



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article July 03, 2017

### Meet the Masters: Loretta Humble

by Lydia Holley

Ask Loretta Humble what she grows in her garden, and you will be amazed. Potatoes, onions, zucchinis, squash, Swiss chard, cucumbers, green beans, tomatoes, peppers, corn, cantaloupes, and watermelons are among the many vegetables she has grown just this year. Besides vegetables, she is also growing herbs. Flowers such as zinnias, petunias, and sunflowers grow right alongside her herbs.

Although Humble's garden has been very successful this year, she "only started trying to vegetable garden a few years ago. This is the first year I have really been proud of my results". She will be the first to admit that she has "worked really hard on this garden", but that it makes her happy. She especially enjoys "having all those vegetables to cook and give away."



Born and raised in East Texas, Humble recalls memories of gardening alongside her parents. "My parents always had a garden, and Mama had a way with flowers. In later years, Mama bought a little house in Athens. She had a small garden in the back yard where she grew wonderful flowers for the church alter for years."

Humble decided to become a Master Gardener because she was retiring. "I figured maybe this would be something to keep my idle hands occupied. I was encouraged to do it by a friend who told me taking the course is worth it, just to get the book. It is a great book, but the course is even better. And the best part is the people you get to know. The people in my class are the cream of the crop."

The Master Gardener class includes a chapter on propagating. Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) hosts a Plant Sale fundraiser each spring. The majority of plants offered at the Plant Sale come from the gardens of Master Gardeners. Humble states that she is looking forward to next year's Plant Sale. "I have big plans. I already have plants in pots. I am pretty good at propagating, so I expect to show off with all my contributions next year."

Humble took the HCMGA class in the fall of 2016, and will receive her Master Gardener certification in December. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, HCMGA is accepting applications now through August 23.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).