

Getting back to the basics by Bonnie Jones Intern Master Gardener 2011

I have heard that the American gardeners have lost 2 generations. Our society as a whole is largely to blame but the Wichita County Master Gardeners are trying to rectify this issue. The Master Gardeners have partnered with the Burkburnett Boys and Girls Club in 2011. In doing so, we are educating the kids in basic gardening skills. We started by presenting programs in planting, watering, weeding, mulching, and data collecting. The Master Gardeners will have programs monthly on pests in the garden, water conservation, nutrition, preparing and preserving food from the garden and putting the garden to sleep. This partnering will also include an Earthkind Vegetable Variety Trial. When completed, this trial will report which plants grow good in our area with minimal resources. Hopefully the kids will have the knowledge to help their families start a garden. Many of our kids are learning that veggies grow in soil and do not come from a freezer in a grocery store! The teaching classes plus the hands on experience should equip the kids with invaluable knowledge to carry with them in life.

Our drought conditions will challenge us as gardeners this year, but with the proper preparations our plants should be productive.

Gardens can be started in small areas like containers which make gardens people friendly! If one has a place to put some soil, anyone can start a garden. From apartment houses to farm homes, gardens can be started. Gardens can be tailored by the gardener who wants to see nature's production. Food that comes straight from the garden to the home is palette worthy and has an aroma of pride.

If you would like to know more about starting and maintaining a garden, call the extension office at 940-716-8610. The Master Gardeners also give monthly education classes. The Wichita County Master Gardeners are willing and able to help you. So what are you waiting on?...just call!