolds. Those flowers attract helpful lady parasitic wasps and lady bugs that limit insect damage to collards. Herbs that benefit collard green production include mint, dill, borage, artemisia and hyssop. Tomatoes, other nightshade plants and pole beans also need much nitrogen and should not be planted near collards.

Have you tried collard greens? If not, there are many good recipes online. Better yet, ask someone who grew up eating them for their family recipe. Whether boiled, sauteed, or chopped fine into a salad, collards are delicious and nutritious. If boiled, even the pot liquor (pot likker) is nutritious and tasty and could be used as a soup starter later. Early September is not too late to plant. Why not give collard greens a try?



Photo Courtesy Barbara H. Smith ©2023  
HGIC, Clemson Extension

### Cabbage Looper Damage on Collards

#### Resources

**Clemson Cooperative Extension**, Home & Garden Information Center, "Collards" (January 2023)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/collards/>

**UIC Heritage Garden**, Collard Greens (*Brassica Oleracea*)

<http://heritagegarden.uic.edu/collard-greens-brassica-oleracea#:~:text=Plant%20collard%20greens%20with%20hyssop,known%20as%20cabbage%20moth%20repellers.>

**Texas A&M University**, AgriLife Extension

- "Easy Gardening, Collard Greens," Joseph Masabni, (Revised Copy)

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/how-to-grow-collard-greens.pdf>

- "Recommended Vegetable Cultivars For North Central Texas"

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

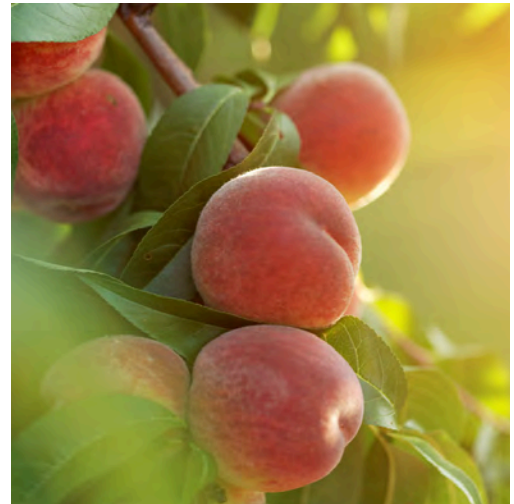


# Color of the Sun: The Peach Tree

BY IVY SUMMERFIELD

How many times do you find yourself thinking about a tree? I'd venture to guess the answer is not very often. Trees surround us in all directions. Sometimes we need to take time and stop to look so we can admire their beauty, value, and ability to provide us with colorful and tasty fruit. Texas offers many varieties of peach trees that produce succulent and tasty fruit.

Commercial orchard growers are raising trees for financial gain and as their livelihood. Backyard growers can still make a profit at farmer's markets; however, backyard growers enjoy the best that peaches have to offer. They can just walk outside, pluck a plump peach off a tree, and enjoy the sweet juicy taste.



If you decide that a commercial orchard is the way you would like to grow peaches, please see the reference listed below to *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension* - Texas Fruit and Nut Production (1). Your local extension office is a good place to start and can also refer you to other agencies that can help with your peach-growing business.

This article is for the backyard grower who is looking for a smaller yield with less labor. By keeping it simple, just the basics, and pointing out things that you need to be aware of, you will have the information to put you on the path of success.

In order to get to that sweet taste of a summer peach, there are a few things to consider before even purchasing a tree, as well as some things once you have purchased the tree. Such as location, type of soil, the proper variety for your location, how to plant the tree, and pruning/training your tree.

## ***Location***

**Placement** - A well-drained area with 8-10 hours of daily sunlight.

**Area size** - Dwarf and semi-dwarf peach trees spread up to 12 to 15 feet, while a standard peach tree can double that size.

## ***Soil***

Peach trees thrive in soil of 6 -7 pH and sandy loam topsoil that is 18 to 24 inches deep with red clay subsoil beneath. (1) If you are unsure of your soil type, testing your soil is recommended. Your local Extension agency has a program that can facilitate that need. (2)

## Color of the Sun: The Peach Tree (Cont.)

### *Varieties*

Picking the right variety for your area will help in the success of fruit production on your peach tree. North Texas has certain chill hour requirements (hours at or below 45°). This varies by location, usually between (700-900). This is important, as trees that require lower chill hours will flower too early and be killed by a late frost. For additional information on varieties and chill hours, refer to the Texas A&M Extension resource listed below (3).

### *Planting Your Peach Tree*

If you want success in growing peaches, don't do what I did with my first tree. I dug a hole, placed my store-bought peach tree in it, covered it up with soil that I bought at the store, and I watered it. I had no clue the tree would go through yearly processes before producing fruit.



Even better, I never pruned the tree. I clipped a few branches that were hanging down! You might say I was a bad steward to the tree, even though it did produce some fruit.

The *University of Georgia* recommends to always purchase from a reputable nursery or peach tree supplier. The composition of a peach tree is a scion (shoot) grafted onto a rootstock. Normally the root stock has been bred and selected for adaption and resistance to pests and diseases. (4)

When it comes to the actual planting of your non-fruit-bearing or fruit-bearing tree, for optimal success do your research first and view the recommendations from Texas A&M Forest Service with their 12-step process. (5)

### *Pruning and Training*

Pruning a peach tree starts when you plant it. Prune the tree into a single trunk and cut it back 24 to 36 inches tall. On a first-year tree, remove all the lateral branches to the trunk. For an older shoot, cut back the lateral branches, leaving a stub to allow new buds to form scaffold limbs.

Pruning can be done in summer and winter, depending on what you are trying to accomplish when pruning. Pruning helps with open center, referring to letting light shine in the tree's center to promote photosynthesis and nourish fruit production. The first summer, pruning should be done once or twice.



## Color of the Sun: The Peach Tree (Cont.)

Summer pruning reduces the amount of dormant pruning required the first winter and will direct growth into the desirable scaffold branches. If you can prune the first summer, there should be very little pruning needed the first winter, mainly concentrating on keeping the open center.

Pruning the second summer will help promote light into the tree. By the second winter, your peach tree may be 5 to 7 feet tall and excessive pruning will cut production; however, pruning to keep the open center so that light is able to reach your branches is the key. In the third year, the main goal is to not allow branches to grow any straighter than 45° as this hinders the light in the center of the tree. Pruning techniques also apply to more mature trees. (6)

### *Insects and Diseases*

Each state has its own insects and diseases associated with peach trees. In Texas, those include the following: cat-facing insect, peach twig borer, plum curculio, San Jose scale, bacterial spot, brown rot, cotton root, post oak root rot, and scab. Let's not forget our furry friends, squirrels and birds. They also love the sweet taste of a peach.

This article does not support an in-depth elaborate clarification of each insect and disease. In the Resources section of this article are listed websites with explanations and pictures where you can see the disease. *University of Florida, IFAS Extension* was by far one of the best sites for descriptions and visuals. (7)

### *Four Season Tree*

I originally thought planting a peach tree was simple - dig a hole, plant a tree, and water it faithfully. After researching and writing this article, I realize there is much more to it. Planting a tree should have a much broader sense of meaning than the simple act of getting it in the ground. When you know better, you do better. I like to refer to the peach tree as a four-season tree. In the Spring, beautiful flowers and leaves adorn it. In Summer, peaches fill the tree among glossy green leaves. In the Fall, leaves turn yellow and orange. And in the Winter, the bare tree "statue" stands to remind us of the cycle that will continue.

Plant a peach tree this fall!

### *References*

(1) *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*, Texas Fruit and Nut Production, "Peaches," Jim Kamas, Larry Stein, and Monte Nesbitt, Extension Fruit Specialists, (EHT-022, 11-13)

[https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2015/04/peaches\\_2015.pdf](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2015/04/peaches_2015.pdf)

## Color of the Sun: The Peach Tree (Cont.)

### References (Cont.)

(2) *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*, Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory

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

(3) *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*, "Characteristics of Major Peach Varieties of Texas"

<https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/hillcountry/Peaches/charapeachvarieties.html>

(4) *University of Georgia Extension*, Home Garden Series, "Home Garden Peaches." Circular 1063 (May, 2018)

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1063#title>

(5) *Texas A&M Forest Service*, Urban & Community Forestry, "Arbor Day: Planting Trees in 12 Easy Steps"

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ArborDay/PlantingSteps/>

(6) *Penn State Extension*, "Peach Tree Pruning – Managing Light and Crop Load" (September 2023)

<https://extension.psu.edu/peach-tree-pruning-managing-light-and-crop-load>

(7) *University of Florida, IFAS Extension*, "Peach Diseases," Lake County Fact Sheet 2017001 (July 2017)

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/lake/docs/fruit-production/pdf/Peach-Diseases-2018.pdf>



# 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?*

*“Add flowers to your vegetable garden for a better harvest.”*

## **Truth or myth? Let’s find out.**

Flowers in your vegetable garden attract beneficial pollinators including bees, wasps, butterflies, and even common houseflies. Some pollinators carry pollen between flowers while others shake flowers to spread pollen. For example, many berries, melons, and cucumbers require direct transfer of pollen between flowers to produce fruit while an insect just buzzing into and out of the flowers of the nightshade family including tomatoes and peppers improves production. For more

information see, “Which Garden Vegetables and Fruits Need Insect Pollination.”

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/bigskybees/GardenVegetablesFruitsNeedPollination.html>

Beyond their essential role as pollinator attractors, flowers among your vegetables add beauty to your garden and can be cut for flower arrangements.



## **Which flowers are the most helpful?**

Ohio State University Extension recommends the following flowering plants:

(<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-4.7>)

- Perennials: aster, hyssop, milkweed, purple coneflower
- Annuals: cosmos, marigold, sunflower, zinnia
- Herbs: basil, borage, catmint, lavender, oregano





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

And don't forget the importance of selecting native plants to attract pollinators. Here are some plants recommended by TAMU Water University:

- Lynn's Legacy Cenizo
- Flame Acanthus
- Red Turk's Cap
- Gregg's Mistflower
- Texas Lantana
- Texas Rock Rose
- Monarda 'Jacob Cline'
- 'Goldsturm' Rudbeckia
- 'Henry Duelberg' Salvia
- Zexmenia
- 'Apricot Sunrise' Agastache
- Butterflyweed
- 'Moonbeam' Coreopsis
- Cedar Sage



"Bring Pollinators to Your Yard" <https://www.ntmwd.com/bring-pollinators-to-your-yard/>

"Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants"

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd548063.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd548063.pdf)

And, there is more good news. According to the *University of Georgia Extension* these flowering plants help repel pests: (<https://site.extension.uga.edu/paulding/2024/07/insect-repelling-plants-for-your-garden/>),

- Lavender produces a fragrance unpleasant to pests like mosquitoes, flies, fleas, and moths.
- Rosemary repels common garden pests, including Japanese beetles, carrot flies, slugs, and snails.
- Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), can keep mosquitoes, flies, aphids, mites, and tomato hornworms away from the garden
- Chrysanthemums contain a natural insect repellent commonly used in insecticides.
- Mint repels cabbage moths, ants, mice, and fleas."
- Marigolds (*Tagetes*) emit a strong scent that repels mosquitoes, aphids, and other insects.
- Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum*) can deter whiteflies, squash bugs, and cucumber beetles.



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

*Resources for more information on  
flowering companion plants:*

“Companion Planting”:

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=10936>

“Improving tomato plants through companion  
planting”

<https://agrillifetoday.tamu.edu/2023/03/28/improving-tomato-plants-through-companion-planting/>

“Benefits of pollinator-attracting companion  
plants”

<https://agrillifetoday.tamu.edu/2021/09/01/benefits-of-pollinator-attracting-companion-plants/>

“Companion Planting in the Vegetable Garden”

<https://ccmgatx.org/resources/articles/article-repository/2023/february/companion-planting-in-the-vegetable-garden/>

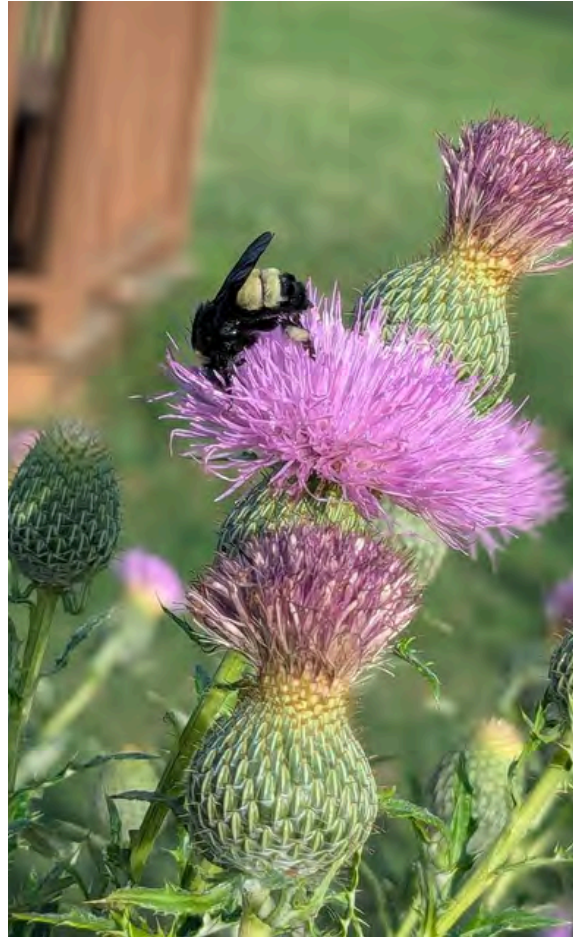


Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Melissa Weaver



**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.

## Friends We Will Miss

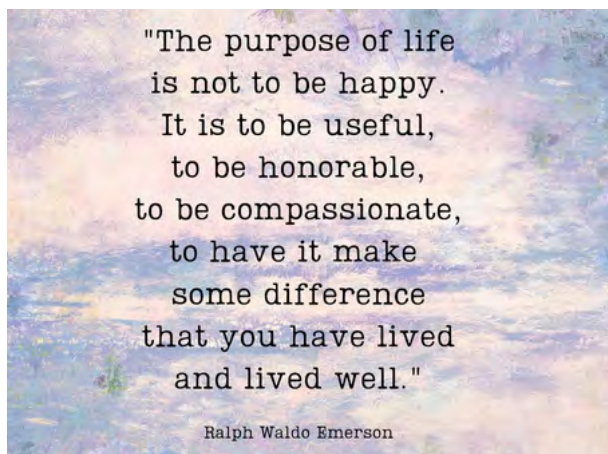
BY RAE LINE NOBLES

On August 3, 2024, Denton County Master Gardeners lost a treasured member. Kristin Lyon was a member of the Class of 2023 where she was an enthusiastic student in the classroom and at projects throughout Denton County. She was devoted to preserving wildlife habitat; her primary goal in joining DCMGA was to learn as much as possible about sustainable gardening to share with the community she loved. And learn she did! She sat in the front row of class each week, an eager participant. She was also active in preparing for the 2023 Garden Tour, helping at Kim Wootton's and Cece Kenney's homes. But she didn't stop there! She volunteered at many projects that benefited from her dedicated work including Beulah Acres, Help Desk, Argyle Unity Park, Friends of Shiloh Garden, FVHF Show, Plant Sale, and Gardenscapers. She was also a dear member of her Mentor Pod, which included Martha Cantrell and Meredith Kendrick, led by Ann Athey. Her selfless giving extended to several DCMGA members when she reached out to ask how she could help them through a difficult time.



**Class of 2023 Kristin Lyon, Martha Cantrell, and Meredith Kendrick, with Mentor Ann Athey (left to right).**

Kristin's commitment to community service extended beyond Master Gardeners. As a member of the Ladies of Oak Point, she often cooked meals for the Oak Point police and firefighters and was active in the annual Oak Point Thanksgiving Feast. According to Oak Point Major Dena Meek, "Kristin was devoted to the Department of Public Safety." She also proudly chaired the Dallas Corinthian Regatta for one year and was active with the Oak Point Yacht Club.



Kristin Lyon will be deeply missed by many people in Denton County and beyond. Her life touched countless people in such good ways. Her loss is felt by her family, her many friends, peers at DCMGA, and her three dogs that she loved as much as the people in her life. She was a true role model of kindness, dedication, and hard work. Though she has left us, she remains in our hearts and happy memories. Thank you, Kristin, for the many gifts you offered us.





**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

*Q: I have a nice bunch of sunflowers that are still in bloom, but they are being overrun with grasshoppers. If they are going to be a haven for grasshoppers I wouldn't mind taking them out. Here's my question: if I remove them, will that send the hoppers elsewhere or will they just find alternate food sources in my garden?*

**A:** Late April and early May is when grasshoppers begin to emerge, but their emergence was probably delayed this year due to our cool, rainy spring. By late July, their populations are huge and vegetation really begins to show abuse. The answer to your question about whether the grasshoppers will move to the other plants in your yard is dependent on what other plants you have in your yard. Use lists on the following website to determine which plants are/are not desirable by grasshoppers to help plan your selections for next year's garden:

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/landscapelawns/ent-1005/>

**Grasshopper control options:**

Grasshopper control often is much more successful as a community effort. Control

strategies you may want to consider instead of cutting down your sunflowers are:

- Spray them with neem oil, a natural pesticide, which grasshoppers do not like. Insecticidal treatments should be directed at young grasshoppers (earlier in the season), as the ability to control them declines as they develop and migrate., but avoid the use of carbaryl sprays to control grasshoppers, as this chemical is very toxic to bees.
- Attract a bluebird (not a blue jay), a voracious insect eater whose #1 choice is grasshoppers! They are relatively easy to get to take up residence: Bluebird nesting boxes should be in the open, in a sunny spot; NOT shaded by a tree, but preferably facing a tree about 50 feet away.
- Plant and maintain a border of tall grasses around the bed or garden where you have your sunflowers. Water these border plants as needed so they never dry out and do not mow them. This lush vegetative border can serve as a trap crop to keep grasshoppers away from other desirable vegetation.
- A two-quart container, half-filled with a mixture of one-part blackstrap molasses with ten parts water will attract and trap grasshoppers.
- Though floating row covers are not ideal for sunflowers, they would be a temporary deterrent until the weather breaks in about 3 weeks...we hope! Grasshoppers can chew through plastic and fabric covers when the population is large or food is scarce, so only fine metal screening can completely exclude these insects.



Grasshoppers only produce one generation per year and lay next year's eggs in the summer. A preventative control measure is to turn/till your soil early this Fall and again next Spring to expose many of those eggs to predators and desiccation. And a heavy mulch—say two inches of shredded leaves—applied over the winter will prevent many of next year's young from being able to emerge from the soil.

**More info:**

“Grasshoppers and Their Control”

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/asset-external/grasshoppers-and-their-control/>

“Grasshopper Control in Gardens and Landscapes”

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/grasshopper-control-in-gardens-and-landscapes.html>

“Grasshoppers”

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74.103.html>



## SEPTEMBER TURF TIP

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

MID-SEPTEMBER THROUGH EARLY OCTOBER

THERE'S A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME TO APPLY



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

STOP THE GROWTH OF COOL WEATHER WEEDS

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

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



REMEMBER, NOW IS THE TIME

DON'T MISS THIS BRIEF WINDOW FOR TREATMENT



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

WHAT TO APPLY

CORN GLUTEN MEAL OR BENEFIN?

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



CHECK OUT MORE INFORMATION

ANOTHER RESOURCE FROM TEXAS A&M



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

[http://publications.tamu.edu/TURE\\_LANDSCAPE/PUB\\_turf\\_Herbicides%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf](http://publications.tamu.edu/TURE_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Herbicides%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf)

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Questions? Contact our Help Desk

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

PHONE: 940.349.2892

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

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.





# DCMGA

## Upcoming Events

ALWAYS CHECK THE  
DCMGA CALENDAR  
FOR UPDATED  
INFORMATION.

**Sept 3** **Growing Vegetables for Linda Tutt High School Student Run Grocery & First Refuge Food Bank.** All tasks from soil prep to harvesting as the season dictates. We will give short education on the tasks of the day. (no work on Labor Day, see you Tuesday Sept. 3)  
**1350 Milam Rd E. Sanger, Monday Mornings 9AM-11AM**

**Sept 5** **Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden Work Days**  
Learn and grow veggies to help the community. Wear comfortable shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Bring water  
**1901 Timber Creek Flower Mound -- Thursday Mornings 9AM-11AM**

**Sept 10** **Compost Soil & Mulch**  
Gardening in our area is tough, in part because most of our wonderful topsoil has been lost. Good soil makes all the difference! Texas AgriLife Extension Agent Dusty Fife and Denton County Master Gardener Carol Rowley will walk you through the steps to building better soil. Sponsored by Texas AgriLife.  
**Little Elm Public Library, 100 W. Eldorado Parkway, Little Elm 11AM-12PM**

**Sept 11** **General Meeting & Program - Mastering Tea Cultivation in Texas**  
Join us to discover the secrets of cultivating your very own tea right here in Texas. From plant varieties to brewing tips, Denton County Master Gardener Lynda Harvey will spill the tea on everything you need to know for a thriving tea garden. The one-hour program begins at 10 am followed by our general meeting.  
**Global Spheres Center, Corinth 10AM-12PM**

**Sept 13** **Preserving Your Harvest**  
Learn from a pro when Denton County Master Gardener Bonnie Ambrose shares the joys of preserving all this goodness from your garden.  
**Denton Senior Center, 509 N. Bell Avenue, Denton 9AM-10AM**

**Sept 21** **Introduction to Permaculture**  
In this class you will learn essential guidelines, ethics, principles and strategies that will wrap your head and heart around this amazing land stewardship life style!  
\$12 for pre-registration, \$15 at the door. Please pre-register for this popular class:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4ca5ae29a3f9c07-permaculture#/>  
Co-sponsored by Global Spheres Center, Beulah Acres, 7801 S. I 35, Corinth 9AM-12PM

**Sept 26** **Bringing Native Plants to Our Communities.**  
Join us for a panel presentation by three of the four NPSOT/TF 2023 Fall Grant Recipients as they provide their Final Project Reports. Everyone is welcome.  
Registration if planning to attend via Zoom. Signup link :  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYodeCtrzoiE9LnBQR0Xc0YymsF2Li5-B4G>  
**Ann Stuart ScienceComplex 1201 Main Circle, Denton 6:30PM-8:30PM**  
(Check DCMGA.com calendar for full details)

**Sept 28** **Tour of the Grove**  
Join Denton County Master Gardeners at The Grove and embark on a guided tour where you'll receive expert insights on fruit trees ideal for your backyard. Discuss fruit tree selection, care, and maintenance, tailored to suit your individual needs.  
**The Grove at Sandy Jacobs Government Center (1029 W Rosemeade Pkwy) 10AM-12PM**

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





www.dcmga.com

Scan the QR  
Code to  
Register

# Fall Into Gardening

PRESENTED BY:

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

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**8:00 am – 3:15 pm**

GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER, 7801 S I-35, CORINTH, TX

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

JEFF RAY, CBS TEXAS  
METEOROLOGIST

“Changing Weather, Changing  
Gardens”

TONI MOOREHEAD, OWNER  
SIGNATURE GARDENS

“Blooms & Beyond: Year-Long  
Color for Your Garden”

Presentations, Demonstrations, Information Booths & Kids Activities to  
Help You Grow!

\$15 Adults (ages 16+)

\$8 Kids (ages 6 -15)

Includes lunch

Donate 3 non-perishable food  
items to enter to win a  
gardening door prize!

Register on [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)

No refunds. The event will be held rain or shine.



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## Denton County Master Gardener Association



### JOIN US TO LEARN MORE

General Meeting & Program  
October 09, 2024, 10 am-noon

2025 Prospective Intern Informational  
Meeting  
October 11, 2024, 10 am-noon  
(Although optional for applicants, if you  
are chosen to participate, this meeting or  
a make-up meeting in January will be  
required.)

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



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

**Now Recruiting for Our  
2025 Intern Class**

## Want to Be a Master Gardener?

Online Applications  
Available Aug 19- Oct 21 at  
[dcmga.com](https://dcmga.com)

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





### Mission Statement

As Master Gardeners, our mission is to educate and inspire Denton County residents through research-based horticulture, to promote eco-friendly gardens and enduring landscapes that enrich our 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.

### 2024 Board of Directors

President	Cheryl Huckabee
Vice-President	Kelli Bixler
Secretary	Lori Barr
Treasurer	Dale Powell
Communications	Judy Allen
Education	Ellen Gauntt
Outreach	Bonnie Ambrose
Member-at-Large	Raeline Nobles
Past President	Kathryn Wells

### Social Media

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

X (formerly Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

### Save the Date

September 11 DCMGA Monthly Meeting & Program "Steeped in Success: Mastering Tea Cultivation in Texas" by DCMGA Member Lynda Harvey

October 19 Fall Into Gardening, Global Spheres, Corinth

### Contact Information

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<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

**The Submission deadline for the October edition of *The Root* is Sunday, September 15.**

Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson or Communications Director Judy Allen at [jupiterjudyjudy@gmail.com](mailto:jupiterjudyjudy@gmail.com).

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