

Here's the Dirt Newsletter September 2026

September 2026

Vol. 4 Edition 9

A newsletter to distribute our love and expertise of gardening and to share some Howdy Horticulture Hospitality with you.

Brazoria County Master Gardeners

Board Members:

Officers

- President- Sheila Pierce
- 1st Vice President-Tammy Green and Ellen Armistead
- 2nd Vice President, Demonstration Gardens- Andra Halnon
- Treasurer- Tracy Ning
- Secretary- Linda Pirtle

Appointed Board Members

- Awards- Lisa Woods
- Membership- Loretta Allen and Karen Brennan
- Hospitality- Jan Smith and Chamane Barrow
- BEES Maintenance- Neil Newton (with Mike Mayfield as BEES Supply Chain lead)
- New Member Development- Rose Wagner
- Greenhouse & Propagation- Ruth and August Aimone
- Library Seed Exchange Program – Drake Delacruz
- Plant Sale- Sandy Shanks and Linda Erdman
- Tree Sale- Andra Halnon, Tracy Ning
- Seedling Sale- Ruth and August Aimone
- Webmaster- Lisa Woods and JoAnne Knodel
- Social Media-Sandy Shanks
- Technology- JoAnne Knodel and Linda Ulmer
- Texas Master Gardener Directors- Carol Butler and JoAnne Knodel

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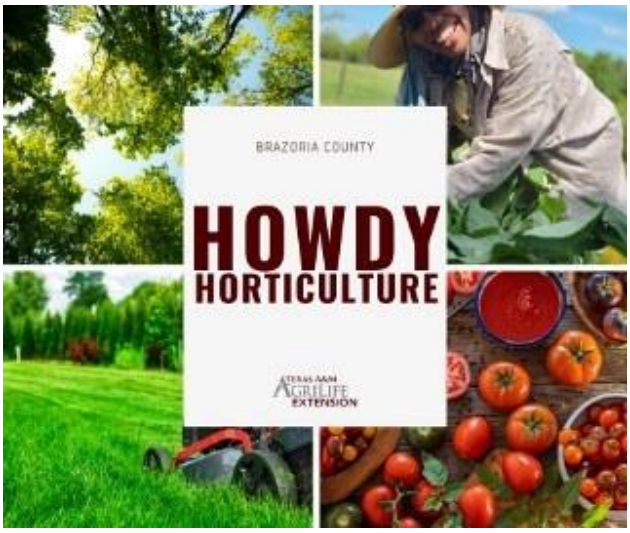


September Happenings



September: Fall Is Coming… I Promise!

Well, folks, we made it through another Southeast Texas summer. And if your garden looks a little tired, crispy, or like it has officially filed for early retirement, I'm not here to judge. Mine has its moments too.

But here's the good news: **September means we can finally start looking ahead.** The heat may still have a few tricks up its sleeve, but cooler weather is coming, and with it comes one of the best gardening seasons of the year.

Now is the time to start cleaning up the summer garden, refreshing those tired beds, getting fall vegetables planted, and making plans for the months ahead. It's also a great time to look around your landscape and decide what worked, what didn't, and what you definitely don't want to do again next year.

And of course, I've got you covered.

In this month's *Here's the Dirt*, you'll find gardening tips for September, upcoming programs and events, things to be watching for in the landscape, and a few ideas to keep you busy while we wait for Mother Nature to turn the thermostat down.

So grab your gloves, keep the sunscreen handy, and **don't put away the garden hose just yet.** We're headed into fall, y'all!

Happy gardening,

Kimberly

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Brazoria County

Nominate a Horticulture Hero

Upcoming Educational Opportunities




GROW COMMUNITY. SHARE PLANTS. INSPIRE GROWTH.
PASS-ALONG
PLANT
PALOOZA
Bring a plant. Take a plant. Grow community!
A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF PLANTS, PEOPLE, AND KNOWLEDGE!
Share. Learn. Inspire.
Plants have stories. Let's keep them growing!
PLANT SWAP
Bring healthy, pest-free plants or cuttings to swap!
Must agree to the rules.
PROPAGATION LESSON
Learn tips and techniques from our Master Gardeners!
VINTAGE PHOTO BOOTH
Capture memories with a fun vintage vibe!
ASK A MASTER GARDENER
Got questions? We've got answers!
SHARE YOUR PLANT STORY
Digitally record your pass-along plant story and photo!
DATE & TIME
TBD
GUEST SPEAKER
TBD
In honor of Dr. Bill Welch
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Brazoria County
All are welcome! Let's celebrate our green community together.

From Flask to Fabulous!

TISSUE CULTURE ACCLIMATION CLASS

Tiny plant. Big potential.



What is Tissue Culture?

Tissue culture is a way plants are grown in a sterile lab environment from tiny pieces of plant tissue. The result? Healthy, disease-free plants that are exact copies of the parent plant—often rare, expensive, or hard to find.

Why You'll Love This Class:

- Learn the step-by-step process to acclimate tissue culture plants
- Gain the confidence to grow rare plants successfully
- Take home a beautiful, rare plant you acclimate yourself
- Connect with other plant lovers and learn from an expert

CLASS DETAILS

DATE:
Saturday, October 10th, 2026

TIME:
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

LOCATION:
AgriLife Extension Office
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515

COST:
$65

YOUR CLASS KIT INCLUDES:

- 1 Tissue Culture Plant
- Pot & Humidity Dome
- Custom Growing Mix
- Plant Label
- Care Guide & Tips



Ready to Grow?

Space is limited! Sign up today and start your plant adventure!

Let's grow something amazing together!

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION | BRAZORIA COUNTY HORTICULTURE
Educate. Inspire. Grow.

Agent's Corner



September in the Garden: A Fresh Start for Southeast Texas



If your garden looks a little tired after another long Texas summer, you're not alone. September is the month when many of us start looking toward cooler days and thinking, "Okay, what can I plant now?"

The answer is: quite a lot.

Fall is one of the best planting seasons in our area. As temperatures begin to moderate, plants have a chance to establish their roots before the coldest part of winter arrives. That makes fall an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs, especially native and well-adapted varieties. A tree

planted this fall can spend the winter quietly developing its root system instead of trying to survive our summer heat immediately after planting.

It's also time to think about wildflowers. Fall is the ideal planting window for many Texas wildflowers, including bluebonnets, Indian blanket, black-eyed Susans and other species that can provide color and valuable habitat for pollinators. Look for locally appropriate seeds and prepare the planting area by removing competing vegetation and giving the seeds good contact with the soil. Then comes the hardest part of gardening: being patient.

Native plants deserve a spot on your fall planting list, too. Native and well-adapted plants can provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other wildlife while also giving your landscape a better chance of handling our challenging climate. Fall is a great time to add a few new plants to your landscape or replace something that simply never seemed happy in its current location.

And don't forget the vegetable garden. September marks the beginning of our fall gardening season, with cool-season crops such as broccoli, cabbage, collards, kale, lettuce and other leafy greens making their way onto the planting list. Just remember that "fall" in Southeast Texas doesn't always mean cool. Keep an eye on the forecast and be prepared to protect young plants when those lingering September heat waves roll through.

And then there are strawberries.

If you've ever wanted to grow strawberries, now is the time to start thinking about them. The **4th Annual Strawberry Jamboree** is coming up, and it's a great opportunity to learn more about growing strawberries in our area and get your garden ready for the season ahead. Strawberries can be surprisingly productive in Southeast Texas when given the right conditions, and they're a fun addition to a home garden. Join us September 26th from 10 am to 2pm at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds for educational speakers, vendors, kids activities and the option to pre-order your strawberry plants. It's sure to be a berry good time.

But here's my challenge for you this fall: don't just plant—pay attention.

Before you start digging, take a walk around your landscape. Where does the morning sun hit? Which areas stay wet after a rain? Where did plants struggle during the summer? Where do you see butterflies, bees and birds visiting? Fall is a great time to observe your yard and make a few notes.

Those observations can save you a lot of money, frustration and backache later.

Maybe the spot where you keep trying to grow a sun-loving plant is actually too shady. Maybe that beautiful shrub you planted years ago has outgrown its space. Or maybe you've discovered that one neglected corner of the yard is actually the perfect place for a small native garden.

Gardening isn't about getting everything right the first time. It's about paying attention, trying something new and learning what works in your particular piece of Texas.

So, as we head into fall, grab your garden gloves, make a plan and plant something you've never tried before. Summer may have had the upper hand for a while, but September is our chance to take the garden back.

And if you need a little help deciding what to plant, stop by a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension program, talk with your local Master Gardeners, or check out the resources available through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

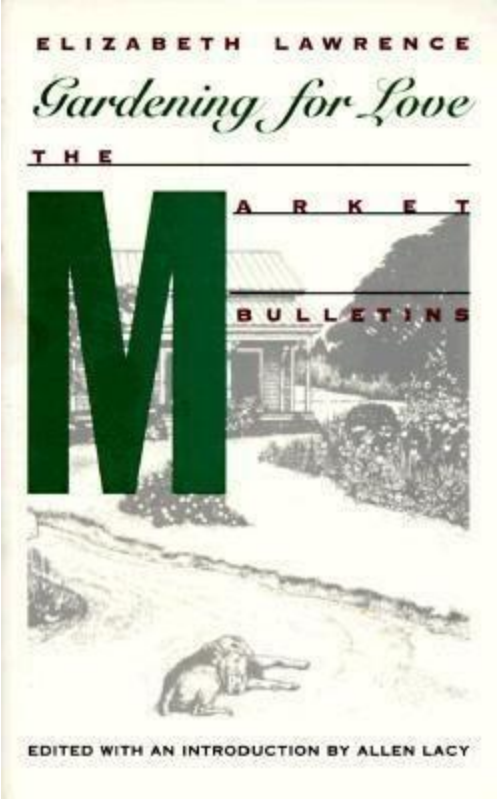
For information about upcoming programs and horticulture resources, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Brazoria County or follow Brazoria County AgriLife Horticulture on social media. We hope to see you at one of our fall events!

Kimberly Mayer is a Horticulturist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension serving Brazoria County. You can reach her at Kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu or 979-864-1558

What I'm Reading



1 - A fascinating look at the insects and arthropods that buzz, sting, and bite, and the important roles they play in our ecosystems.



2 - "In Gardening for Love , Lawrence reveals another world of garden writing, the world of the rural women of the South with whom she corresponded extensively from the late 1950s into the mid-1970s in responce to their advertisements for herbs and ornamental perennials in several market bulletins (published by state departments of agriculture for the benefit of farmers)."

Upcoming Events:

September 2nd - Keep Angleton Beautiful - Soil Revitalization

September 8th - Board Meeting

September 11th - General Meeting

September 12th - Open Garden Days - Wildflowers

September 12th - Keep Richwood Beautiful -Earth Kind Landscaping

September 26th - Strawberry Jamboree

Contact Us

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