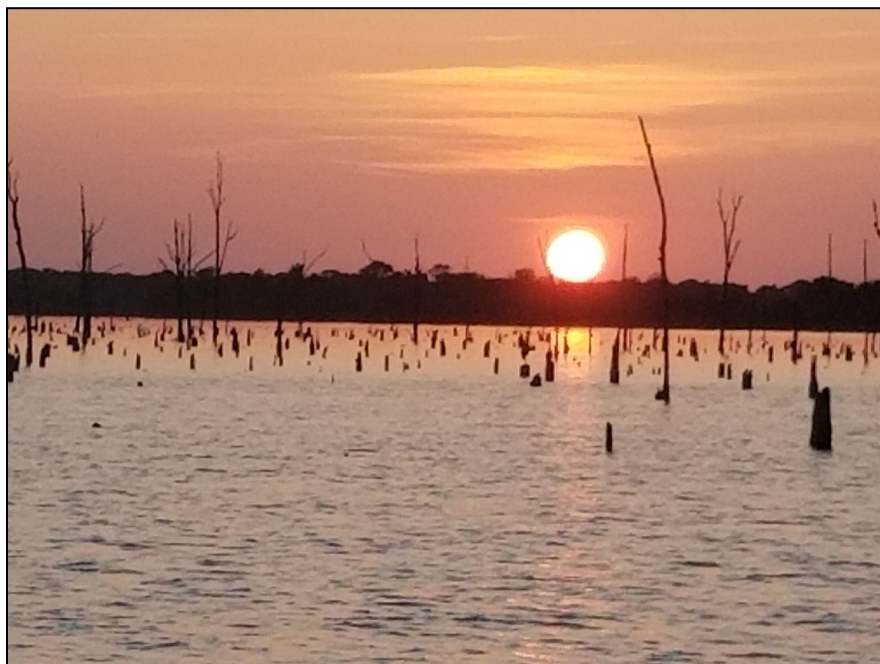


The Blooming Bell



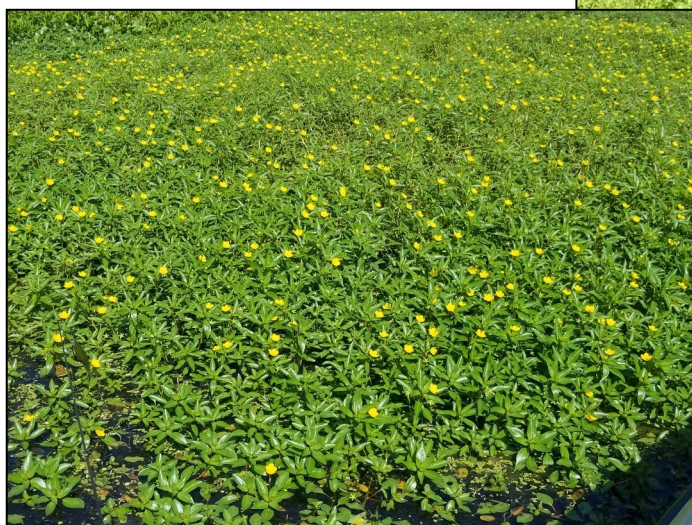
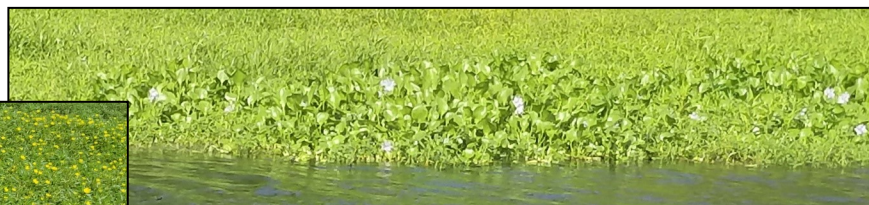
September 2018



Later in August, I got to see a few mountains and forests, a lot of tall corn and soybeans, and the Mississippi River while on my 2,820 mile bike ride to Milwaukee, WI. We rode through OK, AR, MO, IA and WI. I really enjoyed the cooler weather as well as the landscapes and seeing everything green.

While fishing at Lake Fork in mid-August, I caught a few fish and saw some beautiful sunsets as well as some pretty water plants growing on the water's edge. North East Texas was very green and a little cooler.

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30						1
2	3	4	5 Work Day 7 am* Burger Wed. 10:30 am Herb Study-Fennel 9:30 am	6	7 Wildseed Farm-Fredericksburg 9 am	8
9	10	11 Fire Ant Control-Killeen 6 pm	12 Work Day 7 am* Social 8:30 am General Meeting 9 am Christmas Party mtg -after general mtg	13	14 Montessori Gardening-Temple 8 am Memorial Tree Dedication-Temple Children's Hospital 2 pm	15
16	17	18 Tops and Bottoms of Plants-Temple, Meridith 9 am	19 Work Day 7 am* Plant Sale volunteer meeting - 9 am	20 Gardening in Bell County - Greenhouse Basics 6:30 pm 2018 Conservation Expo-Belton 8 am	21 Eggshell Gardening-Belton Education Station Center 8:15 am	22
23	24 Nature Walk-Temple 9:45 am	25 Blooming Bell deadline Nature Walk-Temple 9:45 am Plant Sale workday - am	26 Work Day 7 am* BOD Meeting 9 am Nature Walk-Temple 9:45 am Stand Down Event-Temple VA 8 am Plant Sale workday - am	27 Nature Walk-Temple 9:45 am Plant Sale workday - am	28 Nature Walk-Temple 9:45 am Plant Sale workday - am	29 Plant Sale - 8 am to 1 pm

Upcoming events:

- ◆ Herb Study, Classic Cottage Garden Ornamentals, Belton, Oct. 3
- ◆ Bamberger Ranch Tour, Johnson City, Oct. 4
- ◆ Fall Plant Swap, Belton, Oct. 10
- ◆ Gardening in Bell County, Texas Native Gardening in the Winter, Belton, Oct. 18
- ◆ Rain Barrel Workshop, Belton, Oct. 20

* In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.

Remember to record volunteer service hours and education hours separately each month. You may include your travel time to meetings and work projects as service hours.

The President's Corner

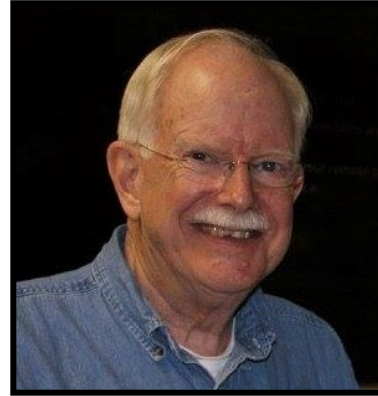
- Wayne Schirner

September is an exciting time for vegetable gardeners in Central Texas because it marks the start of planting for the fall garden. We are fortunate that we have two distinct growing seasons where most vegetables can be grown. Don't let the heat we have been experiencing lull you into forgetting to plan ahead for planting at the right time. The tomatoes I planted the first part of August are doing great and once the temperatures drop later in September, they will start to flower and bear fruit. Many of the vegetables we plant in September and October germinate best at temperatures in the mid-70's, so direct sowing when it is this hot will frequently be disappointing. If you don't have the ability to start your own plants indoors, start looking for plants to transplant into your garden. Of course, the best place to look will be at the BCMGA Fall Plant sale on September 29th where we will again offer a selection of vegetables and herbs appropriate for fall planting.

Speaking of the Fall Plant Sale, that is another great opportunity for members to acquire volunteer service hours. Our membership is currently up to 151, but there are still 30 members who have not logged a single hour of volunteer service for this year. There are another 27 members who have logged less than the 12-hour minimum requirement. In addition to helping out on the day of the sale, there will be lots to do on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the sale. There really should be no excuse for anyone to not get the required volunteer service hours to maintain their certification.

The By-Laws committee has been working hard to revise our current By-Laws. We expect the new recommended By-Laws to be posted on the web site before the September general membership meeting. Members will have an opportunity to discuss the changes at the October general membership meeting, and we will vote at the November general membership meeting. The October meeting is also when the slate of officers to be elected for terms starting January 1, 2019 will be presented, and we will vote on those positions at the November meeting.

In case you haven't noticed, the web-site has been undergoing significant changes that will make it easier for us to find things on the site. If you find anything that you think needs to be changed or improved, send a message to one of the members working on that project: Pat Johnson, Rachael Glass, Kathy Love, or Gail Christian. One goal is to make sure our site stays current and doesn't continue to promote



things that occurred in the past. The web-site is really the face of our organization to the community, and we want anyone who visits the site to be able to find current and relevant information.

That's it for this month. Have fun in your garden.



Bell County Master Gardener web site
<https://txmg.org/bell/>

1 More Thing...

- Wayne Schirner

I try to regularly look at the documents that are available for viewing on the web-site and in the VMS system. I recently found a document in the VMS system that I hadn't previously noticed. Near the bottom in the left-hand column is a link to Newsletters/Documents, which takes you another link for Membership Documents.

At the bottom of the documents on that link is one titled "TMG Volunteer Agreement Form." There is a comment that this form is supposed to be completed yearly. I don't recall having to do this, so it caught my attention. Perhaps I completed this form when I was a new class member, but I certainly haven't signed one since then. Even if we don't sign a new form every year, I do think it is a good idea for everyone to review the form regularly, because it does provide some guidelines on our role as Master Gardeners.

In my efforts to encourage evidence-based recommendations, I was particularly drawn to one bullet: "Recommend and use (when functioning as a Master Gardener) only Texas A&M AgriLife approved information for any public pesticide, herbicides, fertilizer or cultural practices." It doesn't matter to me what you, as an individual, do in your own garden or landscape. However, when recommending things to others, we must avoid discussing many of the "home remedies" that we have heard about or found on the web. The only pesticides and herbicides that we can recommend, as Master Gardeners, are those things that are labeled for that purpose. That's the law. No home-made insecticidal soaps, no vinegar concoctions for herbicides, etc.

I encourage everyone to look for the evidence to support what they are telling other people. There is a lot of great information on the web, but there is also a lot of junk. Learn how to tell the difference.

 Master Gardener Program

Texas A&M AgriLife Approved Info



Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement



We appreciate your commitment to the Texas Master Gardener program. Your satisfaction and progress in this volunteer position is important to us. Please read the following expectations and indicate your willingness to cooperate by signing the end of this form. This form must be signed and filed with the county Extension office, and will need to be updated annually. Volunteers not adhering to all items in this agreement may forfeit their certification as a Master Gardener volunteer.

I understand that I am trained by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in the field of Horticulture and I am expected to extend research based information to the public on behalf of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. In exchange for the minimum of 50 hours of Master Gardener Training provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, I will:

- Commit to a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service to the horticultural programming efforts in _____ County within one year to become a certified Master Gardener.
- I understand that in order to maintain active status as a Master Gardener Volunteer, I must volunteer _____ (varies by county, but must be a minimum 12 hours) hours annually after my intern year and gain _____ (varies by county, but must be a minimum 6 hours) continuing education hours annually.
- Provide a record of this service as directed by the Master Gardener Program Coordinator.
- Comply with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Background Check policy. The background check is to be renewed every three years.

When acting as a Texas Master Gardener volunteer I agree to:

- Consistently exhibit a positive professional manner toward and about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Master Gardener Program, the Master Gardener Coordinator, other Master Gardener volunteers and clients.
- Carry out and discharge all duties in a responsible and timely manner.
- Avoid conflict of interests
 - Not use my Master Gardener status to promote any commercial activity or private business.
 - Volunteer's efforts for their place of employment will not be considered as volunteer service to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- Recommend and use (when functioning as a Master Gardener) only Texas A&M AgriLife approved information for any public pesticide, herbicides, fertilizer or cultural practices.
- Provide my own transportation and pay my own expenses incurred as part of official volunteer activities. (Expenses may be tax deductible with proper documentation.) Some County Master Gardener Associations may assist volunteers with expenses to certain types of events. Check with your local Master Gardener Program Coordinator for more information on specific association policies and procedures.
- Act in accordance with the highest standard of ethics:
 - Not physically, verbally or sexually harass/abuse anyone
 - Refrain from illegal or unsafe behavior
 - Dress appropriately and not use harsh language

In regard to Master Gardener Coordinators, Master Gardener volunteers will:

12/2013

- Recognize the responsibilities of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service staff/ Master Gardener Coordinator in setting program priorities, standards and direction. Specific projects for the performance of the volunteer work are determined locally and should reflect local needs.
- Refer all commercial horticulture inquiries to the Master Gardener Coordinator or other Extension staff.

In regard to Master Gardener Colleagues, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- Welcome volunteers from all backgrounds
- Respect and safeguard the individual rights, competencies, safety, and property

In regard to Clients, Master Gardener volunteers will:

- Provide quality service to the public without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

I further understand that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will:

- Provide training, supervision, and direction to Master Gardeners through the local county Extension office.
- Communicate expectations and responsibilities of the program to volunteers.
- Match volunteer skills and interests with volunteer opportunities within the county.
- Support Master Gardener volunteers and the local Master Gardener Association.
- Provide continuing education opportunities.
- Provide access to Extension horticulture reference materials and reasonable access to Extension professionals.
- Uphold and cultivate a trustful relationship between staff and volunteers.
- Reassign and/or terminate, if necessary, any volunteer who does not uphold Texas Master Gardener policies, procedures, guidelines, and/or values.

I understand that, as a volunteer, I will not be acting as a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service employee and will not receive pay or employee benefits. I also understand that I am not covered by workers' compensation laws in connection with my volunteer affiliation. I understand and agree that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and I both have the right to end my volunteer relationship with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at any time, for any reason, and without advance notice.

Signature _____

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Information taken from: Purdue, Rutgers, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, California, & Texas (Montgomery Co.) Master Gardener Programs.

12/2013

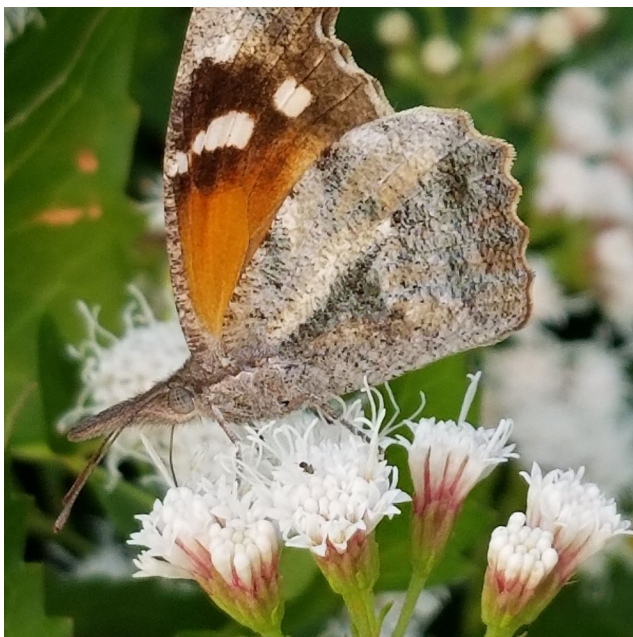
Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Snout Butterflies

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

In late summer and into fall Central Texas can sometimes have an outbreak of snout butterflies where thousands, if not millions, of these butterflies can be seen in mass migration. While the migration lasts a relatively short period of time, a couple of weeks, it can be a beautiful sight.

Snout butterflies are called such due to elongated mouthparts called palps that extend forward from their head to form a snout. These butterflies have front wings with a squared off tip. Wings are edged in brown with orange towards the base. The underside of the hindwing is a mottled violet- grey. Caterpillars are green with light stripes running longitudinally along the body. They have small heads and appear to be humped because the first couple of abdominal segments are swollen.



Caterpillars primarily feed on tender foliage of hackberry trees. Adults feed on nectar from flowers and can also be attracted to decaying fruit. Males are often seen patrolling near host plants seeking females. When adults are at rest on plants with wings folded up over the abdomen, they mimic dead leaves.

Snout butterflies have a complete life cycle with the winter being spent in the adult stage. There can be up to four generations per year. No management is typically needed.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
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Do You Know About...?

Unusual Greens for the Winter Garden

- Rebecca Burrow

Everyone knows about lettuce and kale, but what about other greens for the winter garden? One can only eat so many salads while waiting for tomato season again, but what if that salad contained mizuna, chicory, tatsoi, claytonia, mâche, and sorrel as well? It would not be so boring anymore!

Central Texas is an optimal location for easily growing winter greens. It doesn't get extremely cold, which means a row cover may not even be necessary most of the time. But it usually doesn't get hot enough to make these cold weather greens bolt and taste bitter. It is worth trying some unusual winter greens. They are nutritious and low maintenance veggies to keep a gardener occupied and in fresh produce until spring. Most are fast growing, being harvestable in 3-5 weeks, and can be used in succession plantings from October through March.

This article will just list a few veggies for consideration. If you want a more detailed view, the *Four-Season Harvest* by Eliot Coleman is a wonderful read!



Escarole

(*Cichorium endivia var. latifolia*) A relative of Belgian endive, escarole is known for being the green of choice for Italian wedding soup and the best green for soups in general (being neither too stout nor limp). It is also eaten sautéed and in pasta. The darker outer

leaves are slightly bitterer than the inner leaves. It is high in vitamin A and K as well as folate and iron.

Mizuna

(*Brassica rapa var. niposinica*) Also known as Japanese mustard greens, mizuna is a popular and tasty green usually eaten fresh or tossed in a soup or stir-fry at the last moment. It has a fresh, crisp, slightly peppery taste and can be harvested repeatedly. Some people use it as a garden edging as well, because it is so attractive as well as appetizing. It is high in vitamins A, C, and K.

Arugula

(*Eruca sativa*) This green, known in the Mediterranean as "rocket," has been grown since Roman times and has delighted the world with its spicy, pungent flavor. This crop might need a row cover if it freezes to protect from frost. Abundant in European and Middle Eastern cuisine, arugula is used in pasta, soup, meat dishes, seafood, and of course, salads. It is rich in vitamin C and potassium.

Tatsoi

(*Brassica rapa var. rosularis*) This come-and-cut-again green forms a rosette and is a great replacement for spinach in not only Asian recipes, but also goes wonderfully with a nice steak. It tastes peppery, nutty, and earthy. This green withstands temperatures to -10° F, so in our part of Texas, no row cover needed! It is high in vitamin C, calcium, and potassium.

- Continued on next page -

Do You Know About...?

Unusual Greens for the Winter Garden - con't.

- Rebecca Burrow



Claytonia

(*Claytonia perfoliata*) Called Miner's Lettuce or Spring Beauty, it is a native of the entire east coast of North America, but is particularly common in California. This green prefers cool, sandy, and shady conditions (think stream bank). Warning, it can become weedy. It is high in vitamin C, but also high in oxalates. It is commonly used in salads alongside stronger tasting greens like arugula or mizuna.

Mâche

(*Valerianella locusta*) These delicate rosettes have a sweet, gentle, and nutty flavor with a soft mouth feel. Unlike most of the other greens, mâche is often eaten alone and lightly dressed with oil. This tiny green takes longer than some of the others, up to 8 weeks, and is harvested whole. Consider using it as a low-growing cover among other garden plants (it only requires 1x2 inches of space each). It will appreciate the shade. Mâche is high in vitamin C, B6, iron, and potassium.

Sorrel, perennial

(*Rumex acetosa*) A relative of our native sorrel, *Rumex crispus*, perennial sorrel is a lemony, tart vegetable that gets its tanginess from oxalic acid. It is perennial, but does better as an annual in Texas because the summer heat makes it bolt. If growing as a perennial, divide frequently and harvest leaves often. It is stewed with vegetables and meats or as a replacement for similar cooked greens like turnip or mustard greens.

Sugarloaf Chicory

(*Cichorium intybus*) This chicory (related to endive, escarole, and radicchio) creates a sturdy upright head instead of making sprawling rosettes, hence the "loaf". Some growers have noted that this upright habit makes them less prone to rot. It has a sweetness to go with its bitterness. Braise or grill the outer leaves while the inner leaves are delicious raw or blanched. This perennial can be harvested whole or leaves cut throughout the winter.

I hope you consider growing some of these delicious greens this winter! There is almost no recipe one of these uncommon greens cannot be used in to add a punch of pizzazz and nutrition to your plate.

Do You Know About...?

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General Turfgrass Management Tips for Fall

Written by Dr. Becky Grubbs

Watering

Moving into fall typically means a drop in temperatures and an increase in natural precipitation. As these changes occur, be sure to adjust your irrigation practices accordingly. Plants will gradually require less and less water as we proceed into the fall. Fall lawn water requirements are usually $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of those required during summer. One way to prevent overwatering during this period is to water only once visible leaf wilt occurs.

Irrigation should be turned off entirely on lawns once warm-season turfgrass has gone dormant for the winter and is no longer actively growing.

It is particularly important to *minimize leaf wetness* as cooler temperatures arise in order to prevent the onset of disease. Many of our common turfgrass diseases including large patch or brown patch disease (*Rhizoctonia solani*) prefer cool, wet conditions. As temperatures begin to drop below 70° F, these diseases are more likely to occur. In order to minimize the period of leaf wetness, it is strongly recommended that lawns be watered during nighttime or early morning hours. Watering too early in the evening extends the period of leaf wetness, increasing the likelihood of disease. Again, it is particularly important not to overwater during this critical time.

Dr. Lindsey Hoffman will share more about fall turfgrass diseases in a later section. Keep reading!

Mowing

As temperatures begin to cool, warm-season grass will gradually require less frequent mowing as it will not be growing as aggressively as it does in summer months. If disease becomes a concern, mow when the lawn is dry, and consider cleaning mower blades between mowings and before moving from a suspected diseased to a non-diseased area.

- Wayne Schirner

While it's still pretty hot around the state, it's already time to start thinking ahead to turfgrass management for the fall. We often think of lawn care as more of a summer affair, but the truth is that **fall is a critical season** for maintaining the overall health of our turfgrass system. As temperatures drop and our grass becomes less active, there are new opportunities for the encroachment of winter weeds and the infestation of diseases that thrive in cool, wet conditions.

Here is what you'll find in this issue:

General Fall Management Recommendations

Dr. Becky Grubbs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

'Hey, what's that patch?': A Segment on Turfgrass Diseases

Dr. Lindsey Hoffman, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Fall Weed Management and Winter Weed Prevention

Dr. Becky Grubbs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Student Showcase: Summer Internships

Dr. Benjamin Wherley, Texas A&M University

Cool-season Grass Management: Thoughts from the Panhandle

Dr. Joey Young, Texas Tech University

AggieTurf Research First Look: What Does Coffee Have to do with Turfgrass Management?

Garrett Flores, Texas A&M University

Questions about TLC?

Dr. Becky Grubbs

bgrubbs@tamu.edu | 979.845.0603

TLC newsletter link: <https://conta.cc/2Pfv3G4>

Do You Know About...?

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- Wayne Schirner

Mowing - con't.

Consider raising the mowing height slightly in the months leading up to dormancy. Do not exceed the recommended height of cut range for your grass species. A slightly higher mowing height can be beneficial in encouraging deep, below-ground growth that is beneficial for overwintering as well as shading out/preventing germination of winter weeds.

Once the grass becomes dormant, mowing is typically only recommended when it aids in the control of winter annual and perennial weeds. The timely removal of flowers and seed heads can prevent the spread of these weeds across an area. When mowing for this purpose, clippings should be bagged and physically removed from the site.

Fertilization

Additional input for this section provided by Dr. Tony Provin

Soil Chemistry Professor and Extension Specialist and Director of the Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory

If possible, soil testing should be performed at least once annually, and fall is a great time to take soil samples. Several nutrients play a critical role in allowing plants to adequately prepare for winter months. For example, potassium (K) helps to facilitate starch synthesis, or the production of storage carbohydrates. A number of nutrient deficiencies, including potassium, phosphorous (P), calcium (Ca), and sulfur (S) have been associated with increased disease susceptibility. Before transitioning into a new season, it is beneficial to evaluate soil fertility and ensure that nutrients levels are balanced and appropriate.

To learn more about soil testing, contact your County Extension Agent

or visit <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

Nitrogen

Good nitrogen fertility practices become increasingly important during the fall months. Historically, fertilization of turfgrass with nitrogen was often considered a must-do requirement to maintain a strong stand of grass. In general, insufficient nitrogen reduces overall growth and density, and pre-dormancy deficiencies can deprive the plant of reserves that support growth as the turfgrass is coming out of dormancy the following spring. **However, late or excessive fall nitrogen applications can interfere with winter dormancy, increase the likelihood of winter injury, and exacerbate disease.**

Soil testing in late summer/early fall can both confirm existing nutrient status and allow for an accurate evaluation of that year's nitrogen utilization. Typically, 4-6 weeks after the last fertilization, nitrate-N, the dominant plant-available form of nitrogen in the soil, is often expected to be near-zero. The presence of elevated nitrates is a strong indicator of 1) over-fertilization or 2) other growth-limiting factors including pH, macro/micro-nutrient limitation, compaction, drought/water limitation, etc. **Applying additional nitrogen when current soil nitrates are elevated often results in increased disease pressure, winter weeds and the potential for localized water impairments.**

Our recommendation is to put out your final nitrogen application for the year *no later than 6 weeks* prior to the historical first frost date for your region of the state. Again, your fall soil test can help you determine whether a nitrogen application is appropriate, and approximately how much nitrogen is required. Close observations of grass growth in the weeks immediately prior to the proposed last seasonal nitrogen application can also be used to determine the need for the final application. If weekly growth is greater than $\frac{3}{4}$ " in height for all but the dwarf turfgrass varieties, additional nitrogen may not be needed at all. **Remember that shaded areas will generally require less nitrogen than areas in full sun.** Shaded areas have an increased susceptibility to disease, as they are already under stress. Take particular care to not over-fertilize or over-water these areas.

To look up historic first frost dates for other areas in Texas, please follow the link below:

<https://www.plantmaps.com/>

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- Wayne Schirner

Nitrogen - con't.

City	First Frost	Last N Application
Amarillo	October 21 - 31	Sept 10 - 17
Austin	Dec 1 - Dec 10	Oct 20 - 27
Corpus Christi	Dec 21 - Dec 31	Nov 9 - 16
Dallas	Nov 21 - Nov 30	Oct 10 - 17
El Paso	Nov 1 - Nov 10	Sept 20 - 27
Houston	Dec 1 - Dec 10	Oct 20 - 27
Lubbock	Nov 1 - Nov 10	Sept 20 - 27
Odessa	Nov 11 - Nov 20	Sept 30 - Oct 7
San Antonio	Nov 21 - Nov 30	Oct 10 - 17

“Hey, what’s that patch?” A Segment on Turfgrass Diseases

Written by Dr. Lindsey Hoffman

It has been a hot and dry summer, but we are approaching the time of year when temperatures will start to decrease and moisture will become more available. Cool, moist conditions favor disease development and if your lawn is still experiencing stress from the summer, it may be more susceptible to infection by fungal pathogens. In addition, conditions such as soil pH, poor growing conditions, improper fertility and mowing height, along with moisture imbalances can make turfgrass more susceptible to fungal infection.

The most common turfgrass diseases that may be present in Texas home lawns during the fall are large patch (caused by *Rhizoctonia* spp. [Fig. 1]) and take-

all root rot (caused by *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *graminis* [Fig. 2]). Large patch and take-all are classified as ‘patch diseases’ because of the irregular shaped patches of dead turfgrass that develop following infection. Both diseases, if left untreated, can cause widespread damage and loss of turfgrass surfaces.



Fig. 1 - Large patch symptoms caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* in St. Augustinegrass

From Dr. Young-ki Jo's publication *How to Diagnose and Manage Large Patch Disease on Warm-Season Turfgrass*



Fig. 2 - Large, irregular patches of take-all root rot on St. Augustinegrass.

From Dr. Young-ki Jo's publication *Take-all Root Rot*

Development of large patch is most common in St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass, and is favored by air temperatures ranging between 75 and 85 °F and moist conditions, but can occur anytime under cool-moist conditions. Initial symptoms of large patch include yellowing of leaf tissue at the edge of patches and leaf blades easily separate from the main portion of the plant if gently pulled. As the infection progresses, the turfgrass will look brown and wilted and will eventually develop into areas of blighted turfgrass. In comparison to large patch, take-all generally occurs

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- Wayne Schirner

“Hey, what’s that patch?” A Segment on Turfgrass Diseases - con’t.

during spring and early summer, but can occur during any time of the year if the turfgrass is being affected by other stresses. Take-all is a fungus that lives in the soil and causes root dieback, although yellowing of leaf tissue is one of the primary symptoms. As the infection progresses, turfgrass can easily be lifted from the soil and roots will appear black and wilted.

The most effective approach to preventing large patch and take-all is to use appropriate cultural practices to maintain a healthy turfgrass surface all year. Specifically, large patch is favored by conditions such as saturated soils and high nitrogen rates while high soil pH is more conducive to the development of take-all. Addressing the underlying issues utilizing proper cultural practices will help mitigate the potential for disease development in the future. Dr. Becky Grubbs has provided information on practices that promote a healthy turfgrass surface and those guidelines can be found above.

Chemical controls for both diseases do exist, but fungicides will only prevent the occurrence or spread of the disease and cannot fix already damaged areas. Prior to applying a fungicide, it will be necessary to confirm that large patch or take-all are the culprits for causing damage. In some cases, insects such as chinch bugs can actually cause damage that looks similar to both diseases. Therefore, it is necessary to confirm the presence of a fungal pathogen by consulting with an expert or sending samples to the Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab (<https://plantclinic.tamu.edu/>) for diagnosis. If preventative fungicides are necessary for large patch, applications should begin in mid-late September and can be made monthly during fall and spring months. **Always remember when using any pesticide to read the label and wear the proper personal protective equipment.**

In closing, keep in mind that a healthy lawn is a happy lawn. Texas lawns are subjected to multiple stresses throughout the year, but proper management and TLC can help prevent against disease development and can help reduce costs associated with treating and repairing affected areas. Don’t ever hesitate to contact your local County Extension Agent or Extension Specialist with questions or concerns; remember we are here to help!

Our turfgrass pathologist, Dr. Young-ki Jo, has written several factsheets with additional information on turfgrass diseases including the two discussed above. To view or download copies of Dr. Jo’s publications on turfgrass diseases, please visit our -

<https://aggeturf.tamu.edu/publications/>

Fall Weed Management and Winter Weed Prevention

Written by Dr. Becky Grubbs

Cooler temperatures can mean the germination and growth of winter annual and perennial weeds on your lawn. Below, you will find images of a handful of common winter annual weeds.



Rescuegrass



Annual Bluegrass



Common Chickweed



Henbit

To the best of your ability, always attempt to take an integrated approach to weed management. **Integrated weed management (IWM)** encompasses several methods of control: *preventative, biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical control*. In utilizing IWM, you are more likely to prevent more severe weed problems from occurring or re-occurring on any given site.

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- Wayne Schirner

Fall Weed Management and Winter Weed Prevention - con't.

Preventative Control

Use caution when bringing in materials that may contain weed seeds including compost, topsoil, or new grass in any form (sod, seeds, etc.). Seeds may also be physically brought in by mowers that are being used on multiple sites without being cleaned.

Biological Control

Biological control is the utilization of "natural enemies" of the weed(s) to mitigate growth and attempt to curb populations. This may include the use of insects, microorganisms, nematodes, or even livestock including backyard chickens or guineas. Always conduct thorough research prior to introducing biological agents into your yard.

Mechanical Control

Mowing is one method of mechanical control. Mow frequently enough to help regulate weed growth. As was mentioned previously, the timely removal of seed heads can prevent the spread of weeds across your lawn. When there is a manageable number of weeds, consider physical removal of individual weeds either by hand or with the help of tools. Mechanical control is often one of the best methods of controlling mature or established weeds, as chemical control options are generally less effective during this stage.

Cultural Control

While turfgrass is still actively growing in the late summer and early fall, take steps to maintain a healthy, dense stand of turfgrass that is able to crowd out emerging weeds. Many of these steps are outlined in the previous management sections of this newsletter.

Cultural methods including thatch-removal and the collection of grass clippings or leaf litter can also play an important role in preparing an area for pre-emergent herbicide applications. More information below.

Chemical Control

Pre-emergence Herbicides

Pre-emergence herbicides are one way to prevent weed problems before they start. These products need to be applied prior to the germination of annual weeds in order to be effective. It is difficult to pinpoint specific dates for pre-emergence applications due to variability in environmental conditions, but typically, these products are applied between mid-August and mid-September. For a local opinion on appropriate timing, contact your AgriLife County Extension Agent. In general, it is better to be too early than too late with a pre-emergence application. A second application can always be made when necessary. Follow the label recommendations.

Pre-emergence products should not be used when you are planning to over-seed with cool-season grasses.

To improve efficacy of these products, remove any grass clippings or leaf litter prior to application in order to ensure that the product is able to get to the soil. You may also need to remove excess layers of thatch when the thatch layer exceeds 0.5" in thickness. For clarification on this, contact your County Extension Agent or Extension Turfgrass Specialist.

Always follow label instructions, as tolerant species/cultivars, appropriate rates, timing, and post-application practices (i.e. irrigation) may vary across products. Different varieties of a particular species, (e.g., some dwarf-type bermudagrasses or individual St. Augustinegrass varieties) may exhibit different levels of sensitivity to both pre- and post-emergence herbicide products.

Do You Know About...?

Turfgrass - Texas Lawn Companion - Fall 2018 Edition - TXA&M

- Wayne Schirner

Fall Weed Management and Winter Weed Prevention - con't.

Select Pre-Emergent Herbicide Chemistries			
BA: Bahiagrass BE: Bermudagrass BU: Buffalograss CA: Carpetgrass CE: Centipedegrass SA: St. Augustinegrass SS: Seashore Paspalum Z: Zoysiagrass B: Bluegrass CBG: Creeping Bentgrass F: Fescue FF: Fine Fescue KB: Kentucky Bluegrass PR: Perennial Ryegrass TF: Tall Fescue			
Active Ingredient	Safe On	Controls	Notes
corn gluten meal	All established turf types	grasses	This is an organic product. It may not be as effective as some other options listed below.
atrazine	BE, CE, SA, Z	Annual grasses, many broadleaf weeds	Can provide early post-emergent control of some weeds. Do not use on alkaline or muck soils. Do not apply 4 months before or 6 months after seeding, or until newly seeded grasses have overwintered. Do not use west of high-rainfall areas of East Texas. Will cause substantial injury to actively growing bermudagrass.
benfen	BA, BE, CE, KB, PR, SA, TF, Z	Annual grasses, some broadleaf weeds	More volatile than other pre-emergent herbicides. Irrigation or rainfall shortly after will improve efficacy.
dithiopyr	BA, BE, BU, CA, CBG, CE, FF, KB, PR, SA, TF, Z	Annual grasses, some broadleaf weeds	Can provide early post-emergent crabgrass control.
idaziflam	BA, BE, BU, CE, SA, Z	Annual grasses, some broadleaf, sedges	Provides early post-emergent control of annual bluegrass and crabgrass. Do not apply to cool-season grasses. Be mindful of nearby cool-season grasses and the potential for off-target movement.
isoxaben	BA, BE, BU, CBG, CE, FF, KB, PR, SA, TF, Z	Broadleaf weeds	Can be combined with some other pre-emergent herbicides to broaden the spectrum of control
S- metolachlor	BA, BE, CE, SA, Z	Annual grasses, some broadleaves, yellow nutsedge	Activate with at least 0.5" of rain/irrigation. Spring green-up may be delayed after application.
oryzalin	BA, BE, BU, CE, SA, TF, Z	Annual grasses, some broadleaf, sedges	This herbicide thins overseeded grasses
pendimethalin	Most warm- and cool-season species	Annual grasses, some broadleaf weeds	
prodiamine	BA, BE, CBG, CE, FF, KB, PR, SA, TF, Z	Annual grasses, some broadleaf weeds	Should be activated by at least 0.5" of irrigation before weeds germinate
simazine	BE, CE, SA, Z	winter annual grassy and broadleaf weeds; some summer annual grasses	Use caution under tree driplines. Non-dormant bermudagrass or zoysiagrass may yellow or slow growth temporarily

This table was adapted from the *Weed, Insect, and Disease Control in Turfgrass Handbook*. To view this publication in its entirety or to view similar publications on turfgrass management and pest control, please visit our [website](#).

A quick word about combination products:

Combination products containing both herbicides and fertilizers (i.e., Weed and Feed) are commonly used as a means of "hitting two birds with one stone". While there are appropriate times to use these products, be mindful of appropriate fertilizer and herbicide timings discussed throughout this newsletter. Remember that the application of fertilizer products, particularly nitrogen, too late or too early in the year can be detrimental to turfgrass health. During transition seasons such as spring and fall, individual, rather than dual, herbicide and fertilizer products can sometimes create the greatest opportunity to time applications appropriately and optimize lawn management practices.

Post-emergence Herbicides

Once weeds have successfully germinated and matured into established plants, you may have to use post-emergence herbicide products for control. There are a number of post-emergence products available for both grassy and broadleaf weeds. You should start by identifying the primary weeds you are trying to control in order to make sure that you purchase a product that is appropriate and labeled for those weeds. Then, you should also ensure that the product you select is appropriate for the species and variety of turfgrass that you have on your lawn. While St. Augustinegrass is more sensitive to products containing 2,4-D and Dicamba, bermudagrass is more sensitive to products containing Atrazine. What is appropriate for one species may not be appropriate for another.

Finally, you should make sure that the product you choose is approved for use in the state of Texas and is appropriate for the environment and time of year that you are using it. The best way to ensure that you are making the best choice is to ask an expert. Again, we suggest that you contact your AgriLife County Extension office for assistance in this matter.

When using any herbicide products, always read the label and wear the appropriate recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

Summer Annual Weed Control in the Fall

You may still be seeing residual summer annual weed activity during the fall transition period including weeds such as slender aster (photo), goosegrass, and crabgrass. Once many of these weeds are established and mature, it can be especially difficult to control them. It is important to remember that in many parts of the state, these will only survive until the first frost. In areas where summer annuals are frequently troublesome, consider the application of a spring pre-emergent in February or March, once soil temperatures rise above 55F. Post-emergence herbicide applications for the control of summer annual weeds should be made when plants are immature to get the best results. The Winter and Spring editions of TLC will also cover this topic.

Do You Know About...?

Turfgrass - Texas Lawn Companion - Fall 2018 Edition - TXA&M

- Wayne Schirner

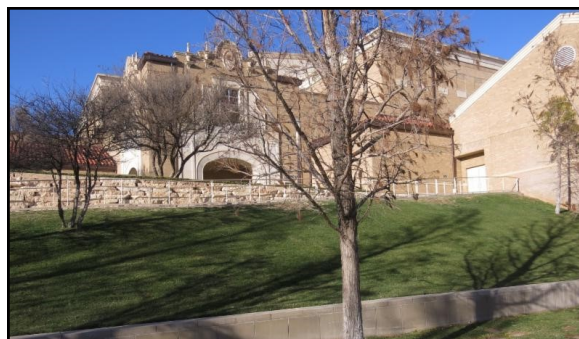
Managing Cool-season Grass During the Fall: Thoughts from the Panhandle

Written by Dr. Joey Young

Drought continues to provide challenges throughout much of the Texas Panhandle. The heat has been a little less recently, but we all can see the finish line for summer approaching. Labor Day is a major holiday throughout the United States, and you may also want to think of it as a holiday for any of you managing cool-season grasses in Texas too. Temperatures generally begin to lessen and days begin to shorten a little reducing stress our cool-season grasses battle throughout the summer. There are some key practices that you want to put in place to ensure your cool-season grass is getting the most out of this Fall season.

If your lawn or cool-season turf didn't fare well with the heat and drought conditions this summer, you are approaching your recovery period. Tall fescue is the primary cool-season grass used in many parts of Texas (DFW, Lubbock, and Amarillo) because it has better heat tolerance than any other cool-season grass (<https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/texas-turfgrasses/tall-fescue/>). One of the reasons tall fescue performs well in our climate is its deep rooting potential. Tall fescue is capable of sending roots deeper into the soil to find water that shallower rooting grasses couldn't access. If you want your grass to grow deeper roots, irrigation management has to be a primary focus to force deeper root penetration. Soil textures are going to impact rooting depth, but watering the grass deep and infrequently will make the turf search for moisture deeper in the soil. Keep in mind that as temperatures decrease in the Fall and days become shorter, there will be less evaporative demand on water. Therefore, watering frequencies should be reduced.

Tall fescue is a bunch-type grass, so it does not grow laterally well at all. If you have larger areas that have been lost or thinned due to harsh weather conditions,



Tall Fescue on the Texas Tech Campus in Lubbock, TX

now is the appropriate and best time to overseed your tall fescue lawn. Do your homework and choose cultivars that will grow well in your environment (***National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Tall Fescue Trials***). Kentucky bluegrass is a viable cool-season turf option in Amarillo or further north into the Panhandle because of the cooler temperatures and higher elevation than other cities (<https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/texas-turfgrasses/kentucky-bluegrass-and-hybrid-bluegrass/>). Kentucky bluegrass has rhizomes that help it spread laterally, so it may be more capable of filling in thin areas with good management.

Fertility is another key component of cool-season turf management during the fall. The majority of nitrogen fertility should be made during the fall. Most lawns containing tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass should be fertilized with approximately 3-4 lbs nitrogen/1,000 sq ft each year with 75% applied in the fall. Labor Day is a great time to start your fertility applications. Making 2 to 3 applications 4 to 6 weeks apart during fall would be ideal. Applications should not be made after freezing temperatures that may lead to dormancy (browning) of the turf, but later season applications may keep your cool-season turf green a bit longer into winter. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass will perform at its best when mowing at the highest possible mowing height. Lawns with either of these grasses would perform best at 2 to 3 inch mowing height. If you choose to aerify your lawn, fall is the most appropriate time to conduct those practices. It would be best to wait until late-September or October after an application or two of fertilizer to improve and speed up recovery from aerification. Putting time and effort into your cool-season grass areas during the Fall will help make next summer much easier.

Do You Know About...?

Turfgrass - Texas Lawn Companion - Fall 2018

Edition - TXA&M

- Wayne Schirner

What Does Coffee Have To Do with Turfgrass Management?

Written by Garrett Flores

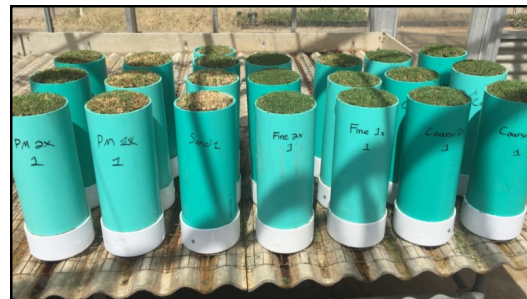
Coffee beans, ground or otherwise, are a common household commodity that are only increasing in popularity. With the amount of coffee that is being brewed either in your home or by a barista, literal tons of "spent coffee grounds" are being produced and are usually just thrown away. Here at Texas A&M University, we are trying to find new and innovative ways to repurpose this byproduct by removing it from the waste stream in order to generate useful products. The objective of these studies are to find applications for these spent grounds in the realm of turf management. Several studies are being conducted here at Texas A&M to test the efficacy of spent coffee in various applications for turfgrass management:



As a Fertilizer

A chemical analysis on coffee grounds revealed an N-P-K ratio of 2.3-0.1-0.5, respectively. A slightly acidic pH of 5.6 was also noted and a carbon-to-nitrogen (C:N) ratio of 20:1 all point to the possibility using grounds as an organic fertilizer in the field. In this study, the spent coffee is sprinkled on top of the turf as

a "topdressing" fertilizer application three times per year and compared with control plots that have not been fertilized at all. Both the control and coffee treatments are tested against plots that are fertilized with common organic and synthetic fertilizers. Several measurements are taken in this field study to measure the effect of each treatment on properties such as water utilization, water-holding capacity, and turfgrass quality and overall health.



As an Alternative to Sphagnum Peat Moss

Sand-based root zones can be found in most putting greens as well as many sports fields today. The turf is grown over sand to allow for rapid drainage and firmer footing for athletes. However, one problem in using sand this way is that it holds very little water and retains very few nutrients compared with some other soil types. Historically, this issue has been remedied by adding amendments to the sand such as sphagnum peat moss, but the process of obtaining sphagnum peat moss is destructive and not sustainable. Peat bogs are drained and allowed to dry before mining the peat off of the land. It is our hope that spent coffee grounds can be used as a replacement for sphagnum moss in the future. Due to the incredible water holding capacity and the ability to adsorb nutrients, there is a strong possibility for grounds to be used in this manner.

Preliminary findings have been encouraging. The photo above shows spent coffee used in a coarse and a fine grind compared to sand alone and the industry standard, peat moss. All of the treatments are amended to replicate the industrial construction method of a sports field. In this study, grasses were watered twice per week. So far, the un-amended sand pots quickly exhibited signs of drought stress while grasses grown in soils amended with spent coffee seemed to respond well.

As a Pre-Emergence Herbicide



In this study, the effect of coffee grounds on seed germination is being compared to a control as well as other organic (corn gluten meal) and synthetic (dithiopyr) pre-emergence herbicides. This study is on-going with no results thus far.

Garrett's research is on-going. Look for future updates about findings from these studies as well as other research coming out of the Texas A&M Turfgrass program.

You can subscribe to future newsletters at our website: <http://www.aggieturf.tamu.edu> - there is a sign-up form on the home page.

What's Been Happening...

August General Meeting

- Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

The August general meeting included the educational presentation by John Atkins on Central Texas Venomous Creatures including snakes, spiders, etc.



Walter Ponder received his Texas Superstar Specialist certification and pin from Wayne Schirner.



Refreshment hosts included Kathleen Lester, Janice Smith, Dorothy Thomas, and Sharon Hardin.



Wayne Schirner presented Master Gardener name badges to Kathleen Lester and Barbara Dalby.



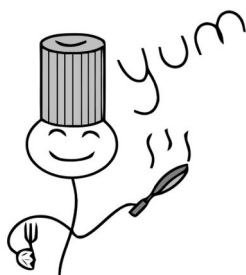
What's Been Happening...

Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy

- Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

On August 31st, Meridith Dunbar's school garden is still flourishing from what the children planted in egg-shell pods in the early spring with Marjorie Gillmeister. This year the children will weigh all that they harvest and will prepare something to eat such as kale chips, eggplant parmigiana, smoothies, and more with the head nutritionist of TISD, Miranda Rhodes and Youth Director, Marjorie Gillmeister.



What's Been Happening...

Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy— Research Project

- Marjorie Gillmeister Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Marjorie Gillmeister and Kelby Kosel worked with 35 children planting kale and lettuce seeds in eggshell pods and newspaper cylinder pots on Friday, August 31.

The research project will consist of children tending to their seedlings as they grow and in six weeks will transplant the seedlings into their school garden, compare to see if seedlings grow best in eggshell pods or newspaper cylinder pots, weigh their harvest, and prepare a dish with what they've grown.



What's Been Happening...

Montessori - Insects, Butterflies & Worms

- Marjorie Gillmeister Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

I had the honor to assist Mary Ann Everett as she shared her wonderful world of Insects, Butterflies, & Worms with 58 children at Montessori in Temple on May 14th. Mary Ann worked with 3 classes with ages ranging from 2-year old to 6-year old children. Special thank you to Mary Ann for bringing joy to Montessori, the children truly loved your lesson.

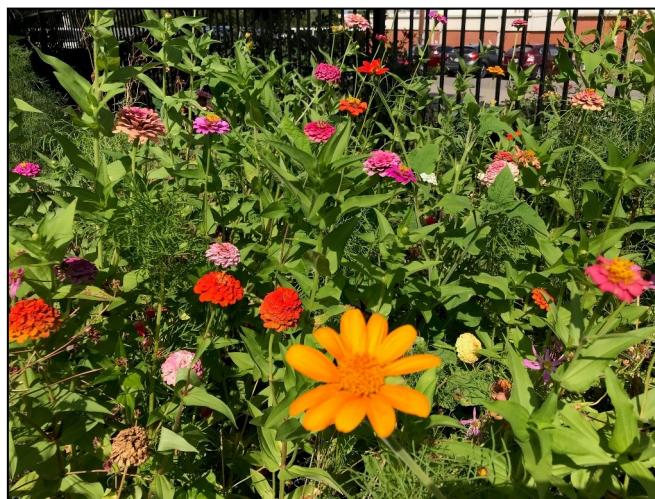


What's Been Happening...

Montessori - Butterfly Garden

- Marjorie Gillmeister Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Marjorie Gillmeister designed a heart shape butterfly garden at Montessori. Twenty-four children ages 3-6 years old transplanted eggshell pod seed starters they had sowed in March and nurtured their plants from start to finish. The children also direct sowed butterfly garden flower seeds zinnias, cosmos, Mexican sunflowers, borage, marigolds and more to bring home the butterflies to their school. After waiting patiently for two months, the butterfly garden is flourishing with so much love from the efforts of each child. "Children are beautiful flowers blooming in the garden."



What's Been Happening...

Ronald McDonald House

- Kathy Patterson Photos by Kathy Patterson

Carol Morisset and I had volunteer helpers from a local church who helped as we retrieved some plants to prepare for a drainage renovation in the Garden of Memories at the Ronald McDonald House



Gardening in Bell County Series - Propagation of Plants - August

Photos by Christy Reese



What's Been Happening...

Back 2 School - Back to Basics Community Faire

- Gail Koontz

Photos by Gail Koontz

Bell County Master Gardeners participated in this event Saturday, August 18, at Wilson Park Recreation Center in Temple. Our booth was staffed by Wayne Schirner, Kathy Love and Gail Koontz. In a perfect location, right next to the Police Department, we made over 100 contacts, gave away lots of good information and answered questions. We made one contact with a middle school in Temple that was passed on to Marjorie Gillmeister.

The event was all about giving school supplies to children and learning more about the participating community resources.

The event was produced by Transform Temple, Wilson Park Recreation Center, United Way of Central Texas and Neighbor-Works Home Ownership Center.

Our own Larry Causey, Temple Daily Telegram Staff Writer, covered the event and wrote a great article for the paper on the following Sunday.



Service Hours Opportunity



- Jane L. Van Praag

BCMGA has reserved a booth for the Bartlett Friendship Fest and Homecoming Saturday, the 15th of this month (always the third weekend of September). So far Joanne Zieschang (jazz 1281@gmail.com), Wayne Zieschang (waynez1122@gmail.com) and I (jivanpraag@sbcglobal.net) are the only ones signed up to operate it throughout the day (or at least until mid-afternoon). If you want to share in the fun, and your surname begins with a letter in the last half of the alphabet, feel free to contact one of us for details. Ha, just kidding: volunteers in the first half of the alphabet are welcome too!

Wayne will be bringing chairs, tables, and the canopy; Joanne will be giving out iris bulbs from her flower bed that was started by her mother, and I'll be distributing literature. We'll have electricity so will be cooled by fans, and there'll be plenty of cold bottled water, sandwiches, and snacks. Some additional interests at this venue: a parade starts at 10; there'll be an official barbecue cook-off; around lunch-time barbecue plates can be purchased for \$10 at the City Hall, with the proceeds going to the town's museum; and the vendors' wares are appealing.

What's Been Happening...

Salado Museum Garden - We Believe in Mer- maids: How Sirena Fest Made Our Gardens Grow

- Susan Terry Photos by Susan Terry

Sirena Fest 2017 was the inaugural year for what proved to be an exciting, very successful, fun family event. Over 3000 people, many in costume, with lots of children streamed into Salado last October 7 for a parade and festival. The organizers had two goals in mind, in addition to creating a fun event: highlight the importance of Salado Creek and its water quality for the Village, and provide a non-profit group with the proceeds from the event to improve the quality of life for the Village.

Keep Salado Beautiful was selected as the non-profit recipient for 2017 and we have improved the Sculpture Garden and developed the Museum Garden with the \$4000 that the Sirena Fest committee presented to us. Thanks to the generosity of the community, our budget for these projects totaled \$6500.

The Sculpture Garden lighting has been enhanced with uplighting to the trees and the sculptures. We have plans to enhance the entrance lighting and additional tree lighting to create a safe atmosphere for evening visits. A sprinkler system will be added, along with new plants this fall to create a more beautiful garden.

The Museum Garden has been a work in progress for almost a year. Wayne Phillips donated the stonework for the new flowerbox, and the Museum had the entire rock pathway and porch redone. Native and adaptive deer resistant plants were selected and planted by the First Monday Gardeners, and they maintain this garden along with Sirena and the Sculpture Garden. A drip sprinkler ensures the plants will thrive. This is a beautiful welcome to our Village.



Come and visit if you would like ideas for your yard; the plant markers identify plants and Salado Library has plant books available for sale @ \$2.00 that provide a wealth of information.

We are so grateful to the Sirena Fest committee for selecting KSB as beneficiaries for 2017. We hope the Village enjoys these gardens. Plan to support Sirena Fest, October 6, 2018 for the fun, but more importantly, the Village will benefit from an All Abilities Playground.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Turks Cap

- Juan Anaya

Photo by Juan Anaya



Juan: I might have added a little too much fertilizer to the Turks cap.

My Wife: Ya think?

Pickles

- Crystal Fisher

Photos by Crystal Fisher

Harvesting yellow Lemon Cucumbers and making some Refrigerator Pickles out of them. They can be eaten in 48 hrs. after going into the frig for up to 2 months. I wanted to make them as colorful as possible:

- Lemon Cucumbers (upper left corner)
- Bell peppers: yellow, green and red. Now adding orange, too. Diced and dropped into the jar
- Regular cucumber slices added, but only a few, want the "lemons" to be mostly used.
- Added slices of white onions or red onions
- Garlic is top right photo. Now, I need to go plant the rest of the garlic buds so I'll have a crop next year.
- Lastly, all the spices: whole mustard seeds, peppercorns, little sugar,



fresh dill and powdered dill plus anything else into the half white vinegar and 1/2 water into the saucepan (heat for the sugar to dissolve)

At the rate everything is growing now, I'll have a lot of pickles. I can't wait to taste these.



Recipes from Herb Study Group -

Tuna Fish Salad

Recipe by Sylvia Maedgen

2 - 5 oz. cans chunk light tuna in water, drained
1 boiled egg, peeled and diced
2 stalks celery, strings removed and finely chopped
1 small Gala apple, peeled and finely chopped
2 TBSP. chopped sweet relish

1/3 c. mayonnaise
1/4 c. Kraft sandwich spread
1/2 tsp. ground fennel
1/2 tsp. fresh ground pepper

Place tuna fish in a container and separate chunks. Combine the mayo and sandwich spread with the tuna, add a little extra mayo if needed. Add the celery, sweet relish, diced apple, mayo, sandwich spread, and seasonings. Gently add in the boiled egg. Add additional mayo or sandwich spread if necessary for a smooth consistency.

Can be used in sandwiches, eaten with crackers, or served on a bed of salad greens.

Mexican Mint Marigold Butter

Recipe provided by Carol Runyan

1-2 green onions with tops
2-3 T finely chopped Mexican Mint Marigold leaves
1/2 tsp orange zest (optional)
2-3 tsp fresh orange juice or white wine

1-2 T chopped pecans or more
1/4 - 1/2 tsp dried mustard (optional)
1 stick (1/4 lb) unsalted butter, softened
salt and white pepper to taste

Chop onions, Mexican Mint Marigold leaves and pecans. Zest the orange and mix all ingredients until well incorporated. Tarragon may replace Mexican Mint Marigold.

Stewpendous Beef Stew

Recipe provided by Carol Runyan

2 lbs stew meat, cubed
2 cans beef broth
6 potatoes, cubed
6 small onions, cubed
10 carrots, 2" sliced
3 stalks celery, cubed
2 T Worcestershire sauce

Approx. 1 tsp anise seed
garlic salt to taste
pepper to taste
2 - 14.5 oz cans whole, sauce or paste tomatoes
2 - 14.5 oz cans water
flour for thickening
2 bay leaves

Place all ingredients in large soup pot. Stew all day. Remove bay leaves. Thicken with flour if necessary.

Add more water if necessary. This stew tastes even better the next day.



The herb study for September included, fennel, anise, and Mexican mint marigold.



Announcements



BCMGA Herb Study 2018-2019

- Kim Pringle

Please join us for our Herb Study on October 3, 2018 from 9:30 to 11:00 am in the meeting room at the Extension Office. Social time from 9:15 to 9:30 am so study can begin promptly at 9:30. This is a participatory study, not a lecture, open to all members of the BCMGA. The study should be manageable around Landscape and Burger Wednesday activities.

The purpose is to educate volunteers about herbs, service the two herb demonstration beds at Extension Office and coordinate public program requests through Speakers Bureau.

Let's be creative and have lots of fun. Recommended books for growing herbs in central Texas: Southern Herb Growing by Madelyn Hill and Gwen Barclay, and Herbs for Texas by Howard Garrett. Attendees participate in study by doing one of the following, or something similar, for each herb listed:

- (1) research the herb and report one finding about growing conditions or uses, etc.;
- (2) if you grow the herb, describe your experience;
- (3) use the herbs in a project, bring a recipe using the herb or a sample to taste or
- (4) bring a photo of herb used in the landscape.

Please see schedule below. The Herb study has been added to VMS for education and service hours. Questions can be directed to Kim Pringle - kimberpringle@earthlink.net, Vivian Rush - vivjimrush@gmail.com and Connie Rivera - cjrivera20@icloud.com. We look forward to seeing you there and be prepared!

Month/Year	Program	Herbs
October 3, 2018	Stately, Classic Cottage Garden Ornamentals	Bay laurel, Comfrey, Foxglove Lemongrass
November 7, 2018	Instant gratification: Salad herbs	Arugula, Basil, Cilantro, Dill
December 5, 2018	Tea Time. In addition to study, lets talk about your favorite herb books	Lemon balm, Lemon verbena, Scented geraniums, Chamomile and Stevia
January 2, 2019	Cooking with herbs	Marjoram, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, Winter Savory; Caution: Salvia divinorum
February 6, 2019	Love potions, Aromatherapy, and Essential oils; we will make something	Lavender, lemon verbena, patchouli
March 6, 2019	More salad herbs	Dandelion, Salad burnet
March 15 - 16, 2019	Herbal Forum at Round Top	
April 3, 2019	Pretty edible flowers	Borage, Calendula, Dianthus, Nasturtium, Roses, Violets
May 1, 2019	Tropical herbs	Ginger, Rungia Kossel (mushroom plant)
June 5, 2019	Silver Herb Gardens and Belladonna	Artemisia, Germander, Lamb's ear, Santolina
July 3, 2019	Let's choose the last topic	

Announcements

SELAH

Bamberger Ranch Preserve Tour - October 4, 2018

- Jan George

I am thrilled to announce we got enough people for our Bamberger tour. We have 26 going with 3 on the waiting list. If something happens and you can't go, let me know. Maybe someone on the waiting list will buy your seat. Again, we will meet at the extension office at 6:30 am on Oct. 4th and leave promptly at 7:00 am. If you are driving be sure to let me know so I can make reservations for you. I have made reservations for the 26 who are signed up to go on the bus. Our tour starts at 9:30 and will be over between 12:30 & 1. I expect to be back at the extension office by 3 pm. Don't forget to bring a lunch to be eaten on the bus on the way back. I will send out a reminder of this information prior to the tour.



and Wine Tour - October 13, 2018

- Jan George

Unfortunately this tour did not make, but for those who would like to car pool, this learning experience will be on Oct. 13th. It starts at 9:30 am at the Wildseed Farm in Fredericksburg. You will learn why and how the Monarch butterflies are tagged. The first release is at 11:30 am and the second release will be at 2:00 pm. For those of you who paid for this tour, your money will be refunded at our monthly meeting.



September is . . .

National Honey Month

www.NationalDayCalendar.com

2019 Texas Master Gardener Conference
April 25-27, 2019
Victoria, TX



2019 International Master Gardener
Conference
June 17-21, 2019
Valley Forge, PA

Announcements

Youth Programs

- Marjorie Gillmeister

It's been an exciting spring/summer season thus far and I'm planning the youth programs calendar primarily for:

**MDECA (Meredith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy/Temple)
ages 4 years old
(Activities once/month -Sept-Dec 2018)

** Montessorri Temple ages 2-6 years old
(Activities once/month -Sept-Dec 2018)

*Belton Education Station ages 1-12 years old (*not an approved project/request to have speakers and age appropriate lessons depending on availability of speaker/volunteers).

If you have an activity, specialize in a topic you'd like to share, and love to work with children, please contact me at mjgillmeister@me.com.

I'm finalizing dates of activities and I will send out an email with dates, times, and children you'd be working with. Looking forward to hearing from many of you and creating a "Youth Program Team" to help inspire and educate our youth in the Bell County community.



Gardening in Bell County

- Carol Morisset and Christy Reese

We are proud to present the following educational opportunities for our neighbors and fellow gardeners:

- September 20 Greenhouse Basics
(Carla Harmon and Barbara Ishikawa will present cost effective ways to utilize these principles and build your own from items easy to obtain.)
- October 18 Texas Native Gardening in the Winter
- November 15 Raised Bed Gardening



Location: Bell County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office - Conference Room
1605 N. Main, Belton, TX

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Cost: Our seminars are free of charge but the BCMGA will accept donations of up to \$5.00 per class. Seminars are limited to 25 participants so register early.

For information, contact one of the following: Carol Morisset - carol.j.morisset@gmail.com [OR](#)
Christy Reese - hotmixworld@yahoo.com

Announcements

September General Meeting

- **Kathy Love**

The September general meeting will be held on the 12th. The education presentation will be on "Skin Cancer: You Can Prevent It" by Meredith Amenell. Ms. Amenell is a Physician's Assistant who works under the supervision of Dr. Ronald Grimwood, Chief, Baylor Scott & White Department of Dermatology in Temple.

We will meet in the learning center building with the Social time starting at 8:30 a.m., education program at 9 a.m., and the general membership meeting to follow. Refreshment hosts include: Jane Van Praag and her helpers. We will be treated to Central Mexico style foods and treats.

If you have non-member friends whom you believe would be interested in this program, bring them along. Remember, our monthly education program is always open to the public.

Board of Director's Meeting

The September Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26th at 9 a.m. in the class/meeting room of the AgriLife Building. Please submit your agenda items to Stacye Parry, Recording Secretary by Wednesday, September 19th.

Grounds Workdays

- **Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels**

Here is the workday schedule for September:

September 5, 2018 7:00 a.m. Workday

September 12, 2018 7:00 a.m. Workday

September 19, 2018 7:00 a.m. Workday

September 26, 2018 7:00 a.m. Workday

In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.

Advanced Learning

Upcoming Specialist Training

- Sept. 15 Fall Landscaping Symposium
San Angelo - Cost \$30 - no refunds
Deadline to register - Sept. 5
- Sept. 18-20 Texas Superstars Specialist Training
Tyler - Cost \$225
Deadline to register - Aug. 24
- Sept. 24-25 Landscape Design School Series
XXVI, Course I
College Station - Cost \$135/\$145/\$165
Deadline to register - Aug. 1/Sept. 1/
After Sept. 1
- Oct. 15-16 Texas Fruit Conference
New Braunfels - Cost \$65/\$75/\$85
Deadline to register - Sept. 15/After
Sept. 15/On Oct. 15
- Oct. 18-20 Greenhouse Management
Fort Worth - Cost \$225
Deadline to register - Oct. 8
- Dec. 5-7 Composter Specialist Training
Rosenberg - Cost \$225
Deadline to register - Nov. 14
- Ongoing Earth-Kind On-Line Master Gardener
Training modules
Go to - <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>



**CHECK OUT BCMGA FACEBOOK
PAGE! GO TO**

<https://www.facebook.com/BCMGA>

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*Please submit articles of less than 500 words for the Blooming Bell as Word Documents with **photos separate as JPG files** to Sylvia Maedgen at:*

txbikerchic7@gmail.com

Please do not send PDF documents.

Photo by Rebecca Burrow



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