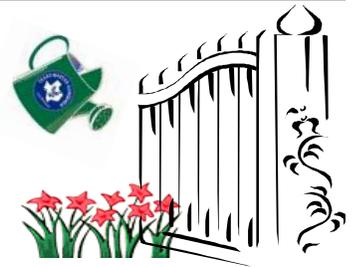




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume IV, Issue 2

Official E-letter of the Ellis County Master Gardeners Association, Waxahachie, Texas

March, 2010

Welcome to the Ellis County Master Gardener's **E-Gardening** newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you a month by month agenda of what you should be doing to your landscape. We will be featuring horticulture articles that we hope you will find interesting, important dates where you can find the Master Gardeners speaking, demonstrating and passing out information relative to your garden. If you would like to receive this newsletter monthly via your email address, log onto our website www.ECMGA.com, click on subscribe, and it will be sent around the 1st of every month. Best of all; it's FREE!

Melinda Kocian, editor

The Ellis County Master Gardeners
10th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo
Saturday, March 27, 2010 ♦ 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Waxahachie Civic Center



2010 Lawn & Garden Expo

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Listen to KBEC.....
Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on 1390 AM.
The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a 5-minute segment every week, offering you helpful information on what you need to be doing in your landscape, as well as "happenings" around the county. Be sure to listen in!
Melinda Kocian

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Visit the above sponsors for free tickets!

For further information on the EXPO,
please visit our website at www.ecmga.com

It's March - What Needs to be Done?



Lawn & Garden Expo

Photo by Tommy Morgeson

The Ellis County Master Gardeners will be holding their 10th annual Lawn and Garden Expo on Saturday, March 27, from 9-5pm, at the Waxahachie Civic Center. The one-day event draws an average of 4,000 people. Well known speaker and author, Neil Sperry, will return again this year. There will be 100+ lawn and garden-related vendors. Master Gardeners will have their plant sale, an information booth with free handouts as well as items to be purchased, such as our new recipe book, "Treasured Recipes". Master Gardeners will conduct sessions on many horticultural topics. There will be prize giveaways as well as a children's area with hands-on activities.

Planting and Sowing

- Annuals started from seed in January can be planted in late March. Wait until after March 14th to plant tomatoes and peppers. They should be hardened off (gradually exposed to outside temperatures) before putting in the ground. Cover if frost or freeze is predicted.
- Direct sow seeds of warm-season vegetables such as beans, corn, squash and melons mid to late March. Wait until April to plant okra.
- Plant perennials in well-amended soil.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- Prune, if needed, spring-flowering shrubs and vines: quince, azaleas, forsythia, bridal wreath (*Spiraea*), Lady Banks rose, Carolina jasmine and coral honeysuckle immediately after they finish blooming.
- Remove dead top growth (Bermuda grass only) by lowering mower blade one or two notches.
- Apply a high nitrogen fertilizer to pecans and again in April and May.
- Begin fertilizing roses with a specialty rose food. All trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers can be fed with an all-nitrogen fertilizer.

Garden Watch

- Control, as needed, diseases and insects on roses such as black spot, powdery mildew, and thrips with an appropriate fungicide and systemic insecticide. Use a stream of water or an insecticidal soap on aphids. Consider planting Earth-Kind® roses.
- If needed apply a pre-emergent on lawns to prevent germination of broadleaf and grassy weeds. A weed and feed fertilizer is not recommended because it is too early in the year to fertilize.

This and That

- Install a drip irrigation system in your vegetable garden and mulched areas of the landscape.
- Spread compost around perennials and add mulch.

Tips for March

The United Nations Brundtland Report defines sustainability as the "...design, construction, operations and maintenance practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

What's Happening in March

March 3, 7:00pm - Lucy Harrell's Organic Classes. The 1st Wednesday of every month. Classes are free. Contact Lucy at 5208 Hidden Oak Lane, Arlington, 817-572-0148 or lucygeorge5208@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, March 6, 10:00am, Petal Pushers, "Rose Day". Vickie will talk about her favorite roses and tips on feeding and troubles shooting 972-291-7650, 813 Straus Rd., Cedar Hill.

March 8-April 29, Lucy Harrell's Design Class & Organic Gardening. For info contact Lucy at 5208 Hidden Oak Lane, Arlington, 817-572-0148 or lucygeorge5208@sbcglobal.net.

Monday, March 15, 7:00pm - "Square Foot Gardening". Gardening for everyone. Come learn this technique. No charge. Contact Marilyn Simmons, Garden Inspirations for further information and directions. 108 Ridge Crest, Waxahachie, 214-497-3918 or marilyn@gardeninspirations-tx.com.

(Continued on page 3)

Expo Schedule of Events

Keynote Speaker

Neil Sperry, 2 p.m., The popular horticulture author and garden talk show personality presents “*Home Landscaping—Steps to Success*”.

Adult Seminars

(Descriptions found on pages 6 and 7)

Ruth Davis, 10 a.m., “**Container Gardening**”.

Shirley Campbell, 11 a.m., “**Perennials**”.

Maureen Nitkowski, 12 noon, “**Insects**”.

Rick Daniel, 1:00 p.m., “**Vegetable Gardening**”.

Jim Suggs, 4:00 p.m., “**Roses 101**”.

Master Gardener Plant Sales - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Another very popular Expo feature; a cooperative agreement with the Waxahachie High School to use their greenhouse has permitted the Master Gardeners to have more plants to sell more than ever before. The plant sales will feature plants that coincide with Master Gardener topics.

Master Gardener Information Center

Head for this area if you have lawn and gardening questions. Master Gardeners will be available all day to discuss your lawn and garden concerns and provide free reference materials pertinent to many common questions.

There will also be a Master Gardener Sales table with various articles that will be for sale, including the cookbook, “*Treasured Recipes*”; that made it debut last year at the Expo. We are now in our 2nd printing and soon it will go to a 3rd printing!

The Children's Gardening Workshops

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(Children must be accompanied by a parent)

Allow the children to experience the joys of hand-on garden-related activities. This will be the 4th year for the children's workshops. Activities are designed to address diverse learning styles and interests.

All sessions will be in the Crape Myrtle Room

(Continued from page 2)

Cedar Ridge Preserve

(for more info contact Jim Varnum at 214-543-2055 or jevvarnum@aol.com.)

March 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m. - **Dogwood Canyon**, Where EcoRegions Collide, contact Dana Wilson, 214-370-9735 or dcac@audubon.org. (Dogwood Canyon is located 16 miles south of downtown Dallas in Cedar Hill and is part of the White Rock Escarpment. Nowhere in North Texas can one find a greater variety of rare species than in Dogwood Canyon. Plants and animals from east, west and central Texas converge here, making the Canyon the only place in the world where one can find the Black-chinned hummingbird of west Texas nesting in the flowering dogwood tree of east Texas).

March 20, 9:00am - Conservation in Action Workday

Saturday, April 10, 10am - Wildflower ID in the eastern prairies.

Saturday, May 8, 10am - Milkweeds and painted buntings in the western prairies.

Lighthouse for Learning

With the Ellis County Master Gardeners and AgriLife Extension

(for reservations, call Melissa Cobb @972-923-4631, ext. 142

Monday, March 1, 6-7:30pm - *How to Plant a Successful Vegetable Garden*, **Instructor:** Susan Norvell, \$11.00. Covering a wide variety of important topics on successful vegetable gardening.

(Lighthouse For Learning, cont'd from page 3)

Monday, March 8, 6-7:30pm - *Rainwater Harvesting*, **Instructor:** Pam Daniel, \$11.00. For home owners wanting to conserve water and save on bills.

Monday, March 29, 6-7:30pm - *Getting Started with Roses*, **Instructor:** Jim Suggs, \$11.00. Session will cover site selection, soil preparation, plant selection and planting, disease, insects, watering, fertilization and more.

Monday, April 5, 6-7:30pm - *Growing Perennials*, **Instructor:** Shirley Campbell, \$11.00. Learn which perennials will take our summer heat and clay soil, including the latest *Flameproof* and *Arboretum-approved* perennials from their trial gardens.

Monday, April 12, 6-7:30 - *Smart Gardening in Ellis County*, **Instructor:** Maureen Nitkowski, \$11.00. Start smart by knowing soil, climate and pests. Stay smart with plant selection, monitoring and sanitation.

4 classes each Monday, April 5-26, 6-8:00pm - “*Ag 101*” - *Designed for New or Small Acreage Landowners*, **Instructor:** Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources. Cover topics on soils and soil fertility, soil testing, pasture management, basic livestock productions and pond management.

Vegetable Gardeners Monthly

By Rick Daniel

Ellis County Master Gardener/Vegetable Gardening Specialist

Hello, and welcome to the March edition of the Vegetable Gardeners Monthly. If you have questions that this article doesn't address, just give us a call at 972-825-5175 or contact us via the web at www.ecmga.com and ask for one of your Master Gardener Vegetable Gardening Specialist.

Something to consider when planning your garden layout are companion and adversarial plants. There are some plants that benefit each other and some that you never want to plant together. Nasturtiums and Marigolds are good companion plants for the garden. Here are some adversarial plants that should never be planted together. Asparagus and onion, bean and onion, beans and basil, broccoli and beans and carrots and cilantro.

For March, there is still time to plant cool season vegetables early in the month, such as Swiss chard, collards and turnips. Sow spinach seeds until the middle of the month and radishes all month.

Warm season vegetable can be seeded directly into the garden late month. Plant beans, cucumbers, cantaloupe, melons, sweet corn and squash. Tomatoes and peppers may be seeded, but both do best from transplants, late this month. Strawberries may be transplanted in sunny, well drained soil.

Featured Vegetable of the Month

*By Rick Daniel
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Tomatoes: Vegetable of the Month

Planting dates: For transplants, plant after all danger of frost in the spring (3/15 to 5/1). For fall (7/1 to 8/5). The sooner the better, as tomato plants stop setting fruit when nighttime temperatures reach 75° and daytime temperatures reach 92°, which is usually late May or early June in this area. If we have a late freeze, do not try to salvage cold damaged plants, as they seldom fully recover.

Planting method: Plant with lots of compost and add a good slow release fertilizer. For organic gardening, add lava sand and green sand and lots of organic fertilizer. Dig out a large hole and fill with ½ compost and ½ removed soil. Sprinkle in fertilizer (slow release nitrogen) into hole and pre-water. For spring planting, do not plant too deep in heavy soils, as they remain cold longer and will often result in slow plant growth. Plant only 2-3 inches deep. Planting sideways is the best method in heavier clay soils. Set out transplants for a day or two to acclimate, and lay on their side so they will begin to grow upward before transplanting. Thoroughly water each plant after transplanting. Do not mulch in spring until 2-3 weeks after planting to allow soil to continue to warm. Mulch immediately for fall tomatoes. Wrap cages with row cover to protect from cool weather and wind during early growing season, but remove when ready for fruit set. Tomatoes are wind pollinated, not from bees.



Varieties: Many people now like to raise the Heirloom variety; just be aware they generally produce about 20% fewer tomatoes. Common to North Texas are Merced, President, Jackpot, Celebrity, Champion, Carnival, Better Boy, Brandywine, Roma and Sweet 1000 or Cherry Grande. Need to be VFN tolerant. Bush type, (determinate) are best with cages and vining type (indeterminate) are best with cages or a trellis.

Culture: If using cages, no need to prune or sucker your plants. Pinch off flowers the first few weeks, as this encourages additional flowering rather than fruit growth. Water evenly throughout growing season to prevent blossom-end rot and fruit cracking. Tomatoes don't like wet feet, so they do best when planted on raised beds. Best to use a drip system and water every 2-3 days.

Fertilizer: Heavy feeder. Use starter solution for transplants and side dress when first fruit sets and side dress again at first harvest. Repeat every 2-3 weeks. Use high nitrogen fertilizer (21-0-0) or use a handful of organic fertilizer per plant. Corn gluten meal or blood meal is a good nitrogen fertilizer. Can also use a weekly foliar spray of water soluble fertilizer or compost tea.

Harvest: Pick tomatoes after ripening on the vine and store in a cool dry place, not in the refrigerator. Picked tomatoes can be stored in the shade. Light is not necessary to ripen immature tomatoes. Tomatoes on the vine, ripen from the inside out, so when red on the outside, they are ready. Tomatoes picked green, ripen from the outside in, so they may still be green on the inside when red on the outside.

Herb of the Month

By Arlene Hamilton
Ellis County Master Gardener



March 2010 Herb of the Month

Salad Burnet

By Arlene Hamilton, Ellis County Master Gardener



Salad Burnet (Poterium sanguisorba) is a graceful perennial plant growing in 12 to 18 inch mounds. The young, fringed leaves taste and smell like fresh cucumber and impart a delicate flavor to winter salads. This is definitely a cool weather herb in Texas and is happiest in full sun and southern winters. In hot weather the leaves can become bitter and tough.

Sow seeds directly in prepared soil in late fall or spring. These hardy plants will withstand frost and freeze. My plants survived our 17° degree freeze in January, were not fazed by the 13 inches of snow cover and are now sending up small pups around the mother plant. Divide and separate plants in the spring.

Salad burnet prefers a sunny location with 6 to 8 hours of sun but will tolerate some shade in the afternoon. A well drained but moist soil is best. Seedlings should be thinned to 15 inches apart.

Once established, salad burnet requires little care. Remove the flowers to encourage foliage. If the flowers are allowed to develop, they will drop seeds and the older leaves will become bitter. It is best to harvest tender new leaves in the spring and fall before the plant begins to flower. Salad burnet makes a low mound that is attractive as a border plant as well as a companion herb in the vegetable garden.

Salad burnet leaves have been used for hundreds of years in fresh green salads, with soft cheeses and herb butters, in soups, and sprinkled over vegetables. It makes an attractive garnish on serving plates. It is wonderful in potato salad. A refreshing sauce for fish can be made by combining salad burnet, chopped green onion, and finely chopped cucumber with sour cream. Or try garnishing chilled cucumber soup with salad burnet. Tomato juice, Bloody Marys and gazpacho are similarly enhanced.

Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener



Gaillardia pulchella Foug.

Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Indian Blanket

Zone: 1-10 (Ellis County is zone 4)

Size: 1 - 2½ feet

Blooms: February-November, Annual

As Texas' annual spring bluebonnet show fades, Indian blankets begin to bloom. Acre upon acre of them can be seen in fields, pastures and on roadsides. The ancestors of several cultivated varieties, *Gaillardia* is now planted along interstate highways; seasonal color of wildflowers along the right-of-way has proven to be practical as well as beautiful, saving the cost of constant mowing. This flashy flower tops a bushy little plant, with two-inch wheels of red petals tipped with yellow. The center disk starts out yellow, turning dark red with age. Flowers are solitary on a stem. Of the seven *Gaillardia* species in Texas, this one and *G. amblyodon* are annual; the others are all perennial. Flower colors can vary from all red to all yellow.



Keynote Speaker - Neil Sperry

2:00 p.m. - Crape Myrtle Room
 "Home Landscaping — Steps to Success"

Neil Sperry has been the keynote speaker at our last five Expos and we are pleased to have him return this year. Neil presents a new and completely different approach each year.

Neil is a native Texan, having grown up in College Station. Both of his parents were on the faculty of Texas A&M. He attended Texas A&M but his degrees are in Horticulture from Ohio State University. He and his wife are the proud parents of Brian, Todd and Erin and proud grandparents of Sam, Alex, Audrey, Lauren and Ella.

Neil's name has been synonymous with Texas gardening since 1970. He is the author of Neil Sperry's "**Complete Guide to Texas Gardening**", the 4th best-selling gardening hardback in American history. Also, he is featured weekly in 20 Texas newspapers, including the Fort Worth Star Telegram and the San Antonio Express News. He owns and publishes Neil Sperry's "**GARDENS**" Magazine and publishes an annual Texas Gardening Calendar which features another of his loves, garden photography.

In the Dallas/Fort Worth area, he has broadcast over KRLD (1080 AM) since May, 1980. He is heard Saturday and Sunday mornings 8-11 a.m. Additionally, his daily and weekend radio programs are heard on more than 60 stations statewide via the Texas State Network.

Neil had been recognized by his peers and was selected as American Garden Communicator of the Year by the American Association of Nurserymen. The Garden Writer's Assoc. of America has given his book, magazine, radio and television programs their top national awards. He was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame on October 18, 2003.

On a personal note, Neil and his wife, Lynn, were named Volunteers of the Year for McKinney in 1997. Also, Neil was named Citizen of the Year for McKinney in 2003. Both serve on the advisory board at Serenity High, and much of Neil's fund-raising work through his personal appearances and pen sales is directed toward that school. Neil also chairs the board and is a founding member of the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney.

Master Gardeners Seminars

(All Seminars will be held in the Crape Myrtle Room)



Container Gardening - 10:00 a.m.

Presented by Ruth Davis

Ruth is a resident of Midlothian and knew about the Ellis County Master Gardener Association long before she was ready to retire. In 2006 training classes were to be held and I decided it was time to retire and play in the dirt. She has several acres where she has a small fruit orchard, lovely gardens and a new vegetable garden. Ruth loves being part of this association. "The friendships, the learning experiences, and the just plain fun we have working together is indeed a joy to my life".

Ruth recently attended several container gardening conferences and found she really likes creating them. They can be either flowers, vegetables or shrubs. She is eager to share this "new" aspect of using those pots we have accumulated but have no idea what to do with them."



Texas Tough Perennials - 11:00 a.m.

Presented by Shirley Campbell

Shirley has been an Ellis County Master Gardener for 13 years. She has been active in most areas; past President of the organization in 2009, is now a charter member, working with the intern training classes every February and works on all the various projects around Ellis County.

Using Power Point, Shirley has done many presentations on annuals and perennials. She has been a member of the Master Gardener Board for a number of years. Shirley lives in Sardis-Lone Elm area and has four children.

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Insects - 12 noon

Presented by Maureen Nitkowski

Maureen grew up gardening in her grandmother's yard and wandering the fields and woods of Pennsylvania. Her training is primarily in biology and she has worked for the National Marine Fisheries; a regional water authority, a garden nursery center and as an educational consultant. In 2002 Maureen became a Texas Master Gardener and was later certified as an Entomology Specialist.



Vegetable Gardening - 1:00 p.m.

Presented by Rick Daniel

Rick Daniel attended the 2008 Master Gardener training class. He is a Certified Master Composter and in October of 2008 attended the first ever Vegetable Gardening Specialist Training class that was offered. Rick is author of the Vegetable Gardeners Monthly for the Master Gardener E-Garden newsletter. Other Master Gardener activities include serving as Committee Chair for the KBEC Radio Spots for 2009 and 2010 and serving as Committee Chair for the Expo Signage Committee for 2010. Rick also offers computer training classes to the Master Gardener Members. The class includes training on PowerPoint presentation skills and building PowerPoint presentations.

Rick has a passion for water conservation and is an American Rainwater Catchment Association Accredited Professional and is currently on the Board of Directors and Webmaster for the Texas Rainwater Catchment Association. Rick and his wife Pam are speakers at the 2010 TRCA State Conference to be held in Kerrville in March. The topic is "Rainwater Harvesting Specialist, a Master Gardener's Perspective".



Roses 101 - 4:00 p.m.

Presented by Jim Suggs

Jim is a retired geologist living in Ovilla. He has been growing roses for almost 40 years.

He is the past president of both the Fort Worth Rose Society and the Ellis County Master Gardeners. He is also a Consulting Rosarian in the American Rose Society. He and his wife were awarded the American Rose Society Bronze Medal in 2004.

Jim presently grows approximately 150 roses, consisting of Old Garden Roses, Modern Roses, Hybrid Teas and Miniature Roses.



Belinda's Dream Rose At the Ellis County Master Gardener' Expo

Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener



Belinda's Dream is a lovely shrub rose with large, very fragrant with double pink blossoms. It produces successive flushes of bloom spring to frost and is so disease tolerant that fungicide sprays are seldom required. It is a near perfect landscape rose and is an outstanding performer even in highly alkaline clay soils.

Belinda's Dream is an attractive, durable, and versatile rose that gardeners will fall in love with. Belinda's Dream is a shrub rose with characteristics of a hybrid tea, such as the high center bloom and long stem. The medium pink flowers are produced in abundance throughout the growing season. The large, double flowers are set against the background of glossy bluish-green foliage. One characteristic that people expect out of rose is fragrance and Belinda's Dream has a rich delightful fragrance all its own.

Belinda's Dream is a Texas Superstar. In order for a plant to be selected as a Texas Superstar, it must meet certain criteria such as cold hardiness, heat resistance, insect and disease tolerance. Although this rose is not disease resistant and can occasionally be attacked by black spot during cool moist periods, it is vigorous enough to overcome the disease.

It can reach 5 feet inches in height by 3-4 feet wide. An easy to maintain rose that only requires one major pruning each spring. Plants can be fertilized after this pruning and again after first bud development. Throughout the rest of the year, fertilizer should be applied on a regular basis since roses are heavy feeders. Applying mulch will help retain moisture, keep weeds out, and add nutrients to the soil. Roses should be planted in a well-drained area where there is at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight.

This versatile rose can be easily used in mixed borders, hedges, tubs, barrels, formal, and informal gardens. It is perfect for fresh-cut flowers and for dried floral arrangements.



START YOUR CONTAINERS!

By Nancy Fenton, Ellis County Master Gardeners



Late February or early March are great times to get your potted plants and baskets started for super summer blooms. There are lots of plants available both at our local stores and the upcoming Master Gardeners Spring EXPO. The challenge will be getting them started so they will take off and survive the hot months too!

Begin with a clean container and good soil. I reuse my pots and baskets but wash them with soap and water first and then give them a good fungus buster soak in Clorox rich water (two tablespoons per gallon will do it). Any good potting soil will work. You can mix it with garden loam or compost ½ and ½, just try to avoid our sticky clay! Containers must drain well.

Standard design theory for containers is to work in sets of three - one type to hang down, one to fill and one to thrill (up high). Plants should be similar in water and sun needs as well as varied enough to give some contrast as to height and color.

Be careful to choose plants that like somewhat the same amount of water and sun. Shade loving plants coupled with sun lovers will leave one of their number struggling... Containers that have a "heavy drinker" next to a "non-drinker" don't seem to fare too well either. Once the choices are made, soak all the plants right before planting for 10 or so minutes. A bit longer won't hurt, but don't drown them by leaving them for days! Once they are out of the pot, check the roots. If they are tightly packed or growing around the bottom, break the root up to loosen them and stimulate new growth. If they are growing out the bottom of the container, you may have to take scissors or clippers to them. I "butterfly" packed roots and spread them out in the new container. It will encourage a strong base for further growth. Plant those baby plants high in the container, but still be sure to cover the root ball. Water thoroughly and stand back.

I go the extra mile by lightly watering each day for a full week while the plants recover from the shock of moving. You don't have to flood new plants. Remember the roots weren't too far under the surface when you planted them! Check after a week and water as needed. I fertilize my containers at least once a week with a diluted liquid fertilizer. Containers, if properly planted, drain well and also have a lot of roots in a confined space. Watch when the heat turns up for signs of wilting. Hot afternoons will wilt even some of the hardiest ones, but my clue for prompt watering is the wilt that holds over into the cool morning hours.

Containers can have edible herbs combine with blooms. Creeping Rosemary, Pineapple Sage and ornamental Cabbage or Kale all like to be relatively dry and can rejoice in bright sun. **Come check out the hanging baskets at the Master Gardeners' plant booth at the EXPO March 27 or get some of their great plants and design your own!**



Landscape Gardening

By Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

When to Prune Flowering Shrubs:

by Dr. Douglas F. Welsh, Landscape Horticulturist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

If a shrub is grown for its flowers, time the pruning to minimize disruption of blooming. Spring-flowering shrubs bloom on last season's growth and should be pruned soon after they bloom. This allows for vigorous summertime growth and results in plenty of flower buds the following year. Some examples of shrubs that bloom on last seasons' growth are:

| | |
|---|--|
| Redbud - <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Indian Hawthorn - <i>Raphiolepis indica</i> |
| Japanese Quince - <i>Chaenomeles japonica</i> | Azaleas & Rhododendrons - <i>Rhododendron</i> spp. |
| Fringe Tree - <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Rambling Rose species - <i>Rosa</i> spp. |
| All forsythia species - <i>Forsythia</i> spp. | Early white Spirea species - <i>Spiraea</i> spp. |
| Honeysuckle - <i>Lonicera</i> spp. | Viburnum species - <i>Viburnum</i> spp. |

Some shrubs that bloom after June usually do so from buds which are formed on shoots that grow the same spring. These shrubs should be pruned in late winter to promote vigorous shoot growth in spring.

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Examples of shrubs that bloom on current season's growth include:

Glossy Abelia - *Abelia X. grandiflora*

Butterfly Bush - *Buddleia davidii* or *B. globose*

Shrub Althea - *Hibiscus syriacus*

Hills of Snow - *Hydrangea arborescens*

Saint-Johns-wort - *Hypericum spp.*

Crape Myrtle - *Lagerstroemia indica* (see "Stop the Crape Murder!" at aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers)

Bush Rose - *Rosa spp.*

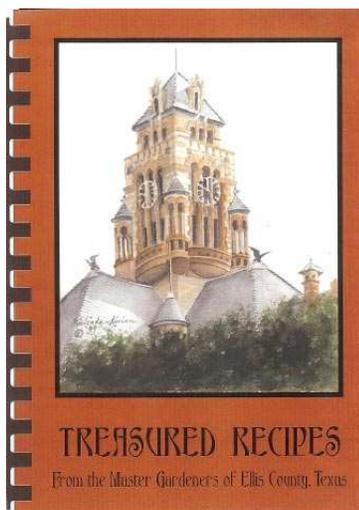
Chaste Tree - *Vitex agnus-castus*

For complete information on pruning shrubs, consult the website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Garden Checklist for March 2010:

The average last freeze date in Ellis County is March 15. Often tomato and pepper plants started outdoors from seed will grow so quickly they will catch up with commercial plants in size within a few weeks. For many gardeners, this is the only way to obtain rare or heirloom varieties.

- Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish blooming.
- Start hanging baskets of petunias, ferns and others for another dimension in landscape color.
- Plant dahlia tubers in fertile, well-drained soil.
- In North Texas there is still time to plant seeds of your favorite annuals in flats to be transplanted out-of-doors when danger of frost is past.
- Select and order caladium tubers as well as geranium and coleus plants for late April and early May planting. Do not plant caladiums until soil temperature reaches 70°F.
- As camellia and azalea plants finish blooming, fertilize them with three pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area. Check mulch on azalea and camellia beds and add where needed.
- Fertilize roses every 4 to 6 weeks from now until September.
- Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Your best bet at this time of year is to depend on container-grown or balled-and-burlapped plants for landscape use.



Available Now!

Ellis County Master Gardener's Cookbook

"Treasured Recipes"

Only \$10.00

(beautifully hardbound - 450 recipes)

Until May 2010 when the Waxahachie Downtown Farmer's Market begins, the cookbooks can be purchased at:

The Greenery, Waxahachie

ARK Country Store

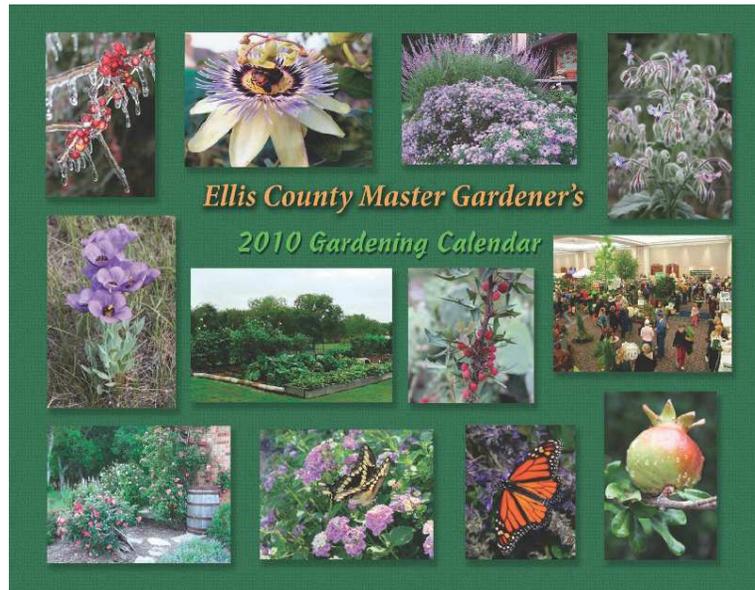
Boyce Feed & Grain

EarthTones Greenery, Midlothian

AgriLIFE Extension Office, 972-825-5175

S IH-35 @Brookside Rd.

The 2010 Gardening Calendar is Here!



The much awaited 4th annual Ellis County Master Gardener gardening calendar is here and it's...**FREE...while the supply lasts!** from the following sponsors.

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