



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article October 17, 2016

Gardening Can Be Fun!

by Lydia Holley

If you are a new gardener, you may be looking for something fun instead of intimidating to grow. Likewise, if you are an experienced gardener, you may be looking to grow something outside of the ordinary.



How about growing a 500 pound pumpkin? Elizabeth Murphy, a new Henderson County Master Gardener class member, did just that one year, and reports that it was an incredible experience. Not interested in pumpkins? Grow giant sunflowers instead. Some grow to 15 ft in height, and you can dry the seeds for snacking. Remember that sunflowers turn their faces toward the sun, so try not to site them directly south of you, if possible.

Tired of growing tomatoes every year and want a different, fun vegetable garden? Grow an underground garden. Onions, garlic, Irish potatoes, carrots, radishes, beets, and sweet potatoes all grow underground and you will have a blast digging for your buried treasure.

Do you love chocolate? Grow a chocolate garden. Chocolate mint really does smell like a chocolate mint treat, and is delicious added to tea. Other plants you may want to add to your chocolate garden include chocolate cosmos (*Cosmos astrosanguineus*), chocolate daisy (*Berlandiera lyrata*), the annuals chocolate mint geranium (*Pelargonium tomentosum*), tobacco plant 'hot chocolate' (*Nicotiana*), and chocolate plant (*Pseuderanthemum alatum*). If you like vegetables, you can still get your chocolate fix by growing the spicy chocolate habanero pepper, miniature chocolate bell pepper, and chocolate cherry tomatoes.

Are you interested in history? Start a Bible garden (grow plants mentioned in the Bible), a Shakespeare garden (grow plants mentioned in the works of Shakespeare), or look up the history of the plant or the person for whom the plant was named. It will be fun not only to show off your garden to guests, but to also enlighten them with historical facts.

Want to try something fun? Try gardening!

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.