

Over the Garden Gate



<http://www.overthegardengate.org>

Volume IV, No 1, January 2012

As Christmas was approaching, I noticed that the kids (and kids at heart) got more and more excited the closer the day came. And as we've been having cold and dreary weather, I noticed that this gardener gets more and more excited the closer a nice, mild, spring-like day approaches! I hope to end up this year catching up on some outside yard work. Indoor plants are nice to work with on cold and dreary days, but nothing beats actually digging in the dirt (soil) outside! Hope you're doing your share of dreaming and planning and making lists for when spring actually arrives.

Testing your soil gives you the information to make wise choices regarding fertilizers and amendments. It will give information on pH, salt content and other minerals in your soil. The results of the test will be mailed to you with recommendations as to what kind of fertilizer can be applied to your plants. Soil sample bags are available from the County Extension Office. To take a sample, select about 6-10 random areas in the garden to a depth of 6 inches. Place them all in a clean plastic bucket and mix thoroughly. Place a pint of the mixed soil in the sample bag and send it off for analysis. The same procedure can be done in the lawn and vegetable garden. This & below were taken from the 2011 MG Calendar

Things to do in January -

Plant or Transplant:

- **Trees and shrubs. Start vegetable and flowering transplants inside this month.**
- **Bare-root and containerized apples, apricots, cherries, figs, jujubes, peaches, pears, pecans, plums and persimmons.**
- **Containerized grapes.**
- **Blackberries, raspberries and asparagus.**

Prune:

- **Dead plant material out of trees, shrubs and groundcovers.**
- **Continue to cut mistletoe out of trees. Cut branch 6-8 inches back from where mistletoe was growing.**
- **Prune grapevines up to 80%.**

Diseases:

- **Look for leaf spot on photinia and hawthorns.**

Insects:

- **Continue to apply dormant oil sprays to trees with scale problems.**

General Information:

- **Avoid over watering of indoor plants.**
- **Continue watering trees, shrubs and bulbs once a month.**

LOCAL EVENTS

January 3, 5:30pm: The Wichita County Master Gardener Association meets at the County Extension Office, 600 Scott.

January 12, 9:30am: First African Violet Society meets at University United Methodist Church, Wichita Falls.

January 19, 5:30pm: The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, 300 East 3rd, Burkburnett.

Don't forget - dues are payable at the January meeting!! If you can't attend the meeting, please mail them in or send them with another MG.

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

STATE INFORMATION

State information is from the Texas Master Gardener website



Smith County, East Texas Landscape and Gardening Conference

When: Saturday, February 11, 8:30am—3pm

Where: Rose Garden Center, Tyler, TX

This all day conference includes presentations by Dr. David Reed, Malcolm Beck, Carmen Wagner, Keith Hansen, Daniel Duncum and Smith County MGs Anne Brown and Dee Bishop.

Brought to you by:
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Smith County Environmental Horticulture Committee
City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department

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Association Contacts: (vacant) President; Jason Cooper, Vice President 232-1330; Ruby Adkins, Secretary 767-5321; Jerry Warren, Treasurer 767-2020

State Directors: Virginia Krebs and Jackie Godwin; alternates: Pearl Carter and Anne Dohrer.

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