

Denton County Master Gardener Association



THE ROOT

Grow With Us 



Irises, Carstairl, Getty Images, Courtesy of Canva.com



STILL GROWING



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Buds From The Board

BY JEFF HARDGRAVE, DCMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Denton County *Root* readers! Alas, April has arrived! And I, for one, could not be happier. Having spent the past several months longing to escape the fickle and temperamental bounds of winter, I am repulsed by cold temperatures. Oh yes, I do appreciate those intermittent periods of moderate seasonal temperatures – I just wish they would hang around a bit longer. And certainly, there is a science-based case to be made for winter, but not in my court of opinion. Bring on the warmer temperatures, and let's get outside and do some work!

As a native Texan, I should know better! My roots extend down to Navarro County. I am Jeff Hardgrave, and I serve as Vice President of the Denton County Master Gardener Association. Like my colleague Donna Hull, whom you met in last month's "Buds from the Board", I too am a product of the DCMGA Class of 2023. You are probably wondering what the Vice President does, and I join you in that speculation. My most common response is that I "preside over the vices"! And we gardeners are no different from other groups; we are equally burdened. My volunteer job is to focus on projects – and we have a good many of them spread about Denton County – ornamental gardens, vegetable gardens, fruit and nut trees, even grapes and berries! Native or adapted plants – we don't discriminate – we love them all. So there – I have confessed our premier vice – we love all of these plants!

With over 300+ members in the Association, we offer much diversity to offer our members and incredible educational opportunities to share. The *Root* is a great example of our outreach, but there is so much more. We operate a Help Desk to aid you in answering your questions and finding gardening success. Maybe you have been to a speakers bureau presentation or seen an Ask A Master Gardener Booth, or your school-aged children attended a Science With Attitude program (we call it SWAT), we have established some deep roots in service. And just a few days from now, Saturday, April 25th, we'll host our annual plant sale at the North Texas Fairgrounds in Denton. It is a spectacular event – loads of plants and the people who love and know them best! You'll get a great bargain, and planting advice is ever blooming. Then on Saturday, May 9th, we will have an amazing Garden Tour down in the Carrollton area. We also have great plans for a family fall event on the horizon in Highland Village. We have something for YOU!



Buds From The Board (cont.)

BY JEFF HARDGRAVE, DCMGA VICE PRESIDENT

So we will end where we began – April! Finally! I am reminded of a song from my youth – January of 1973 to be specific, by Three Dog Night, and written by Dave Loggins (of “Please Come to Boston” fame) – the lyric is “I’ve got pieces of April, I keep them in a memory bouquet, I’ve got pieces of April, it’s a morning in May.” You see, we gardeners are never satisfied, we’ve just gotten to April, and now I’m thinking about May. Now go grow something!



Photo Courtesy of Canva.com

♫ “I keep them in a memory bouquet” ♪



TOP GARDENING TIPS

April

Plant warm season herbs & vegetables.
 Plant warm season flowering annuals & perennials.
 Prune spring-blooming shrubs & vines after flowering.
 Prune shade trees as needed except Live or Red Oaks.
 Allow spring bulb foliage to die & dry before removal.

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION





DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

NORTH TEXAS FAIRGROUNDS

2217 N. Carroll Blvd. Denton 76201

Spacious, covered sale area

Plentiful, convenient parking

April 25, 2026

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RAIN or SHINE!!!

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

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Texas native plants, tough-as-nails perennials, and no-fuss roses

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For more information, Visit our Website: dcmga.com
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Call Garden Help Desk phone: (940)349-2892

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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.



2026 Garden Tour Preview: Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie & The Grove

Three Home Gardens and Two Public Gardens

May 9, 2026

Our 2026 Garden Tour features herbs, raised bed vegetable gardening, succulents, Earth Kind® gardening, Texas Superstar® plants, and more. Public gardens will have information on grapes, pruning fruit trees, water conservation, and growing native plants. See ticket information on Page 7. Join us for a great day of gardening!

Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie

Adjacent to the Josey Ranch Lake Library is a 1-acre stretch of Blackland Prairie that is being actively restored to its native habitat. This is the Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie. In the words of the master gardeners restoring this property:

“We believe nature knows best. Native plants and animals evolve together, forming resilient ecosystems that support pollinators, birds, mammals, and more. By planting native species and restoring habitat, we’re helping to reverse the alarming disappearance of wildlife and reconnect our community with nature.”

The Jose Ranch Pocket Prairie is a collaborative effort of the Denton County Master Gardener Association, North Texas Master Naturalists, and community volunteers. The pollinator gardens include rock roses, Turk’s cap, frogfruit, Mexican hats, evening primroses, black-eyed susans, and many other native plants. It is host to native Texas grasses and two Monarch Waystations, which serve to educate and inspire visitors to the pocket prairie.

There are many activities at the Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie for the entire family on Garden Tour day. The Native Plant Society of Texas will have a booth to answer questions. The Texas Master Naturalists will have a fun and educational coloring book as well as their own booth. Interested in bees? There will be a bee-keeping demonstration from one of our own Denton County Master Gardeners. In addition, the library will host a scavenger hunt for the kids and provide seed library information for adults.



All Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Members.



2026 Garden Tour Preview (cont.)

The Denton County Grove

In 2015, then Commissioner of Precinct 2, The Honorable Ron Marchant, requested that the Denton County Master Gardener Association find ways to increase the appeal of the grounds of the Denton County Government Center in Carrollton. In the years that followed, pathways, fruit and nut orchards, a gazebo, and a small vineyard were developed on the property with the help of DCMGA.

Today, “The Grove”, as it is best known, is home to numerous varieties of peach, pear, plum, persimmon, jujube, and pomegranate fruit trees, as well as pecan trees, blackberry vines, and grapevines. Produce harvested at The Grove is donated to local non-profit food banks for distribution.

In June 2024, the Denton County Master Gardeners added an Earth Kind® garden on the property. Today, there are nearly 30 native plant species in this garden, including Four-Nerve Daisy, Purple Skullcap, and Shrubby Boneset. Adaptive plants include Jerusalem Sage and the Kaleidoscope Abelia. There are also Texas Superstar® plants, including Mystic Spires Blue Salvia and Red Yucca.

Garden Tour Day 2026 will feature a full day of activities at The Grove. The “Ask-A-Master-Gardener” booth will be available at this location to answer all your gardening questions. There will be demonstrations on how to build bluebird boxes and an Enviroscene. Fruit tree docents will be available to discuss all things about fruit trees - propagation, pruning, and what varieties to grow in North Texas. And Texas A&M’s own viticulturalist for North Texas will be available on site to discuss how to grow grapevines (and which ones to try!) in our area.



All Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Members.



2026

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
 TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
 Denton County

GARDEN TOUR

& EDUCATION FAIR

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9 AM - 4 PM

ADVANCED PRICE:

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DAY OF EVENT: \$25
 (CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE)

RAIN OR SHINE

MEET OUR GARDENS!
 ACROSS CARROLLTON



SAGE AND SERENITY
 Right Plant, Right Place

This calm, English-inspired retreat teaches how **Earth-Kind® Principles** guide design choices, **Drainage** and **Soft Landings** support pollinators, and how **Square-Foot Gardening** makes the most of small raised beds.



JOSEY RANCH POCKET PRAIRIE
 Small Prairie, Big Impact

A compact ecosystem where **Native Plants** restore habitat, **Pollinators** find refuge, and **Beekeeping** showcases the buzz of urban conservation.



ROOTED TOGETHER
 Where Memories Take Root

A nostalgic, neighborly space where **Texas Superstars** take center stage, **Sensory Gardening** invites hands-on connection, and thoughtful **Tree Care** shows how to grow without topping or over-pruning.



RHAPSODY IN GREEN
 Nature's Living Symphony

A lush, shaded landscape where **Composting** turns waste into renewal, **Shade Gardening** thrives beneath mature maples and oaks, and smart **Irrigation** keeps every layer of this living garden in harmony.



THE GROVE
 Grow Smart, Garden Together

Explore **Fruit Tree Selection and Care**, talk with experts at the **Ask a Master Gardener Booth**, learn about **Viticulture**, and see hands-on demonstrations in action.



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The Three Most Common Rose Diseases in North Texas

BY ERIN SMITH
DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE HORTICULTURAL AGENT
(PART III OF A 3-PART SERIES ON ROSES)

HAPPY SPRING! This time of year is so exciting because we begin to reap the fruits of our labor in our rose gardens. If you performed your rose pruning duties back in February, you should see bloom buds and some color on your roses. This month, we wrap up our rose series by exploring the most common issues you may have if you choose to plant roses that are not the resistant or tolerant varieties we discussed in March.

As consumers, we often make decisions based on the spectacular rose blooms retail nurseries offer in the spring, finding ourselves with roses that need specialized care. If you have roses with high-centered buds, here is some information you should keep in mind as our weather grows warmer.



photo courtesy of canva.com

Healthy rose flowers and leaves

Every gardener in the DFW metroplex has no doubt heard of rose rosette virus. Let's dispel some common myths at the beginning of this discussion. First, rose rosette virus is not new to the rose world. Second, The Knock Out® rose did not cause it. The Knock Out® rose has been unjustly blamed for rose rosette because huge groups of them were planted without regard to their mature size, creating monoculture landscapes that allowed the virus to easily spread from plant to plant.

Although ongoing research has yet to determine the exact cause of rose rosette, it is suspected to spread through several methods. One includes tiny eriophyid mites (*Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*), which may transfer the disease by feeding on an infected plant first and then moving to a healthy plant. It is still unclear if these mites are spreading rosette or if a bacterium (phytoplasma) is part of the transmission process. There has been some evidence that rosette may even spread through infected roots.



Photo Courtesy of Maddi Shiras, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

Rose Rosette Disease



Rose Diseases for North Texas (cont.)

Symptoms can vary depending upon the rose variety infected, but most often include unusually red or chlorotic (very yellow) new growth, an increased number of thorns on the plant, stunted plant growth or blooms, and strap-shaped leaves instead of a typical round, full leaf.



Rose Rosette Disease

Good cultural practices, such as not planting large groups of rose plants close enough to grow into one another, inspecting plants regularly for symptoms, cleaning your pruning tools between rose plants, and removing plants with symptoms quickly will help contain this issue.

Rose enthusiasts in humid areas have also dealt with the possibility of the fungal disease black spot (*Diplocarpon rosea*) on their roses. Black spot infection is identified by the black spots it creates on rose foliage. The edge of the infected spot looks like a dry paint brush has been pulled through paint in the center of the spots out to the spot's edge. As the infection progresses, the leaf tissue surrounding the spots turns yellow, and eventually the leaf will drop off.

Splashing water spreads black spot spores. Therefore, it is important to keep overhead irrigation away from rose foliage and remove any infected plant material quickly. It is also important to clean up debris after the growing season to prevent spores from overwintering on infected material. Black spot does not kill rose plants directly, but the repetitive loss of leaves weakens them, allowing other diseases to infect the plant. Warm temperatures with periods of high humidity or overhead watering in the summer favor black spot infections.

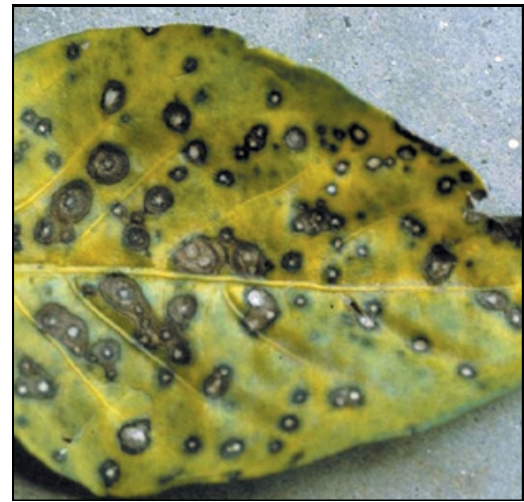


Black Spot Rose Disease



Rose Diseases for North Texas (cont.)

Another foliar disease, Cercospora, looks very similar to black spot. Cercospora leaf spot (*Cercospora rosicola*) is specific to roses. It causes dark maroon to purple circular spots with smooth edges on rose foliage. As the infection progresses, the center of the spot turns gray to tan, but the edge remains maroon. Severe infection can lead to defoliation, though not as quickly as black spot does. Infection can begin in spring or whenever we have mild temperatures and periods of prolonged moisture. Spores need moisture to germinate, so keeping the foliage dry, especially overnight, is important. Planting roses with plenty of space to accommodate their mature size and allowing good air circulation is crucial for their health.



Cercospora capsici.jpg, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0 US

Cercospora Leaf Spot

Gardeners may face other diseases, but these are the most common in the DFW area. In order to have the benefits of beautiful roses in our gardens, we need to make mindful selections by choosing resistant varieties and sticking to good cultural practices that support their health. Your shadow (or, in other words, your presence!) is the best defense you can provide for your landscape—especially your roses. HAPPY SPRING!

Resources

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photo courtesy of canva.com

Healthy Roses are possible!



Plant of the Month

Texas Sage: A Practical Texas Shrub With Many Names

BY IVY SUMMERFIELD

Introduction

Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) can be called Cenizo, Purple Sage, Texas Ranger, Texas Barometer Bush, Texas Silverleaf, or Silverleaf. A hardy native shrub, Texas sage increasingly defines North Texas landscapes. Its value arises from its silvery foliage, vibrant blooms, and remarkable drought tolerance. Texas sage lives three years or longer and blooms on its own every year. This very low-maintenance plant performs extremely well in hot, dry conditions. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil, but can grow in part shade and clay soils that aren't constantly wet.

Description

A member of the Figwort (Scrophulariaceae) family, Texas sage is the most widespread of Texas's three *Leucophyllum* species. It grows 3-5 ft tall and 3-6 ft wide. The shrub's ashy-gray, woolly leaves give the plant its distinctive silvery appearance (Cenizo means "ashen" in Spanish), and it is widely used as an evergreen ornamental. From May through October, often after rainfall, it produces showy, bell-shaped flowers in shades of violet, purple, pink, or occasionally white.

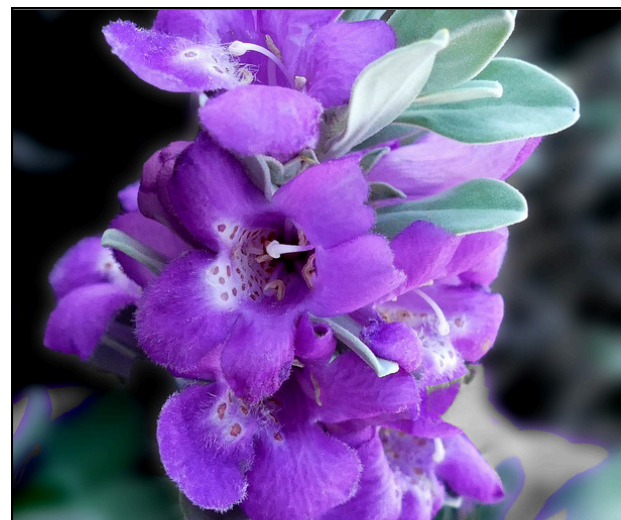
Growing Conditions & Care

For best blooming, plant Texas sage at least 3 ft apart in full sun; it can tolerate some light shade. It prefers well-draining soil, so amend heavy clay with expanded shale. Water 1 inch per week for the first year until established, but afterward, Texas sage is drought-tolerant. It is also heat-tolerant and cold-hardy in Denton County, and though it may die back during sustained temperatures below 18°F, it will recover in spring.



Texas Sage bush: shrubs_flowers_texas_sage_1, Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Texas Sage Brush



Texas Sage - *Leucophyllum frutescens*.jpg, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

Close up of a Texas Sage bloom



Plant of the Month: Texas Sage (cont.)

Benefits to Wildlife

While valued as an ornamental shrub, Texas sage is beneficial to a variety of wildlife. Pollinators such as bees love these blooms, and it is the larval host to the theona checkerspot butterfly and calleta silkworm. It provides nests for birds and shelter for small wildlife, while its many-seeded capsule fruit offers fair forage value for livestock. Texas sage is deer-resistant.

Quick Tip for North Texas Gardeners

No serious insect or disease problems are associated with Texas sage. Avoid overwatering or poorly-drained soils that can lead to cotton root rot. In areas of high rainfall, consider growing in raised beds.

Conclusion

Texas sage provides long-lasting beauty to a North Texas yard. Its soft, silvery leaves and surprise bursts of color bring life to even the hottest summer days. It thrives in full sun and poor soil and asks for very little water or attention once established. Whether planted as a standout shrub or a simple hedge, it adds dependable beauty year after year. If you're looking for a tough, low-maintenance plant that feels special, Texas Sage is one you can count on!

RESOURCES

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In The Veggie Patch

Asian Long Beans

BY KAREN GIBSON

Origin and Benefits

Asian long beans (a.k.a. Yardlong beans, long-podded cowpea, asparagus bean, snake bean, Chinese long bean) are an ancient vegetable. Some sources report they originated in tropical Africa, while other sources say Southeast Asia. Long beans are a member of the legume family (Family Leguminosae or Fabaceae), along with the familiar beans, peas, and lentils. They provide protein, vitamin A, thiamin, riboflavin, iron, phosphorus, potassium, vitamin C, folate, magnesium, and manganese. It's a superfood!

Plant Requirements

Soil: Well-drained soil

Light: 6+ hours direct sunlight

Temperature: Warm season, loves hot and humid weather

Water: 1-2 inches per week

Planting

Direct-sow seeds as soon as the soil warms above 60 degrees F. Plant in the ground, raised beds, or large, well-draining containers. Direct sow 1-inch deep; space 3-4 inches apart. Long bean vines grow up to nine feet long, so trellising is vital. Or use the Three-Sisters method, planting with corn and squash, and allowing the beans to vine up the cornstalk.

Maintenance and Care

Water early in the day, watering only the base of the plant to prevent fungal diseases. Trellises reduce the risk of disease, as the plant receives more sunlight and better air circulation. Vines can be susceptible to black bean aphids, spider mites, nematodes, and mosaic viruses.



Photo by Karen Gibson, DCMGA class of 2017

Asian Long beans in the author's garden.



Asian Long Beans (cont.)

Varieties for North Texas

Any variety of long bean you can find will likely grow well in our Texas heat, as long as you provide enough water during dry spells. Varieties mentioned in the resources below are Fowl's Gut Bean, Asparagus bean, and Yak's Tail. I purchased a seed pack online that included 5 varieties: Noodle King, Red Noodle, Purple Mart, Mosaic, and White Yard. Growing dark green, purple, red, light green, and lavender-pink beans was certainly interesting!

Harvesting and Storage

In 40-70 days, depending upon the variety, beans will be ready to harvest. Scissors or pruning shears make harvesting easier with less likelihood of plant damage from "pulling" the bean from the vine. Harvest beans when they reach 12-18 inches in length; anything longer and the bean will be tough. Avoid bean pods that are bulging, yellow, or whitish in color. Harvesting frequently encourages the production of new bean pods. To collect seeds to plant next year, leave some pods on the vine to fully mature.



Photo credit DCMGA member Judy Allen

Asian long beans make a beautiful archway trellis in Master Gardener Judy Allen's garden



Asian Long Beans (Cont.)

Store harvested beans unwashed, wrapped in paper towel, then in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for 2-3 days. Long beans are often used in stir fries, cooked with a bit of oil. They can be cooked in stews or soups, or be steamed, sauteed, or deep-fried. A quick online search yields many recipes and preparation suggestions.

Asian long beans will make a colorful addition to your Texas summer garden and a delicious addition to your summer menu. If growing them isn't for you, they are sold in most Asian grocery stores or markets.



Photo by DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

Harvesting Tip: The top bright green bean is ripe and ready to consume. It is pictured next to a regular spoon for comparison. The lower two beans were picked too soon and have not reached optimum development for eating.

RESOURCES

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Creature Corner: Cutworms - From Pests to Pollinators

BY JANICE YODER-SMITH

Despite their name, cutworms are caterpillars, the larvae of several nocturnal moth species. They hide in soil or plant debris during the day to avoid predators. Most mature larvae reach about 1.5–2 inches long and have smooth bodies. While hungry cutworms can damage plants, the moths they become are valuable nighttime pollinators. Sadly, moth populations keep declining. Managing cutworms while limiting harm to the adult form benefits gardens. Common cutworm species in North Central Texas (NCT) include the Army Cutworm (*Euxoa auxillaris*), Black Cutworm (*Agrotis ipsilon*), and Variegated Cutworm (*Peridroma saucia*). Other species may be present as well.

Army cutworms range from greenish-gray to brown and have a pale stripe along the back and another on each side. They feed in groups at the soil surface, so gardens can become their buffet. Favorite foods include wheat, alfalfa, and sugar beets. In north central Texas (NCT), they are most often seen from late February through May. Fortunately, they produce only one generation each year. Adult army cutworms become Miller moths.

Black cutworms, typically dark gray and greasy-looking, feed on turfgrass, corn, and many vegetables. They cut plants at or just below the soil surface and drag them into tunnels to eat. Adult moths travel northward from the Gulf Coast, sometimes hundreds of miles on seasonal winds. They're sporadic pests in NCT, most active in April and May, with several generations per year. Their adult stage is the Ipsilon dart moth (see photo on next page).



Black Cutworm, CC-BY-NC 3.0, by W.M. Hantsbarger, Bugwood.org

Black Cutworm Larva and Cut Corn Plant



Creature Corner: Cutworms (cont.)

Variegated cutworms vary in appearance. Some stages show rows of dark spots along the back, while others display a pale yellow or white diamond pattern. Larvae climb plants to feed on leaves, buds, and fruits. They're most commonly seen from early spring through May, producing three or four generations each year. Adults are known as pearly underwing moths.



Ipsilon Dart Moth, Ryan Mandelbaum, CC BY-NC 2.0

Ipsilon Dart Moth

Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) helps gardeners limit cutworm damage while supporting moth populations. Interplanting flowers and herbs like sedum, creeping thyme, dill, cilantro, alyssum, chives, or mint attracts beneficial insects that feed on cutworms.

Physical barriers protect young plants. Before planting, rake the top two inches of soil and remove hiding larvae. Surrounding seedlings with collars made from empty cans, cardboard tubes, or short pieces of PVC pushed about two inches into the soil blocks cutworms from stems. Some gardeners place toothpicks or small nails close to the stem to limit access to plants.

Monitor the garden for further treatment. Experts recommend considering pesticide use only when about five cutworms per square yard are present or when three percent of susceptible plants show damage. For turfgrass, a simple test uses a mixture of water and a few tablespoons of liquid dish detergent poured over a square yard of lawn. Within about ten minutes, hidden larvae usually surface and can be counted.

Thoughtful monitoring and preventive practices manage cutworm damage while allowing beneficial moths to pollinate plants at night. Gardeners using pesticides must carefully read and follow labels.

Remember, a small moth fluttering through your garden may have been a cutworm that now plays a valuable role in pollinating plants.



Creature Corner: Cutworms (cont.)

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Jameson, M. (2020, February 27). Cutworms, the Moonlit Garden Vandals | Gardening in the Panhandle. <https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/2020/02/27/cutworms-the-moonlit-garden-vandals/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/@DentonCountyMasterGardenerAsso>





Hey Grandma, how did you get rid of garden pests in the olden days?

We fought them with ingredients from our kitchen. Gardening Grandma's favorite kitchen ingredients for pest elimination included vinegar, egg shells, cinnamon, cloves, hot pepper powder, garlic, and coffee grounds.

Why kitchen ingredients?

Synthetic chemical insecticides did not become widely available for home gardens until after World War II. Therefore, it was necessary for gardeners to brew their own

tonics for garden pest control. Common examples of Gardening Grandma's tonics include: garlic and hot peppers blended with water and soap to deter beetles and caterpillars. Small bags of cloves and cinnamon placed on the ground can overwhelm sensitive smell receptors used by aphids and gnats. Covering entrance areas with coarse coffee grounds or hot pepper powder can discourage ants.

How do spices and herbs help deter garden pests?

Grandma was relying on one of two properties of spices and herbs to deter pests—smell and texture. For example, some garden pests rely on their sense of smell to find their plant victims. So, strong-smelling herbs and spices may confuse them away from desirable garden plants. Other animals, such as rabbits, cannot stand the smell of vinegar. Domestic cats do not like the smell of citrus. Slugs avoid crawling over sharp-edged soil and dislike crawling over eggshells or coarsely chopped coffee beans. Ants avoid hot pepper powders like cayenne.

Do these historic pest control methods work?

Scientific research into the effectiveness of these old pest management techniques is limited. However, some university extension services have evaluated them in response to emerging support for natural pest management techniques as opposed to applying strong insecticides.

Here are two examples:

- According to Utah State University Extension: cinnamon and cloves offer a natural repellent for ants and other pests; coffee grounds repel most pests, especially ants.
- "Reuse this morning's coffee grounds to fight off unwanted pests, such as ants and destructive garden slugs and snails. Its powerful scent works to mask the smell." (Eco-friendly Pest Control)



Today, are there more effective alternatives?

Yes! One recommended approach to limiting pest damage to home gardens is Integrated Pest Management. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program offers research-based, environmentally friendly strategies to manage pests in agricultural, structural, and landscape settings. It prioritizes cultural, biological, and mechanical controls, utilizing chemical pesticides only as a last resort based on monitoring and established thresholds. (See Resources.)

One self-rewarding bit of advice on another effective way to repel garden pests—add some plants to your garden that pests do not like. These plants include: lavender, rosemary, basil, mint, garlic, sage, and more. See “Insect-Repelling Plants for Your Garden” in Resources.

RESOURCES

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DCMGA HELP DESK

Question of the Month



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

QUESTION: I was shopping for snapdragons at a garden center the other day. A lady in line behind me mentioned that snapdragons were at the end of their bloom time and wouldn't re-bloom until fall. What can I plant now that will continue to bloom throughout the summer?

ANSWER: Great question! Many flowering plants that bloom early in the spring, like snapdragons, cannot tolerate the heat we have throughout the summer. However, there are flowers that bloom from late spring, as our temperatures begin to stay warm overnight, through our summer months. Most have intermittent bloom periods rather than constant blooms, but will provide color in your landscape throughout the summer if located and cared for in their optimal sun exposure.



Rock rose will provide beautiful pink blooms all summer in north Texas.

Rock Rose: *Cistus crispus*, 02 June 2016(2), Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

QUESTION: I wanted to buy snapdragons for their blooms but was told they are at the end of their blooming season. What is a good bloomer to add to my garden now that will bloom throughout the summer?

FLOWERING PLANTS THAT WILL NOT BLOOM IN THE SUMMER: some "summer" bloomers available in local nurseries tend to suffer as our temperatures quickly climb between 85-95 degrees. Susceptible flowers in this group include petunias, nasturtiums, coreopsis, dianthus, geraniums, begonias, cosmos, marigolds, verbena and gaillardia (blanket flower). However, the bloom on each of these varieties can be extended by pinching back, or deadheading, as the temperatures rise, lowering plants that will bloom throughout the summer

FLOWERING PLANTS THAT WILL BLOOM THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER: April is still a perfect time to direct-sow seeds for some flowers that will bloom all summer. Excellent examples are zinnias and sunflowers. These sprout fast in warm soil and grow quickly. They should be thinned, as crowded plant stems can lead to fungal issues like powdery mildew. Snip-and drop the dried blooms into the existing bed to prevent widespread re-seeding by the wind. Perennial re-blooming varieties of daylily bulbs and canna rhizomes also provide recurring summer color.



In April, transplants of black-eyed susan, celosia, coneflower, yarrow, bee balm (monarda), shasta daisy and blackfoot daisy yield better results than direct-sowing. Using annual flowers, such as vinca, penta and angelonia (summer snapdragons) can fill your beds with color when your perennials are between bloom cycles.

For larger areas in your landscape, you may prefer a blooming shrub. Drift roses, salvias, lantana, rock rose, Turk's cap and zexmenia make colorful additions to a summer garden. Mulching is a good practice for all summer plantings to manage soil moisture and conserve our increasingly limited water resources.



Bee balm photo courtesy of canva.com

Bee Balm attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds



Lantana photo courtesy of canva.com

Lantana blooms all summer and comes in a wide variety of colors

Resources and References

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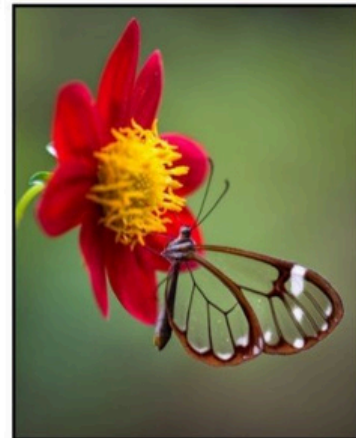
You're Invited

April 2026, Monthly General Meeting & Program

The Hidden Beauty of Plant Patterns

Presented by Victor Mozqueda

Victor Mozqueda, an internationally recognized macro photographer, will be speaking at the Denton County Master Gardeners General Meeting in April. Mr. Mozqueda uses his unique vision of nature and camera to challenge observers to see beyond the obvious plant body and flowers into a world of intricate patterns, balanced symmetry, varied textures, and vibrant colors. A cactus becomes not just a prickly plant but patterns resembling a cobblestone street, unfolding rosettes, or the elegant Fibonacci sequence. Mr. Mozqueda focuses on both flora and fauna, including arthropods. He has presented at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and The Dallas Arboretum. In addition to his photography, which can be found online as well as at his studio here in Texas, Mr. Mozqueda has published a book, *Do Plants Know Math?*. Join us as Victor Mozqueda introduces the science and art of macro photography.



All Photos Courtesy of Victor Mozqueda

**April 8, 2026, 9:30 am General Meeting
10:30 am Presentation**

**Greater Denton Arts Council
400 E. Hickory Street, Denton, TX**



Denton County Master Gardener Association

Upcoming Events



Community Strong Farm Work Days

Growing Vegetables for First Refuge Food Bank. All tasks from soil prep to harvesting as the season dictates. We will have a short education on the tasks of the day.

1350 Milam Road E., Sanger Meet Mondays 9AM-11AM

LLELA Nature Preserve Workday

Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area
201 E Jones St. Lewisville Meet Wednesdays 9AM-12PM

The Grove and Gazebo Work Days

The Grove at Sandy Jacobs Government Center
1029 W. Rosemeade Pkwy. Carrollton Meet every 2nd and 4th Friday 9AM-11:30AM

Ask a Master Gardener-Denton Ace Hardware

(Lake Dallas) April 1- 6pm-8pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Ask a Master Gardener-Justin Ace Hardware

April 2- 6pm-8pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Edible Gardening-Pilot Point Community Library

April 7- 2pm-3pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Monthly General Meeting: The Hidden Beauty of Plant Patterns

April 8- 9:30am-11:30am. [Click for More Info](#)

Ask a Master Gardener-Justin Farmer's Market

April 11-9am-2pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Ask a Master Gardener-Rhome Ace hardware

April 16-6pm-8pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Container Gardening-Sanger Public Library

April 18-10:30am-11:30am. [Click for More Info](#)

Celebrate Earth Day at Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie

April 18-11am-3pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Edible Gardening-Herbs Lake Dallas Public Library

April 21-6pm-7pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Indoor Gardening-Colony Public Library

April 22-6:30pm-7:30pm. [Click for More Info](#)

Plant Sale

Annual DCMGA Plant Sale - open to the public

Shop early for the best selections. Consider bringing your own cart/wagon. We open at 9 and close at 2pm or until sold out. COME EARLY!

North Texas Fairgrounds, Denton. 9AM-2PM

MEMBER NEWS



HOW TO PRINT DCMGA MEMBER ROSTER FROM VMS

1. Sign in to **VMS**
2. Click on **GENERAL INFORMATION**
3. Click on **MEMBER ROSTER** in the dropdown list
4. In the 'Quick Search' line, there is a dropdown box next to 'View'. Choose the number of members you want printed from this list (*25 to ALL*).
5. Then Click on Print (*to the left of 'View'*). A settings menu appears.
6. Make your **Print settings** selections under **GENERAL** then Click **Select Columns**
7. **Remove** the items you **DO NOT** want by dragging them to the left.
8. Check the remaining items on the right under '**Select Columns**' making sure this reflects the information you want.
9. Scroll to the very bottom and Click **Ok**. This takes the file to your desktop.
10. Click **Print** at the top of the page.



DO YOU LOVE GROWING VEGETABLES???

THEN LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Save the Date for the **FIRST OFFICIAL Meeting**
of the **VEGGIE SQUAD**

When: Monday, June 8
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Where: Location TBD

**ALL Members
& Interns
Welcome!!!**



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.





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 EEO Statement

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

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Save the Date

- April 25 DCMGA Annual Plant Sale
North Texas Fairgrounds
9:00 am - 2:00 pm or sell out
May 9 2026 Garden Tour
9 am - 4 pm
Carrollton, Coppell

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Content

The submission deadline for the May edition of The Root is April 5. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Communications Director Donna Hull at communications@dcmga.com

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

