



Plant Sale:

And now for the number we've all been waiting for.....\$2,200 - approximately. That's the most we've ever made at a plant sale. Thanks to everyone for their hard work.

And now of word from Cindy...start thinking about the fall plant sale! It's right around the corner.

Meeting Items of Interest:

If you didn't make it to the meeting this month, you missed a great speaker. Mr. Herman Auer, a Galveston County Master Gardener and peach tree guru, gave a presentation on the planting and care of peach trees. According to Herman you can grow a flawless peach. As part of his presentation he had a shocking seven minute video in which he decapitated one of his trees. (He called it pruning.) Around January of every year, he gives a 2½ hour presentation in Galveston County. If you are a peach grower, you should definitely attend it.

Brazoria County had 13 attendees at the Treeseach Farms BBQ. Word is the food was great and there were over 400 people there. Many people received gift certificates and plants as prizes. The group with the largest attendance received a sizable gift certificate. Next year, all of us need to plan to go!

People are needed to bring refreshments to future meetings. Please sign up at the next meeting or call the Christie's to get your name on the list.

County Fair - We will be having a horticulture booth this year. We have **ALL** been asked to put aside one potted plant and give it extra special care, so that it can be shown at the fair.

There will be a fall Master Gardener class. It will be a day class and will be organized by Pat Gerard and Barbara Burkhart.

Demonstration Gardens:

**mark your calendars for these
June work days:**

June Work Days:

June 1	June 15
June 4	June 18
June 7	June 21
June 11	June 25
June 14	June 28

Work days are on:

*Tuesdays and Fridays
1st Saturday
3rd Saturday*

AND NOW A MESSAGE FROM DONIE - We had 8 people, including myself, show up to work at the greenhouse on Saturday, May 18. Folks, this greenhouse is the responsibility of ALL OF US. We have people there every Tuesday and Friday and two Saturdays a month. Surely we can ALL find a couple of hours a month to work out there. It is not just weeding. It is watering, picking veggies and planting in the flower beds. We have plans to make another bed to "keep on growing" but we need **YOUR** help. We have a wonderful vegetable garden that we are enjoying fresh veggies out of and you can too, but, you have to show up to get a share. This is not just work time, it is learning time, a great fellowship time and sometimes a plant swap time, just ask Evelyn Moon.

Interagency Agreement - In April of 2000, BCMGA began work efforts at the A&M Research Station when permission was secured to utilize the greenhouse facility and adjacent grounds for horticulture activities. These activities have continued under verbal agreement of several parties. With the recent successful efforts to secure 501 C 3 designation from I.R.S. the BCMGA Board initiated action to secure a long term written agreement. BCMGA member, Gil Livanec, submitted a first draft for review and comment to the BCMGA Board on May 14, 2002. The purpose of this agreement is to establish the cooperation between: 1) Texas A&M's Research Station at Angleton; 2) Brazoria County Government; 3) Cooperative Extension Service; and 4) BCMGA for horticulture activities at the Research Station site on a long term basis. The intent of BCMGA is to propagate and promote botanical activities at this historic station in a manner consistent with current and future public needs. The Board is to submit changes by May 30 in order to review the document prior to submission to County government. Any member can get a draft copy from Paula's office. Any questions should be addressed to Gil.

CEMAP - The CEMAP plants are in Dallas. If anyone is heading up that way and is interested in going and picking them up, call Paula.

Flowerbeds - If you have any plants you don't know what to do with they can be brought to the Demonstration Gardens and planted in the flowerbeds.

<p><u>Mark Your Calendar:</u> May 30-June 1: Master Gardener Conference June 1, 8 & 15: Market Days* June 11: June meeting July 9: July meeting August 13: August meeting September 10: September meeting September 11/12- November 13: Master Naturalist Classes begin* <i>*see below for more details</i></p>	<p><u>Future Speakers:</u> <u>June 11:</u> Jerry and Jan McGinity - will discuss herbs</p>
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Market Days - June 4, 8 & 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or sell out. Fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, honey, herbs, plants, flowers, canned items and baked goods will be sold. There will also be a Master Gardener diagnostic clinic. Location: Veteran's Park Gazebo in Angleton. For more information, contact Patti Worfe.
Note: If you are interested in selling items at Market Days, call Patti Worfe.

Texas Master Naturalist Classes - September 11 or 12 through November 13. One class per week (Wed. Or Thurs.) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Four lunches will be provided. Through the Master Naturalist classes you will enhance your love of nature with research-based, scientific knowledge, receive training in wildlife and natural resource management and can help children and adults in your area learn about Texas' natural resources. Registration fee: \$100. For more information, contact Richard E. Tillman, Brazoria County Extension Office.
Note: Some Master Naturalist classes will be open to Master Gardeners.

News and Information to Know:

Dues - If you owe dues and are wondering how much they are, here it is: \$12/person or \$16/couple.

Hotline - PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE call Sandra and schedule time to answer the Master Gardener hotline. This is the absolute busiest time of year for calls. Any time you can spare is helpful.

<p><u>In the Garden:</u></p> <p>At the meeting it was mentioned that several people had tomato plants with Fusarium wilt. I had extensively researched Fusarium wilt many years ago when I thought it had gotten some of my pepper plants. It has been so long that I was fuzzy on the details, so I did a quick search on the internet. Here's some of the information I found on it in case you're interested:</p> <p>Fusarium is a soil-born fungus that is found throughout the U.S., especially in warm regions of the country. Fusarium fungi survive in the soil or on plant debris for up to ten years. Disease development is favored by warm soil temperatures and symptoms are most prevalent when temperatures range from 80-90 degrees Fahrenheit. It has been found that plants that are in sandier soils are more susceptible to the disease. Additionally, high nitrogen levels accompanied by low potassium levels in soil increase a plant's susceptibility to Fusarium. Fusarium wilt affects plants of the nightshade family: tomato, potato, pepper, and eggplant. It is caused when the fungi enters the plant through young roots and then grows into and up the water conducting vessels of the roots and stem. Those vessels become plugged and then collapse, blocking the water supply to the leaves. With a limited water supply, leaves begin to wilt on sunny days and recover at night. The process continues until the entire plant is wilted, stunted, or dead. Tomato plants may recover somewhat but are usually weak, unthrifty, and produce fruit of low quality.</p>

Fusarium wilt symptoms begin in tomato plants as slight vein clearing on outer leaflets and drooping of leaf petioles. Later the lower leaves wilt, turn yellow and die and the entire plant may be killed, often before the plant reaches maturity. In many cases a single shoot wilts before the rest of the plant shows symptoms or one side of the plant is affected first. If the main stem is cut, dark, chocolate-brown streaks may be seen running lengthwise through the stem. This discoloration often extends upward for some distance and is especially evident at the point where the petiole joins the stem.

Fusarium wilt is rarely significant in field grown tomatoes due to the widespread incorporation in tomato cultivars of genes for resistance to the pathogen. However, the resurgent interest in planting "heirloom" tomato varieties which do not carry resistance genes has resulted in increased incidence of Fusarium wilt.

Management:

1. Because Fusarium fungi are widespread and persist several years in soil, a long crop rotation (4 to 6 years) is necessary to reduce populations of these fungi. Avoid using any solanaceous crop (potato, tomato, pepper, eggplant) in the rotation. Rotate with cereals and grasses wherever possible.
2. Keep rotational crops weed-free.
3. Whenever practical, remove and destroy infested plant material after harvest. Removal of infected plants will help limit the disease's spread, but only fumigation techniques will eliminate wilt fungi from the soil.
4. Maintain a high level of plant vigor with appropriate fertilization and irrigation, but do not over-irrigate, especially early in the season. Avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers. High soil nitrogen levels accompanied by low potassium levels can increase susceptibility to the fungus.
5. Plant disease resistant tomato varieties, labeled F (for Fusarium). These disease resistance designations are usually shown in seed catalogues. Fusarium-resistant varieties of eggplant, potato, and pepper are generally not available.
6. If soils are severely infested, production of solanaceous crops may not be possible unless soil fumigation is an option.
7. Avoid activity in wet plantings.
8. Sanitize stakes and tomato cages at the end of the season. Avoid using soil encrusted tools and supports season after season. A thorough cleaning with water will reduce most risk of transmitting the disease.

I took this information from the following sites:

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3122.html>

<http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/ipm/messages/fusarium.shtml>

Note from the Editor:

As my son would say: BIG thanks to Don Gerard and Howard Pickle for helping get the newsletter in the mail. They have helped cut distribution time down to almost nothing. (I know Severin appreciates that!)

I NEED ARTICLES!!!!!! If you have information to share with the rest of the Master Gardeners such as gardening tips, articles, plants to share, thank you's... please let me know. Here's how to reach me:

Thanks - Anna Gawlik, Editor/Historian

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is 6:00 p.m. on the Friday after our monthly meeting.

Happy Gardening!!!

Paula Craig
CEA - Horticulture
Brazoria County