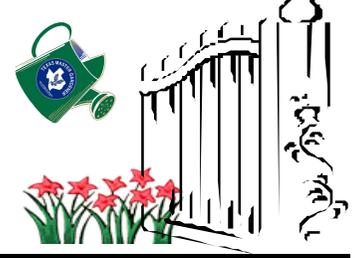




# Ellis County Master Gardener's Ellis-Gardening Newsletter



Volume I, Issue 9

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

October, 2007

**W**elcome 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](http://www.ECMGA.com), click on subscribe, and it will be sent around the 1st of every month. Thank you.

Melinda Kocian, editor

## Lighthouse for Learning

(with the Ellis County Master Gardener)

For reservations, call 972-923-4631; ask for Melissa Cobb

**Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30-7:30 pm - The Lazy Gardener:** Learn how to have beautiful gardens around your home with minimum care. Includes a variety of plant ideas to make growing and maintaining different types of gardens with little effort, water and expertise. Bring photos or drawings of your yard and problem areas and find the pathway to that beautiful landscape you have always wanted. Instructor: DeAnn Bell, cost \$10.00.

**Monday, October 15, 6-7:30 pm - Rainwater Harvesting:** Learn the basics of rainwater harvesting, collection systems and materials needed for landscaping and gardening with rainwater. Instructor: Pam Daniel, cost \$10.00.

**Monday, Oct. 15, 6-7:30 pm - Care and Propagation of Houseplants:** Learn the care and propagation of your houseplants so you can have more for yourself and friends. Instructor: Diane Hopkins, cost \$10.00.

**Monday, Oct. 18, 6-7:30 pm - Native Plants:** Learn what plants are native and how easy these plants adapt to your garden. Instructor: Bill Abbott, cost \$10.00.

**Monday, Oct. 22, 6-7:30 pm - Xeriscaping:** Come learn how to plant a beautiful bed with low use of water and still have a beautiful yard.....not just cactus or Yucca's. Instructor: James Bell, Urban Farmers, cost \$10.00.

**Mondays, Oct. 22, 6-8:00 pm (4 classes) - "Ag 101" - Designed for New or Small Acreage Landowners, Session B:** Ag 101 is also offered later in October and early November. Students may choose either session A or session B. Instructor: Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, cost \$20.00.

## 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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It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted about gardening. You have got to love your garden whether you like it or not.

-W.C. Sellar & R.J. Yeatman, Garden Rubbish, 1936

## What's Happening in October

**Saturday, October 6, 2007 - Fall Festival**, Petal Pushers, Cedar Hill, TX.

**10:30** - Chris Wiesinger, one of the owners of the Southern Bulb Company will be speaking on heirloom bulbs.

**1:00** - Rosa Finsley (previous owner of Kings Creek) will be speaking on wildflowers.

\*Antique bulbs and wild flower seeds will be available for sale.

**Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.** The GreenThumb Organic Club will meet at Mike and Lois Yarborough's home, 140 Brookbend, Waxahachie. Our normal meeting time is 7:00 p.m., but you are welcome to arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.; we want you to be able to enjoy the gardens in the daylight. Mike and Lois' beautiful gardens are under the canopies of towering trees and their property backs up to Grove Creek. They have incorporated many garden features; brick pathways guide you through several outdoor rooms, water gardens and water features. This past year the Yarborough's were featured in the Waxahachie Daily Light for the Water Garden Tour. Mike's company is Natural Water Works. Directions: From The Greenery, go south past the new Whataburger, past the car wash and on left side of road you will see Grove Creek, turn left (East) on Grove Creek, hang to right at the "y" and go to Brookbend, turn left on Brookbend and it is the first house on right.

**Saturday, October 13, 9:00 am.** - The Greenery - Gary Harrell, a Representative from Harvest Supply is presenting Organic Procedures for your Organic Garden. Gary is very knowledgeable of products available to the Dallas area. This will be a great time to get many of your gardening questions answered.

## It's October - What Needs to be Done?

### Planting and Sowing

- Plant daffodil, grape hyacinth and crocus bulbs in well prepared beds so the base of the bulb is at a depth that is three times the diameter of the bulb. Plant slightly higher in clay soils.
- Cool-season annuals (pansies, pinks, snapdragons, ornamental kale) that were started in August can be transplanted mid-month.

### Fertilizing and Pruning

- Holly plants with a heavy set of fruit often suffer a fertilizer deficiency. An application of complete fertilizer late this month can be helpful and provide a head start next spring.

### This and That

- Chill tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the refrigerator until mid- or late December before planting. The lower part of the refrigerator is best. Do not leave bulbs in airtight plastic bags and avoid storing them with fruit.
- Carefully harvest material for dried arrangements. Choose cockscomb, flowering Artemisia and mature okra pods to enhance fall and winter bouquets.
- Keep Christmas cactus evenly moist and where night temperatures can be kept below 65 degrees F or new

buds will drop. They should also be kept in total darkness from 5:00 pm until 8:00 am for about 30 days beginning mid-month to initiate flower buds.

- There is still time to divide and reset such perennials as phlox, violets, hollyhocks, irises, daylilies and Shasta daisies.

### Garden Watch

- If twig girdlers have worked over your trees so that many twigs and branches are dropping, be sure these are collected and destroyed. The eggs are deposited in that portion of the branch that drops to the ground.
- October is a good time to reduce the insect and disease potential in next year's garden. Clean up the garden, removing all annuals that have completed their life cycle. Remove the tops of all herbaceous perennials that have finished flowering or as soon as frost has killed the leaves.

### Tip of the Month

Cultural practices that add to the efficient use of water by plants are periodic checks of the irrigation system, properly timed insect and disease control and elimination of water-demanding weeds.



## Featured Plant for October

**Hardy Blue Aster (Native)**, *Aster oblongifolius* 'Aster'

Perennial flower that blooms profusely in the fall. Plant in well prepared, drained beds. Requires low to medium water and fertilizer. Divide established plants in spring. Good nectar source.

Exposure: Sun to Part Shade

Size: Ht 2-3' Spread 2-4'

Spacing: 12-18"

## Species Spotlight: Cedar Elm

By Jamey Guarascio-Cosper, Ellis County Master Gardener



A neighbor had received a recommendation to plant a Cedar Elm tree in her landscape and asked for information on the tree. Since an Ellis County nursery recommended the tree, I thought I'd provide all with some relevant information to help in making an educated purchase.



**Cedar Elm**, *Ulmus crassifolia*, is a native North American deciduous tree that grows under almost any circumstances. Reaching heights of 50 to 90 feet (documented at 118 in the wild) and 40 to 60 feet wide, the Cedar Elm forms a rounded or vase shaped silhouette. The Cedar Elm thrives in Zones 6 – 9. This tree will grow in part shade/part sun and/or in full sun. It tolerates clay, loam, sand, acidic, and alkaline soils and will tolerate extended flooding, yet is versatile enough to also tolerate high drought conditions.

Regularly used in parking lot islands, tree lawns, buffer strips around parking lots, median strip plantings in the highway, reclamation areas, as a shade tree, in sidewalk cutouts, as a residential street tree and/or in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common.

Although willing to grow in most areas, this tree years after transplanting to develop a strong grows and Cedar Elms are susceptible to break-tion or the wood itself is weak and tends to break.

**Appearance:** The stiff and rough-textured, dark fore dropping in fall. The inconspicuous, green, of winged seeds in late summer or early fall. The does it create a significant litter problem.

**Pests and Diseases** – The Cedar Elm is very can affect tree health or aesthetics, *i.e.*, Dutch nuisance in some years. Mistletoe can choke the Cedar Elm and kills the tree quickly once established. Cedar Elm is fairly low maintenance shade and street tree, except for the branches' susceptibility to breakage at the crotches of major limbs.



requires regular pruning and training in the early structure. The branches tend to droop as the tree age either at the crotch due to poor collar forma-

green leaves fade to bright yellow to red/brown be-summertime flowers are followed by the production fruit of the Cedar Elm does not attract wildlife, nor

sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which elm disease may kill and Powdery Mildew can be a

In sum, the Cedar Elm can fill in those spots in your yard that need some height and shade, but have less than perfect soil. The Cedar Elm will require maintenance primarily during its early years, but will compensate your hard work with years of beauty and shade to any homeowner willing to give it a shot. As with any landscape decision, pick several trees of different species for your landscape so that if one species is damaged by disease or pest, it will not affect your entire landscape.

## Controlling Winter Weeds in the Lawn

Submitted By Diane Hopkins  
Ellis County Master Gardener



Last winter was a good example of heavy rainfall and mild temperatures causing winter weeds. Preemptive measures to control and eliminate weeds in the late summer could make all the difference when winter arrives. Many homeowners don't think about weed-control until the weather starts to cool, but by then it's too late.

Mid-September is the time to think about applying pre-emergent herbicides to the lawn for winter weed control. The herbicide needs to be applied before the weed seeds begin to germinate. The pre-emergent material won't control weeds if it is applied too late.

Before purchasing a pre-emergent herbicide, read the label carefully to determine that the material is for the type of grass that is to be treated. Always read the label and apply the pre-emergent as it recommends. Water lawns immediately or at least within a day or two of applying the material to avoid the sunlight breaking it down. A soaking of about a half-inch of water will be necessary.

During a mild winter with rain, it might be necessary to apply the herbicide a second time, in late December or early January.

To maintain a healthy lawn continue regular mowing, irrigation and fertilization. A dense healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds.

For further information about weeds and appropriate herbicides you can contact the Ellis County Extension Office. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A & M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

## From the Garden to the Vase

Submitted by Diane Hopkins, Ellis County Master Gardeners



Some gardeners take the approach “if you can’t eat it, don’t grow it.” They are usually fantastic gardeners who produce a bounty of fruits, vegetables and more from their gardens. Others are equally skillful in transforming their yards into artistic havens that are arranged to give balance, rhythm, repetition and scale to the layout. But, not all gardens have to provide food or harmonious aesthetics.

One might choose to make a different choice: growing flowers for cutting. Cut flowers allow us to bring the beauty of the natural world indoors. From a cluster of tiny Privet blossoms to a magnificent, fragrant rose, many plants produce appealing flowers that can brighten a room and lift the spirits.

Even a small garden space can produce many months of flowers for indoor enjoyment. Cut flowers are generally easy to grow and simple to maintain. This is a good way to acquaint non-gardeners to plants and make use of a space that might not be suitable for edible crops or specimen landscape plants.

Autumn is a great time for cutting flowers of all types. Annuals like sunflower and zinnias continue to bloom. Perennials like golden-rod, coneflower and roses are also still available. Foliage and flower plumes of ornamental grasses can make lovely additions to arrangements.

When choosing stems for the bouquet cut those with at least half the buds still closed. This will ensure that plenty of the flowers will open in the house. If the flower stalk is separate from the main stem it is okay to cut the whole stalk. Although, if the flower stalk is on the main stem, don’t cut more than a third of the stem to maintain the plants health.

Making cut flowers last requires only a few simple steps:

- Carefully cut stems from plant.
- Pick off any unwanted leaves, branches, or bugs.
- Once inside, rinse stems and flowers over a sink.
- Clip excess foliage and stems.
- Prune the bottom of the stem on a 45-degree angle under running water.
- Place in a vase with other complimentary flowers.
- Use only enough water to cover the bottom third of the stem.
- Change water, clean up flowers, and re-cut the stems daily.

### Clay Pot Bird Bath

#### Materials Needed:

- 16 inch or larger Terra Cotta Clay Pot
- 16 inch or larger Terra Cotta Clay Saucer
- Rub-On Decals
- Clear Acrylic Sealer Spray

#### Instructions:

These are so simple to make, and the birds just love mine!

Wipe down your terra cotta pot and saucer with a damp cloth and let dry completely.

The decorating ideas are endless. You can find a neat stencil and paint it, or try sponge painting.

The only trick is to seal your bird bath well. Use clear acrylic sealer spray. Also, make sure you store your bird bath inside during cold weather months.

Another interesting tidbit: Make your bird bath to cover the pipe for the septic tank that is in your yard! That is the main reason for it's smaller size, since it needs to be moved more often than a normal bird bath.



### Interested in Becoming An Ellis County Master Gardener?

For further information, Call the Texas Cooperative Extension Office - 972-825-5175,  
or log onto our website: [www.ECMGA.com](http://www.ECMGA.com), or stop by:  
701 S. I-35E, Suite 3  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

## Autumn Gardening Tips

Submitted by Diane Hopkins, Ellis County Master Gardener



- Dig and divide spring-blooming perennials including violets, gladiola, Shasta daisies, daylilies, iris, cone-flowers, ferns, hostas, mondo grass and liriop. It's also time to plant daffodils and grape hyacinths. Tulips bulbs will need to be refrigerated at least 45 days so that good flower size and height will develop.
- If you intend to bring a poinsettia into flowering for the holidays, begin giving it total and uninterrupted darkness 14 hours each night and bright sunlight during the days.
- Plant new trees and shrubs this fall so they can establish a strong root system before next summer. Visit your favorite nurseries and ask for plants that are native or easily adapted to Ellis County. Also remove dead or damaged limbs from existing trees.
- If you plan to over-seed your lawn with rye grass, sow now. "Perennial" rye is best for over-seeding since it will have a finer texture and required less mowing; however, treat it as an annual.
- Fertilize your turf with half of its nitrogen in the slow release form. Feed cool-season grasses as soon as they are growing actively.
- Transplants of winter and spring color can be set out now; these include pansies, pinks, snapdragons, flowering cabbage and kale. When planting, apply a complete and balanced water soluble plant food.
- Also, watch your turf grass for grub worms which eat the root systems of any type of grass; they leave it dead and loose on top of the ground. The worms are ¾ inch long, creamy white, and C-shaped and found just below the soil. Treat with an approved insecticide with heavy watering as instructed on the label.
- Fall is when brown patch appears in St. Augustine turf; it will appear as rounded areas which turn yellow, then brown. Apply turf fungicide following the label directions.
- Check container plants for insects and disease before bringing indoors for the winter; treat as recommended on the product label. Plants in pots or hanging baskets can be pruned to fit in your home; maintain their natural form as much as possible. Provide adequate light while they are inside.
- Add shredded tree leaves and grass to your compost bin. To speed decomposition, apply a small amount of fertilizer and turn frequently.

## Controlling Aphids in the Garden

Submitted by Diane Hopkins, Ellis County Master Gardener



Controlling aphids in your garden will require constant monitoring for early detection and to determine if any intervention is needed. Lady bugs and lacewings are natural predators of the aphid and their presence on the infested plant may indicate that no treatment is required. It is best to avoid applying toxic pesticides whenever possible; they destroy beneficial insects as well as pest and leave plants unprotected if pest return.

The aphid is a tiny insect, 1/16<sup>th</sup> to 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch long, with a soft body, long legs and antennae. There are 250 species of aphids and they reproduce faster than any other insect.

Aphids attack new growth or the underside of the leaf. They suck the sap from plants and excrete clear, sticky "honey dew" that often causes black sooty fungus that blocks sunlight from leaves. Aphids can stunt growth, deform and discolor, or cause leaves to drop prematurely. Some aphids also transmit plant diseases.

Aphids will attack bedding plants, crape myrtles, hibiscus, oaks, oleanders, pecans, roses, and many vegetables. Most aphids are host-plant specific and usually don't move to other species.

The least toxic solution to control minor infestations of aphids is to spray host plants with water at high pressure to dislodge the pest. Once the aphids have been dislodged it is unlikely they will return to the plant. Keep in mind their eggs will still be present on the plant and it will need to be retreated with a high pressure water spray every few days to control the next generations.

Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils will help control heavier infestations of aphids. The soaps and oils require direct contact with the pest to provide the best results; apply it to the entire plant surface, especially under the leaves.

If you must use a pesticide, apply only to plants specified on the label; some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth. Mix according to directions and apply only recommended doses. Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant and make its tissues and fluids toxic to the feeding aphids. Never use systemic pesticides on plants you intend to eat.

## More Things to do In Your Landscape

By Cheryl Marusak, Ellis County Master Gardener



### How to control fire ants:

Texas Cooperative Extension recommends the "Texas Two-Step Method" to control fire ants, and, if done this week, you may still be able to control them on your property during these forthcoming cooler months.

The first step is to broadcast a fire ant bait over your whole yard. A hand-held seed spreader set to the smallest opening is ideal, and will distribute just about the right amount of bait.

Be sure your bait is fresh, and apply it when ants are actively foraging. To determine whether ants are foraging, place a potato chip **next** to the mound, but **make sure you do not disturb the mound!** If ants begin removing the food within 30 minutes, it's a good time to apply the bait.

**Be patient!** While baits are effective, they work slowly.

The second step is to treat problem mounds using an individual mound treatment. These come in many forms - from granular and "drench" insecticides to boiling water - but try to limit this step to mounds located near house foundations, high-traffic areas or other trouble spots.

### Composting:

Composting can be as plain or as fancy as you wish. You can buy fancy bins, or you can build an informal enclosure using nearly anything you have on hand. You can even create a free-standing pile. Whatever you choose, make sure that the pile will get good air circulation.

Locate your pile out of the way, but near a water source. Then, simply begin alternating layers as follows: a layer of brown, dry stuff, such as fallen leaves or hay, then a layer of green, wet stuff like vegetable scraps or grass clippings. Add a layer of livestock or poultry manure or sprinkle the pile lightly with commercial fertilizer. Top it all off with a layer of garden soil.

Your finished pile should be about 4 feet high and square. Water it just enough to keep it damp. If the pile gets soggy or smells, add more brown stuff.

Your pile should heat up to about 140°F; turning it regularly will help speed up the composting process. If it isn't heating up enough, add more green stuff or fertilizer.

Follow this advice and soon you will have a pile of rich, earth-scented black-gold that your landscape and gardens will love.

### How to dig and divide perennials:

A lot of perennials - such as Shasta daisies, coreopsis, daylilies, and many others - should be divided every 3 to 5 years to keep them vigorous and freely blooming.

Here are some easy steps to follow:

- Loosen the soil in your garden bed, add some compost and a light sprinkling of bone meal.
- Using a spading fork, loosen the soil around the plant to be divided, then ease it up, taking care not to damage too many of its roots.
- Hose off any loose soil and remove dead leaves or stems.
- Using your hands, separate the plant into clumps with 3 to 5 vigorous shoots each, discarding the center of the original clump if it's weak or woody.
- Replant the new sections at their original depth, mulch well and water thoroughly. Make sure they are kept moist until they have set new roots.
- After the soil temperature drops following a few hard frosts, cover your plants with 6 to 8 inches of mulch.
- In the spring when new growth has begun, pull back the mulch and lightly fertilize.

Following these simple steps will ensure that your plants will thrive and bloom beautifully for years.

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(Continued from page 6)

### **How to plant a tree:**

Before planting a new tree, make sure that the site you've selected will be large enough to accommodate your tree at maturity.

Then do the following:

- Dig a planting hole at least twice as wide as the tree's root ball, and 2 or 3 inches more shallow than the root ball's height. **Do not** loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole!
- Place your tree into the hole. Cut away any wires around a balled-and-burlapped tree and pull the burlap away from its trunk. If your tree is container-grown, loosen any coiled roots that may be present before placing it in the hole.
- Backfill the planting hole until it is two-thirds full with native **unamended** soil.
- After backfilling two-thirds of the hole, water to settle it in.
- After all the water has been absorbed, make sure your tree is straight, then finish backfilling.
- Construct a water basin 2 or 3 inches high around the base of the tree and water again, then fill the basin with a good organic mulch.

Following these simple steps will ensure that your new tree will thrive and provide shade and beauty to your landscape for years.

### **Why leaves change color in the fall:**

Three factors influence autumn leaf color: leaf pigments, length of night, and weather.

There are three types of pigments that are involved in autumn coloration. The first is chlorophyll, which gives leaves their green color. Next are carotenoids, which produce yellow, orange and brown colors. Finally, there are anthocyanins, which are produced in response to bright light and excess plant sugars in the leaf and are responsible for the red, burgundy and purple colors.

During the growing season, chlorophyll is continually produced, giving leaves their green appearance. However, as nights lengthen, its production slows down and then stops altogether. That's when the anthocyanins and carotenoids present in the leaf are exposed and show their colors.

The amount and brilliance of fall colors are influenced by temperature and moisture conditions that occur before and during the time chlorophyll is dwindling. In general, a warm, wet spring, followed by a moderate summer, then a succession of warm, sunny fall days with cool nights usually produces the most brilliant colors.

For more detailed information on all of these topics, contact the Ellis County Master Gardeners at 972-825-5175 or go to our website [www.ECMGA.com](http://www.ECMGA.com).

It takes a while to grasp that not all failures are self-imposed, the result of ignorance, carelessness or inexperience. It takes a while to grasp that a garden isn't a testing ground for character and to stop asking, what did I do wrong? Maybe nothing.

~Eleanor Perényi, Green Thoughts, 1981

Last night, there came a frost, which has done great damage to my garden.....It is sad that Nature will play such tricks on us poor mortals, inviting us with sunny smiles to confide in her, and then, when we are entirely within her power, striking us to the heart.

~ Nathaniel Hawthorne, The American Notebooks

## Featured Flowers of the Month

### Virginia Creeper

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian, Ellis County Master Gardener*



**Virginia Creeper***Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Virginia Creeper is a woody vine that can reach up to 60 feet. It is native to the U.S., and is found growing in moist, shady sites in the Eastern half of the country. A member of the grape family, it produces compound leaves with serrated edges and puts on a display of colorful foliage and berries during the fall.

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* is sometimes confused with poison ivy, especially when new growth is forming. However, the plants can be easily distinguished from one another by the five or six leaflets that form on Virginia Creeper, versus the three leaves of poison ivy. Some people describe allergic reactions similar to poison ivy when they come into contact with the plant but there is little scientific evidence of contact dermatitis from Virginia Creeper.

The fruits are edible by squirrels and many species of songbirds, so many wildlife gardeners allow Virginia Creeper to occupy a place in their backyard habitats.

- Type of plant: Vines and Climbers
- Bloom color: Light Blue, White/Near White
- Bloom time of year: Late Spring/Early Summer
- Sun requirements: Full Sun, Sun to Partial Shade, Light Shade, Partial to Full Shade
- Cold hardiness: Zone 3a to Zone 9b
- Height: over 40 ft. (12 m)
- Spacing: 24-36 in. (60-90 cm), 36-48 in. (90-120 cm), 4-6 ft. (1.2-1.8 m), 6-8 ft. (1.8-2.4 m)

### Gerbera Daisy

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian, Ellis County Master Gardener*



**Gerbera Daisy**  
***Gerbera jamesonii***

*Gerbera jamesonii* is a tender perennial plant and native to South Africa.

More commonly called Gerber Daisy, but also referred to as Transvaal Daisy or Barberton Daisy, the brightly colored flowers are a mainstay of the cut flower trade as the blooms can last up to two weeks in a vase with proper care.

The history of these flowers dates back to 1884, when live specimens were collected by Robert Jameson during an expedition to the Barberton district in 1884. A few years later, plants were sent to Kew; and in 1889 a color illustration appeared in the Botanical Magazine

and the species was described by J.D.Hooker. Breeding of the modern varieties began soon afterwards, and the plant remains a favorite ornamental in many gardens, thriving with regular fertilizing and deadheading.

- Type of plant: Annuals, Tropicals/Tender Perennials
- Bloom color: Pink, Red, Orange, Bright Yellow, White/Near White
- Bloom time of year: Mid Spring, Late Spring/Early Summer, Mid Summer, Late Summer/Early Fall, Mid Fall, Blooms repeatedly
- Sun requirements: Full Sun
- Cold hardiness: Zone 9a to Zone 10b
- Height: 6-12 in. (15-30 cm), 12-18 in. (30-45 cm)
- Spacing: 12-15 in. (30-38 cm)

## Creeping Jenny

Submitted by Melinda Kocian, Ellis County Master Gardener

### Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*

Creeping-Jenny (also known as Moneywort) is true to its name - a low, creeping spreader with coin-shaped chartreuse foliage.

Officially known as *Lysimachia nummularia*, it a relative of several plants referred to as Loosestrife, but it shouldn't be confused with the notorious purple *Lythrum* species that share a similar common name. The species name is a reference to the round, coin-shaped leaves.

Creeping Jenny is a versatile plant and will adapt to boggy settings along a pond's edge or fill in container garden and spill nicely over the edge, as well as crawl between path stones or cover a slope. The plant roots every few inches, and blooms occasionally with bright yellow blossoms. As with most spreaders, it may not know when to quit growing, making it a bit of a nuisance if it's allowed to spread unchecked.

Type of plant:	Perennials
Bloom color:	Bright Yellow
Bloom time of year:	Late Spring/Early Summer
Sun requirements:	Sun to Partial Shade
Cold hardiness:	Zone 3a to Zone 8b
Height:	6-12 in. (15-30 cm)
Spacing:	9-12 in. (22-30 cm)



It's getting to be that time of the year.....the pumpkin patch! Crisp, cooler weather that makes us start thinking of the upcoming holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

You can buy canned pumpkin; that is the easy way. But some time when you are really in the mood to fix something special, try this:

### Fresh Pumpkin Pulp

Select small pumpkins; both for taste and for ease in cooking.

**To prepare:** Slice open the pumpkin. Clean out the seeds and membrane. Cut the pumpkin in pieces, cover with hot, boiling water from a kettle or large saucepan and cook until tender. Let it cool slightly, then drain and peel outer skin. Put pumpkin meat through a food mill, sieve, food processor, or blender.

Refrigerate the cooked, pureed or mashed pulp until ready to use. You could also measure up proportioned amounts to put in freezer bags for later use.

### Pumpkin Nut Roll

1 cup sugar  
3 eggs  
• cup cooked pumpkin  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
¾ cup all-purpose flour  
½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp baking powder  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. ginger

½ tsp. nutmeg  
1 cup chopped pecans  
Confectioner's sugar

#### Filling

1 cup Confectioner's sugar  
1 3-oz pkg. cream cheese  
¼ cup butter  
½ tsp. vanilla

In a mixing bowl, combine sugar, eggs, pumpkin and lemon juice. Beat until thoroughly mixed. In a separate bowl combine dry ingredients and blend gradually into first mixture. Pour batter into a generously greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch jelly roll pan and sprinkle chopped pecans over surface. Bake in a 375°F. oven for 12-15 minutes, or until top springs back when lightly touch. Cover with a clean kitchen towel; roll into a cylinder, starting at the long side, leaving the towel inside. Chill several hours.

#### Filling:

Combine ingredients and beat until creamy. Unroll cake and spread filling on top. Re roll tightly. Cover with foil or plastic wrap and refrigerate several hours. Slice and serve.

Hint: Once it is room temperature, sift powdered sugar over top for a little decoration.