

Over the Garden Gate



<http://www.overthegardengate.org>

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Our July program was Latin Names: What's all the Stuff on the Plant Tags? Thank you Ruby! Our August 17 program will be led by Jerry and Nan Warren; location & topic to be announced. The cost is \$5 and is free to Master Gardeners and Interns. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend and bring a friend.

From Fred's column: The Wichita County Master Gardeners have sought out experts and visionaries with proven experience in growing beautiful gardens and landscapes that require less water and asked them to share their knowledge with gardeners in Texoma. This program will include up to date information on topics that will influence the utility and beauty of any garden while using less water.

The Living Well With Less Water in Texoma 2011 conference will be held at the MPEC October 1. Registration will begin at 8am and the program will adjourn by 4pm. The registration fee is \$40 per participant if received before September 1 and \$55 if received September 2-16. No registrations will be accepted after September 16. The fee includes the noon meal, break refreshments and conference handout material.

The speakers will include Bryan Rupp, meteorologist; Scott Calhoun, gardening author; Michael Parkey, registered landscape architect; Kevin Gustavson, Oklahoma Conservation Commission project coordinator; and Doty Woodson, commercial horticulture County Extension Agent for Texas AgriLIFE Extension in Tarrant County. Attendees will qualify for five Master Gardener continuing education hours (CEUs), two private pesticide applicator general CEUs and Master Naturalist hours. Other CEU hours may be announced before the conference. Information and registration forms available at www.overthegardengate.org



Boys & Girls Club Garden progress report: After the last training program, we weeded and then gave our "garden shovel" over to Seth, a leader at the B&G Club. He will take up the weeding and watering, hooray!! The kids learned and enjoyed gardening and hopefully another generation of gardeners is born. Thank you Bonnie for giving leadership to this project and to each and every one of you who helped her! Photo by Hunley Elmore

LOCAL EVENTS

August 2; 5:30 pm: The Wichita County Master Gardener Association meets at the County Extension Office, 600 Scott Street.

August 17; 10am-noon: Program by Jerry & Nan Warren; topic & location to be announced.

August 18; 5:30 pm: The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, 300 East 3rd, Burkburnett, TX.

Turn your volunteer hours in to Jan Gardin or Fred Hall (Interns) each month.

Rain, rain **please** come our way, and you're **welcome** back on other days!

Put on your thinking caps! We solicit any ideas you may have for our fund raising projects. Our main one is the Home & Garden Show tickets, and we really don't do very well with that. Maybe it's time for something fresh?

With two months of extremely high temperatures and the prolonged drought, we're facing the prospect of water rationing in the very near future. On the reverse side, there are 10 helpful hints how each of us can do our part to reduce water use in our home.

STATE INFORMATION

10 Easy Ways to Conserve Water

Apr 14, 2011 Lorin May

One easy way to start conserving water is to take stock of how much water you need vs. how much you use every day. Now we're not proposing that you stop showering or install a composting toilet (although if you're up for it, more power to you!). Instead, we're here to give you 10 easy but effective water conservation tips you can use to significantly cut back on the 80 gallons of H₂O that the average American uses every day.

1) Slow the flow Install low-flow faucet aerators on each of your faucets and a low-flow shower head in the bathroom. You'll keep the water pressure high, but reduce your average household water usage by up to 45 gallons a day.

2) Flush smarter If you're building a new home or are considering a remodel, there are many great, environmentally friendly options for dual-flush toilets that conserve water with every flush. For a DIY low-flow version, place 2 plastic bottles weighed down with pebbles and water inside your toilet tank (away from mechanical parts). Just make sure there are at least 3 gallons of water remaining in the tank so it flushes properly - otherwise you'll have to flush twice and miss the whole point!

3) Put less down the drain Compost food and vegetable waste instead of using water to flush it down the garbage disposal.

4) Turn it off This water conservation tip is an oldie, but a goodie - turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. And when shaving, fill up the sink with a few inches of water to rinse off the blade, instead of keeping the faucet running.

5) Fill 'er up! If you have a dishwasher, make sure to only run full loads to make good use of all that water. If you're washing by hand, fill up the sink to conserve water rather than keep the faucet running.

6) Think ahead If you like your drinking water cold, keep a water filter pitcher in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until it gets cold each time. That way you'll stay hydrated and not waste a drop!

7) Check for leaks To check if your toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes - if you see color in the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak!

8) Raise your glass Give each person in your household a designated glass or reusable water bottle, so they don't grab a new glass each time they want a drink. As an added bonus, you'll seriously cut down on the number of dishes you have to wash!

9) Catch what you can Place a bucket in the shower with you or under your rain spout to collect water and reuse it to water your plants and lawn.

10) Grow it out Raise your lawnmower blade so it doesn't cut the grass too short. Longer grass shades the soil, so it holds moisture longer. And when you do water your lawn, make sure it's during the cooler morning or evening hours to minimize evaporation and conserve water.

Adapted from Water Drops, a water resource newsletter, Southwest Florida Water Management District by Teresa Smith, former Youth and Family Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System, 2004.

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