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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Austin Succulent Society Sale, Sat&Sun
2	3 Labor Day Sweet Sorghum Festival, Homestead Heritage 10 am-5pm	4 Tonkawa Chapter/ Native Plant Society, 7 pm	5 Work Day 7:30 am Christmas Party Committee meeting, 10 am Salad Wednesday 11 am	6	7	8 Williamson Chapter/ Native Plant Society, 9 am- 4 pm
9	10	11	12 Work Day 7:30 am General Meeting on the upcoming Plant Sale 11 am	13	14 Field Trip to Wild-seed Farms, 7:30 am	15 Fall Veggie and Tree Planting Seminars, 2, 3:30 pm
16	17	18	19 Work Day 7:30 am	20	21	22 Plant Sale 7:30 am - 1 pm
23	24	25 Senior Expo	26 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	27	28	29
30						

Upcoming dates:

Killeen Farmer's Market, October 6
Fall Garden Tour, October 20

Photo by Frances Idoux

The President's Corner

I am ready for autumn. Even though we had a more pleasant summer than last year, I do look forward to cooler temperatures and fall events. Master Gardeners will begin a busy fall schedule on Wednesday September 12th with our general meeting. The program will be information, training and preparation for our fall plant sale.

Friday, September 14th will be the field trip to the Wild Seed Farm in Fredericksburg. On Saturday, September 15th seminars on Fall Vegetable gardening will be presented at 2:00pm and Tree planting at 3:30pm at the Belton extension office. The seminars are open to the general public. These seminars are in preparation for our fall plant sale on Saturday, September 22nd. Plans are underway to possibly offer monthly gardening seminars to the public.

Tuesday, September 25th, Master Gardeners will be in attendance at the Senior Expo in Belton. We were invited to have a booth at the Senior Expo this year. On October 6th, we have been invited to be a part of the Killeen Farmer's Market. October 20th will be our fall garden tour. We do have a few other events coming up in October. There are plenty of opportunities for volunteer hours. Signup sheets will be available at the monthly meeting on September 12th.

Bell County along with Milam and McLennan counties will be offering to host the Master Gardener State Convention in 2015. There will be opportunities for everyone to be involved. We will all learn more about convention preparations in the next few months.

We continue to move closer to a new building. This past week we received an estimate/ bid of \$43,000+ for a turnkey job on our building. This is a beginning. We are currently awaiting a permit from the city of Belton.

We do not have enough funds to complete our project. The board has received an anonymous challenge grant of up to \$5,000.00.

Whatever amount of money the board raises by October 15th will be matched up to \$5K. After October 15th, the membership will be challenged to meet the amount raised by the board. You will hear more about this at the September monthly meeting. Please be thinking about a contribution to your organization. We are very fortunate that someone has stepped forward to assist us in meeting our financial needs.

As I begin preparing my garden and yard for fall, my thoughts are of cooler weather and fall color. I know these are probably a few months away but worth dreaming about. I also thought about the phrase Indian summer. I did not know that Indian summer was a specific weather pattern. Indian summer occurs as a warm spell after the first freeze. It is thought that the warm spell gave Native Americans a little more time to gather food for the winter. Indian summer gives us just a little more time with our fall gardens. See you at the September meeting.....Laura



Esperanza after over 4 inches of rain in Georgetown.

Photo by Terrie Hahn

Edible Landscape

- Rick E. Schroeder

Third in a series

In the first article we introduced the concept of an edible landscape; in the second article we began discussing specific edible plants that would please your palate and the beauty of your gardens. In this article we will continue introducing you to vegetation that you may add to your edible, economic, and water saving yard.

BASIL: Basil should be in every garden as it grows well in our environment. The plants will grow from 12 to 18 inches in height and generally have green leaves with purple flowers that are 2 to 4 inches in height. There are several varieties (The Red Rubin has red leaves.) so try more than one. Basil may be used in salads or on sandwiches or as a flavoring in any Italian pasta dish.

Rick's tip of the month: Grow purple basil. Take the leaves and put these in a slit in a baked potato before you cook the potato. The leaves mixed with the butter will melt in your mouth. I purchased my first purple basil at the farmer's market in Belton down by the river. The farmer who offered it was from Lantana Farms, 3311 Kegley, in Temple. Lantana Farms is located behind Fed Ex. The nursery has a lemon tree that is about 6 -7 feet high and covered with small lemons when the fruit is blooming. It is worth a visit just to see the lemon tree which is located inside the green house.

BEETS: Beet leaves and beet flowers are colorful and a nice addition to your garden. The beet leaves are edible and add color to your salad. Beets seem to clash with some palates but try something different by cutting thin slices of the beets, placing these in a gallon storage bag, adding salt and pepper, olive oil, and sprinkling a little lemon zest or lemon, shake the bag

thoroughly and bake them in the oven. In recipe books these are called Beet Chips. I tried beets this year but the soil I have was too hard for the beet to form but the leaves were an excellent addition to my salads. So if you grow these make sure soil is soft around the beet bulb.

CHARD: Chard grew very well in my garden this year and was great in my salads. I would not make a whole salad of chards but a few leaves mixed with other greens add some variety to your green salad. The plant I had grew about 18 inches high and produced well since July and is still producing as we approach September. While the variety I have has only green leaves there is one variety that has red leaves, called Ruby Chard. Next year I think I will try some of the Ruby, how about you?



FENNEL: Fennel is another green that you may add a few cuttings to your green salad. The variety I have grew in a shady spot and was well over 6 feet tall. The stalks were tall and wispy; much like a 6 foot dill plant might look like. The fennel in my garden had a black licorice flavor and visitors to the garden, who liked licorice, were amazed at how strong the flavor was.

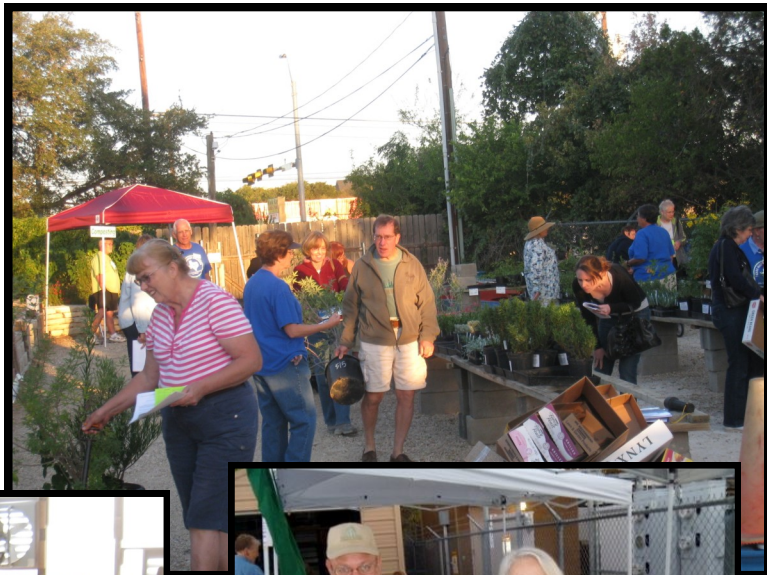
So which edible seeds have you put on your list for this fall? And don't forget to put those fresh cut basil leaves in your baked potato before you cook or grill the potato.

Remember: If you can't eat it, don't plant it.

The Plant Sale is Coming, the Plant Sale is Coming!!!

Remember last year's Plant Sale? This one is bound to be just as successful if not more so!

Go down memory lane with these photos.



Below, take a look at a few of last year's 2011 Spring Garden Tour photos and get energized to help out with this year's!

The Garden Tour is Coming Soon!

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

The 2012 Fall Garden Tour will include the Extension Gardens, Killeen Civic Gardens and gardens of 6 master gardeners and will be presented to the public October 20th. Yard art, gardening books, a tomato clinic, beekeeping skills, pottery making, and pest management will be featured at various locations on the tour.



Announcements

September Monthly Meeting

- **Bernie Hurta**

The **September 12th** monthly meeting program will be Plant Sale Education for the September 22nd Fall Plant Sale. Please attend at 11 am to learn about the plant sale activities and sign up to work that day. There will also be sign-up sheets for the work-day/delivery days before the Saturday plant sale as well sign-up sheets for the Plant Sale day. If you can't attend the meeting, please contact Carla Harmon to get you signed up to work. Her email address is rh5656@global.net.

You can start bringing clean, unbroken plant trays and sturdy boxes (like you get at Sam's) on monthly meeting day.

Fredericksburg/Wildseed Farms Field Trip

- **Bernie Hurta**

There are still some seats available for the Friday, **September 14th** Field Trip to Fredericksburg and Wildseed Farms. We will leave the Extension Office at **7:30 am**. We will go to Fredericksburg first to shop on Main Street and eat lunch. Then around 12:30 we will go to Wildseed Farms to shop and attend the wildflower planting seminar at 2 pm. The seminar is free, however, we are asking at least five dollars per passenger for gas to be paid to the driver. Please email Bernie Hurta (at bhurta@gmail.com) if you would like to go on the field trip.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brenda or Sophia or Carla.

Native Plant Society Invite

- **Mary Lew Quesinberry**

Master gardeners received this invitation to the Native Plant Society meeting via ask.bcmga@gmail.com

Tonkawa Chapter of the Native Plant Society will meet at 7pm Tuesday, September, 4 at the Scott &

White Conference Center. Room A216.

Topic: Bees presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife, Michael Warriner.

Visitors are encouraged to come.

Join the Christmas Party Committee

- **Ilene Miller**

All interested Master Gardeners are invited to join us on Wednesday, **September 5th at 10:00 am** in the Board Room at the Extension Office for the first planning meeting. The Christmas Party is always a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a chance to raise some money through the Silent Auction for our Association. If you can not be on the committee, there are still lots of opportunities to be involved..... we will need lots of items for the silent auction and we will need volunteers to prepare salads and desserts to supplement our buffet dinner. Contact Ilene Miller at mmiller007@hotmail.com if you need more information or can help in any way.

FYI

Native Plant Society/Williamson

- **Terrie Hahn**

The Native Plant Society/Williamson County is hosting a Native Plant Education Day on **September 8**, 9 am - 4 pm at the Williamson County Extension Center at 3151 North Loop in Georgetown. Admission is free and they will have native plants in four inch pots for sale. Go to www.nativeplantswilliamsoncounty.org

Seminars:

10:00 am – 11:00 am: **Native Plants of Williamson County**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Native Plant Gardening in Extreme Drought**

1:00 pm-2:00 pm: **Invasive Plants and their Texas Native Plant Substitutes**

2:00pm-4:00pm **Member Demonstrations Tables**

FYI

Sweet Sorghum Festival

Join us on Monday, **September 3**, for the 18th Annual Sweet Sorghum Festival at Brazos de Dios. The festival will be from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and there is no admission fee.

Watch as we make sweet sorghum syrup—from pressing the raw cane with a horse-powered mill to cooking the juice into rich, golden brown syrup. Sample some sorghum syrup on freshly baked cornbread made from stoneground cornmeal! For more info, go to: www.sustainlife.org/events.php or call 254-754-9600.

Austin Cactus & Succulent Society 2012 Fall Show & Sale

Saturday & Sunday, **September 1st & 2nd**
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[Austin Area Garden Center](#) at Zilker Botanical Garden

- FREE admission with paid admission to Zilker Botanical Garden (\$2 adults, \$1 children & seniors)
- Plant show with specimen cacti and succulent plants from around the world
- Plant sales with vendors from Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma
- Handcrafted pottery by Austin artists David Gutman & Rick Van Dyke
- Daily silent auction and hourly plant raffles
- Expert advice and free literature available
- For more information, contact Bob Barth at 512-327-1173

Photo by Werner Hahn

Dallas Arboretum's Gardens in Full Fall Splendor

The Dallas Arboretum is celebrating Autumn at the Arboretum from **September 22 - November 21** with their Pumpkin Village featuring 50,000 pumpkins. At the same time the Chihuly Art Glass Exhibit in the Gardens will be going on **until November 5th**. Go to www.dallasarboretum.org or call 214-515-6522 for more information.

Clark Gardens Botanical Park is a Pleasant Surprise

- Terrie Hahn

If you happen to be in the neighborhood of Mineral Wells, you may want to stop by Clark Gardens Botanical Park. The road up to the gardens didn't give the impression that it was going to be worth the detour. Werner and I took on our way to Lubbock, but it was 35 acres of beauty. Call (940) 682-4856 or go to www.clarkgardens.org for more information.



What's Happening in Your Yard?

Great Looking Plants in August!

- Darla Menking

Rain lilies blooming in my flower bed are beautiful evidence of the weather we have enjoyed last week!



This stone crop sedum is one tough plant. I have transplanted this one a couple of times and it comes back just as strong and healthy as ever!

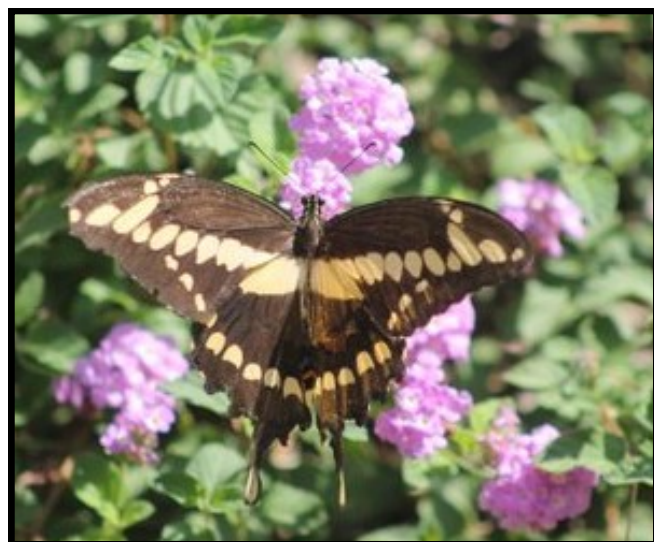


I planted this "beauty" last fall, so this was its first year to bloom. I wasn't disappointed!

Garden Visitor

- Frances Idoux

A swallow-tail butterfly came to lunch on my lantana.



What's Happening in Your Yard?

It's Raining Tadpoles!

- Terrie Hahn

Werner and I have a small dried out pond that was always leaking and too much work, so we were thinking about filling it in. Of course, you know how that goes; we didn't get around to making a decision and when we got soooo much rain a couple of weeks ago, the pond filled up. The next night, we heard the croaks coming from the pond and sure enough it was covered with frog eggs in the morning. We initially had hundreds of tadpoles, but the numbers are dwindling. We think birds are eating some and there probably isn't enough algae to sustain that many. We are putting water in as the water evaporates and leaks out of the pond. We just thought it might be interesting to see how many frogs we end up with.



I should add this question to the Q & A column below. ***Where did these frogs come from and how did they know the empty pond was full again-the pond has been TOTALLY dry for quite some time now!***

Q & A

Editor's note: This is a new column for Questions and Answers. When I get a question from a MG, I'll put it out there for other MG's to answer and publish the answer for everyone to benefit from it. Please send your questions and answers to me at moompie45@hotmail.com or call me at 512-863-9837.

And this month's question:

- Terrie Hahn

Who can tell me the name of this plant? I got it at a BCMGA Fall Plant Swap. It was just a piece from someone's plant. I don't know whose it was. It loves the heat. It doesn't mind if you forget to water it. I cut it back in the spring and it grows like crazy! I love this plant-just don't know what it is!



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