



Bastrop County  
Master  
Gardener

# What's Growing On?

## BASTROP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

### PLANT OF THE MONTH

#### Basham's Party **Pink** Crepe Myrtle The Newest Member of the Texas Superstars

It isn't easy to become a Texas Superstar® plant. Only the toughest, most reliable and best-looking plants make the cut. Every plant earning the Texas Superstar® designation undergoes several years of extensive field trials by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M

AgriLife Extension Service, both part of the Texas A&M System. They must show superior performance under Texas' tough growing conditions. During the field trials, plants receive minimal soil

preparation, reasonable levels of water and no pesticides. The newest member of the Texas Superstars is **Basham's Party Pink Crepe Myrtle**, promoted as a new Texas Superstar for its disease resistance, vigor and colorful display, according to a horticulture expert.

Basham's Party Pink crepe myrtle is one of the best medium-to-large varieties for Texas and the South, Dr. Bill Welch said.

Basham's Party Pink crepe myrtle were introduced in the 1960s and are now classified as a new Texas

Superstar for its hardiness, disease resistance and colorful display. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo provided by Dr. Bill Welch).

"In my observations over the years, it's the best of all crepe myrtles of that size," he said. "It has nice

lavender, silvery-pink blooms and attractive, peeling bark on the trunks. It has cold

FROM DR. BILL WELCH'S  
PERSPECTIVE AS A  
PLANT HISTORIAN WHO  
APPRECIATES THE  
HYBRIDIZATION OF OLD  
AND NEW VARIETIES,  
BASHAM'S PARTY PINK

hardiness and mildew resistance, which is important in the South, and is a low maintenance, water-efficient tree that deserves to be promoted more."



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### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

June 10 – 1832 Famer's Market

June 20 – Growing Vegetables w/ Patty Leander – BBEC 155 Electric Ave, 7 pm, Bastrop

June 24 – Join us at Elgin's Western Days at Memorial Park on Main, Elgin

July 22 – Rain Barrel Workshop and Purchasing opportunity – Aqua Water, Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop

Aug.15 – The Ins and Outs of Water Conservation – Chuck Kellogg, BBEC 155 Electric Ave, 7 pm, Bastrop

## Projects

**Bastrop County Animal Shelter –** Next time you are at the shelter see how the new gardens soften the exterior of the buildings.



**Bastrop Intermediate School Garden Club –** What a successful project in partnership with Keep Bastrop County Beautiful, BISD, Lowes and BCMGA. The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders harvested tomatoes, peppers, beans, cabbage, and other veggies.



**Bastrop County Extension Office Gardens –** these gardens are full of Texas Superstars. All plants are identified for your information. There is a raised bed vegetable garden as well – See the sunflowers



**Bastrop Community Garden –** All beds are adopted with more to be developed for Fall Gardening! Over 50 lbs of vegetables have been harvested from 6 beds.



MORE PROJECTS TO COME....



## Gardening Tips for June:

### **SOW SEEDS**

Vegetables: Black eyed Peas, Okra, Pumpkin, New Zealand Spinach, Malabar Spinach, Winter Squash.

Fruits: Cantaloupe, Honeydew, and Watermelon.

Herbs: Anise, Basil, Bay, Catnip, Cumin, Germander, Horehound, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, Oregano, Perilla, Rosemary, Sage, Summer Savory, Winter Savory, Sorrel, Southernwood, Tansy, Tarragon, Thyme.

Annuals: Castor Bean, Celosia, Coleus, Cypress Vine, Four O'clocks, Gomphrena, Gourds, Hyacinth Bean Vine, Impatiens, Marigold, Moonflower Vine, Morning Glory Vine, Periwinkle, Sunflower, Tithonia, Zinnia.

### **PLANT**

Vegetables: Black eyed Peas, Okra, Pumpkin, Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Spinach, Peppers, Sweet Potatoes, Winter Squash.

Fruits: Cantaloupe, Honeydew, and Watermelon.

Herbs: Artemesias (Mugwort, Southernwood, Wormwood), Basil, Bay Laurel, Beebalm, Catnip, Catmint, Echinacea, Epazote, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Lemon Verbena, Mexican Mint Marigold, Mints, Oregano, Pennyroyal, Rosemary, Sage, Winter Savory, Tansy, Thyme, Yarrow.

Annuals: Ageratum, Amaranthus (Joseph's Coat), Balsam, Begonia, Blue Daze, Celosia, Coleus, Copper Plant, Dusty Miller, Gazania, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Marigold, Mexican Heather, Nierembergia, Penta, Periwinkle, Portulaca, Purslane, Torenia, Zinnia.

Perennials: Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Copper Canyon Daisy, Cupheas, Coreopsis, Shasta Daisy, Ox-Eye Daisy, Four-Nerve Daisy, Daylily, Echinacea/Coneflower, Eupatoriums (including Gregg's Mistflower), Frog Fruit, Gayfeather, Goldenrod, Horse Herb, Kniphofia, Lamb's Ears, Lantana, Plumbago, Ruellias, Salvias, Sedum.

Grasses: Maiden Grass, Bamboo Muhly, Gulf Coast Muhly, Big Muhly, Weeping Muhly, Mexican Feather Grass, Switchgrass, Inland Sea Oats (likes the shade!), Purple Fountain Grass.

## Children's Gardening:

School's out! Summer vacation is a great time to start gardening with your kids. Gardening can be good exercise and is a wonderful activity to share with your children. Weeding, watering, planting, and identifying insects and bugs in the garden help to educate and instill an enthusiasm in children for the natural world. The magic of seeing a big, beautiful sunflower or zinnia emerge from a tiny seed is enough to turn anyone into a lifelong gardener. For that matter, it's not too late to plant cantaloupe or watermelon. Melon seeds are large and easy to handle and most germinate within 7 to 10 days. It's such a treat to watch these melons gradually develop into big, sweet juicy fruit. We have kids hand tools, hoes, rakes, gloves, watering cans, watering wands, books and more all the make your child's experience more enjoyable.

There are several ways to get your children involved:

Junior Master Gardener program – contact JMG certified Master Gardener Della Cobb @ BCMGA78602@gmail.com

Bastrop County 4-H's Kids in the Kitchen, June 29<sup>th</sup> in Elgin

### What Is A Master Gardener?

Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people. What really sets Master Gardeners apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture. In exchange for their training, persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their Extension office to provide horticultural-related information to their communities.

### Is It For Me?

To help you decide if you should apply to be a Master Gardener, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?

- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intense training program?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend training and to complete the volunteer service?

### Training and Commitment

The program offers a minimum of 50 hours of instruction that covers topics including lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, insect, disease, and weed management; soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening; home fruit production; garden flowers; and water conservation.

In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer time to their County Extension program. At least 50 hours of volunteer service within one year following the training is required to earn the title of "Texas Master Gardener."

**Bastrop County Master Gardener Class** begins August 19<sup>th</sup> and continues each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through December 9 except for Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekends. The cost of the class is \$225 and registration is in progress with the deadline of July 15, 2017. Classes will be held at BBEC's Board Room except for Field Trips. Here is the planned schedule:

- 8/19 ORIENTATION & BOTANY
- 8/26 ENTOMOLOGY & IPM
- 9/9 SOIL SAMPLES & SOIL NUTRIENT MGMT.
- 9/16 VEGETABLE & HERB GARDENING
- 9/23 LANDSCAPE DESIGN & LAWNS
- 9/30 RAINWATER CATCHMENT, ETC. & DRIP IRRIGATION
- 10/7 HOME FRUIT & NUT
- 10/14 COMPOSTING/EARTH-KIND PRINCIPLES/GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT
- 10/21 PERENNIAL GARDEN COLOR, ANTIQUE ROSES & REDESIGNING YOUR GARDEN
- 10/28 ECOSYSTEM MGMT
- 11/4 PLANT PROPAGATION
- 11/11 PLANT PROBLEMS/PATHOLOGY
- 11/18 FIELD TRIP
- 12/2 SELECTIVE TOPICS
- 12/9 PROJECT PRESENTATION & GRADUATION!

Sign up today by clicking on this link <http://txmg.org/bastropcounty/2017/05/02/sign-up-for-class/>