

Here's the Dirt

KIMBERLY MAYER, CEA - HORTICULTURE

Brazoria County

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

March Happenings



It seems as though Spring is beginning to burst forth in Brazoria County. I've been seeing Redbuds announce spring with their beautiful purple flowers. My St. Augustine, while still rather pitiful looking from last summer's brutal heat and drought, is starting to show signs of waking up. The Flame Acanthus in my front flower beds are putting on small green leaves. The temperatures seem to be warming up and the days are getting increasingly longer. Before you know it, we'll be smack dab in the middle of summer wishing it was spring again. What signs of spring are you seeing?

Now that we know we can safely prepare for the season, it's time to focus on what you'll be planting next. Are you a diehard vegetable gardener or do you prefer the beautiful blooms of our Texas natives and perennials? I do a little bit of both. I have some veggies and herbs in a stacked vertical container. It's placed right where I can see it when I come home everyday so that this busy Extension Agent doesn't forget to attend to her plants. The natives in my front landscaped beds have been pruned back and most are starting to emerge from their battle with winter. And of course, I've treated my lawn with pre and post emergent herbicides to control those pesky weeds. As soon as my St. Augustine has been mowed twice and it's actively growing, I'll apply a slow release fertilizer to it.

I say bring on Spring with all it's beauty and picturesque colors. What about you?

What's Growing On...

Beginner Farmer Cohort at Harvest for the Hungry 03/02/2024

Texas Community Futures Forum
03/06/24 @AgriLife Office 5:30 pm

Spring Plant Sale 03/09/2024
Brazoria County Fairgrounds 9am

March Board Meeting
03/12/2024 9am @BEES

March General Meeting
03/15/24 @AgriLife Office 10 am with Texas Garden Guy
11 am Business Meeting

JMG Lesson at Harvest for the Hungry 03/16/2024

Tomato Basil Bash 03/16/24 9 am to 12 pm @AgriLife Office

2024 Intern Class 8:30 am @BEES
03/07/2024
03/14/2024
03/21/2024
03/28/2024

Good Friday- County Offices Closed
03/29/2024

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March Horticulture Hero: Mike Layman

Mike Layman comes to us as a transfer from Orange County Master Gardeners. As a transfer from another county, he jumped in with both feet to become a vital member of our organization. He was an active volunteer for our citrus and seedling sales. He has a ready smile and is always willing to help wherever he can. He recently took over the Blue Bottle Garden and has begun its transformation.

Thanks for joining our organization, Mike! We need more pictures of you! And we can't wait to see what you accomplish with us in the future.

Congratulations, Mike!



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Nominate a Horticulture Hero

We truly have an amazing group of individuals within the Brazoria County Master Gardener Association. I wanted to make sure that we recognize and fully appreciate our volunteers on more than just a yearly basis. That's where this program comes in to play. I would love for you to send me your nominations for a monthly Horticulture Hero. The requirements are simple. Just send me an email with a paragraph explaining why this individual should be nominated for this award. I will make the final decision each month and then award that person at the General Meeting. Some examples could be: above and beyond service at an outreach event, behind the scenes planning and coordinating, or even an outstanding presentation to a local group, The possibilities are endless. Get your nominations to me by the last day of the month. Email me : kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu



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Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

KEEP PEARLAND BEAUTIFUL
Garden Lectures Series

LIVE

Composting with Children
March 14th @ 7 PM
LIVE on Facebook
@keeppearlandbeautiful

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

KEEP PEARLAND BEAUTIFUL

KPB is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit | www.PearlandRecycles.com | 281-485-1111

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Spring Plant Sale Happening 03/09/2024 9 am to 12 pm at the Fairgrounds



Brazoria County Master Gardeners 2024 SPRING PLANT SALE



GET READY TO ADD SOME
BEAUTIFUL COLOR TO YOUR
GARDEN. COME TO OUR
SPRING PLANT SALE!

MARCH 9TH, 2024
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
BRAZORIA COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
901 S. DOWNING
ANGLETON, TX

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF GREAT
PLANTS TO CHOOSE FROM!
DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR
AMAZING DEALS.



*Check and Card Only- No Cash

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February Outreach Volunteers



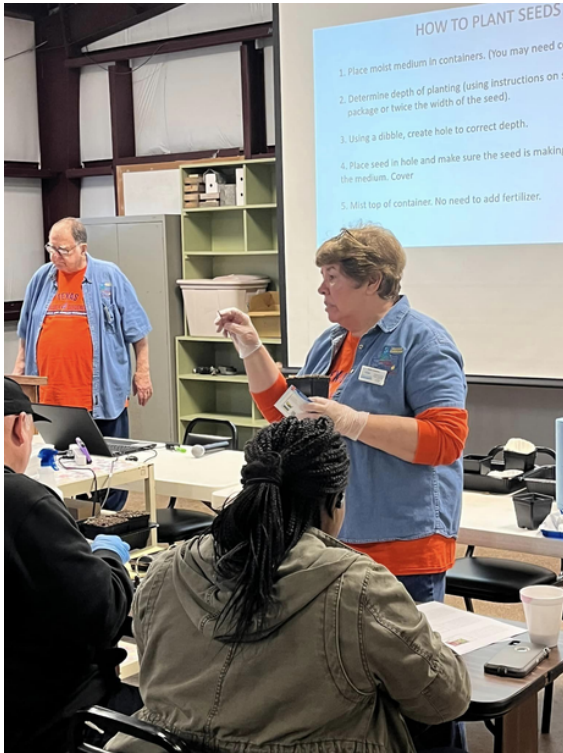
Thank You

Thank you to all the customers and volunteers who supported the 2024 Vegetable Seedling Sale! See you at the Plant Sale on March 9th at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds.

HUGE SHOUTOUT to all of you who helped with the Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale as well as the Veggie Seedling Sale. We could not have pulled it off without you!

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February Outreach Volunteers



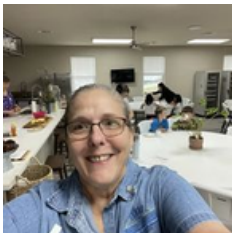
Thank you to members who volunteered to lead or assist at the 2024 Intern Class

Members shown: Ruth and August Aimone

Not pictured: Kimberly Mayer, Rose Wagner, Loretta Allen, Linda Ulmer, Joy Hargett, Cindy Ducros and Ann Hughes.

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February Outreach Volunteers



Thank you to members who volunteered to lead or assist at the February BCMGA outreach events! Members pictured: Rose Wagner, Chamane Barrow, Jan Baldwin, Intern Nadiyah Phelps and Horticulture Agent Kimberly Mayer.

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Agent's Corner

Triple T Trees, Turf and Tomatoes

<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Trees</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">January 27th\$15</div> <p>Join us for a class on how to grow Citrus Trees in Brazoria County. Learn from qualified Master Gardeners before you plant your trees from the Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> </div>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Turf</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">July 11th\$15</div> <p>Join us for a time of intrigue and clues. Come learn how to spot the signs and symptoms that your lawn might be facing after the brutal heat and summer drought. Find out ways to restore some vigor and density to your turf. Let's prepare now for a healthy lawn.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> </div>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Tomatoes</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">March 16th\$25</div> <p>Our very first Tomato Basil Bash! Come learn from Brazoria County Master Gardeners who will teach you the basics of growing tomatoes and basil. A fabulous combination.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> </div>
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Trees</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">April 26thFREE!</div> <p>Join us to celebrate Texas Arbor Day by learning all about tree planting 101 and what trees grow best in our area. *Tree giveaway pending.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> </div>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Turf</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">April 13thFREE!</div> <p>Join your local Horticulture Agent, Kimberly Mayer for tips on keeping your lawn green. You'll make your neighbors green with envy after this class that teaches the basics of great lawn care.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> </div>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Tomatoes</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">June 8th\$25</div> <p>After you've grown your tomatoes in the spring and early summer, come join us for a tomato tasting and question and answer period with knowledgeable Master Gardeners. We'll also have time for a canning demo from Agent Shana Kutac.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> </div>

To register: <https://brazoria.agrilife.org/events/>

Here's a snapshot of the 2024 Program Plans that we have coming up! Lots of great events!

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Agent's Corner

BLOWN AWAY BY BASIL?
TANTALIZED BY TOMATOES?
JOIN US!

MARCH 16TH, 2024
9 AM - 12 PM

Tomato Basil Bash

Ready for a saucy, herbaceous extravaganza at the Tomato Basil Bash? We'll teach you how to grow your best tomato and basil plants.

Register here:
<https://brazoria.agrilife.org/events>

kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu



AgriLife Extension Office
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Be sure to join us for the Tomato Basil Bash taught by our very own Brazoria County Master Gardeners and guest speaker Dr. Joe Masabni. Click here to attend and for more information.

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Agent's Corner

This month's Horticulture Hints

Love gardening and taking care of your lawn, but sometimes feel like all the terminology is overwhelming? No need to worry. We've got you covered! Tune in here each month for a #HorticultureHint from our very own Horticulture Agent, Kimberly Mayer. She'll give a detailed explanation of terms that you may not be aware of or just weren't sure what they mean.



HORTICULTURE HINTS

Woody ornamentals- plants which produce wood as their structural tissue, given them hard, wooden stems. Common examples in the landscape include hibiscus, hydrangea, crepe myrtle, and azalea, among other species.

LEARN NEW GARDENING TERMS EVERY WEEK!



Kimberly Mayer, CEA, CPTM
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Horticulturist

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What's Growing On?

Gardening with our Brazoria County Neighbors

By: Andrea Hickey

Brazoria County Master Gardener

Debbie Price is a member of the 2024 intern class, and she recently volunteered at the BCMGA 2024 Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale, where we had a chance to meet and enjoy the delicious offerings of our amazing hospitality volunteers! Debbie's favorite things about gardening are when something planted from seed comes up, when the flowers begin to bloom, and hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees.

BCMGA: How did you learn about BCMGA and the intern opportunities, and how long have you been gardening?

Debbie: I saw the sales in the past from advertising and also had a friend go through the intern program a few years ago. I've been trying my hand at gardening for several years, learning as I go, and I'm excited to be able to learn from the BCMGA.

BCMGA: What led to your interest in gardening?

Debbie: Fresh veggies are delicious, and I love flowers in the yard.

BCMGA: Do you have childhood gardening memories?

Debbie: My grandmother loved flowers in her yard—she helped me plant some before she passed. I tend to find myself gravitating to the flowers she grew. Great memories of her!

BCMGA: How do you share gardening with others?

Debbie: We make salsa and share with family (they love it, so it goes fast). Any veggies we have we also share with family and friends.

BCMGA: What is your favorite crop to grow?

Debbie: So far tomatoes and peppers, but we are trying a few additional things this year. Onions, potatoes, and cucumbers—we are going to try making pickles.

BCMGA: What gardening activities are you looking forward to in the coming months?

Debbie: I'm ready to get spring plants in—it's hard to wait this time of year.

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Writers wanted!



If you enjoy writing about gardening and would like contribute an article or two to our newsletter, please feel free to reach out and let me know. I'd love to have you participate in this newsletter. I am looking for short but informative articles that speak to a variety of interests. It can be a question that you get quite often from friends and neighbors or maybe a subject that is near and dear to your heart or we can do something like a plant or tree of the month and share some great information on that. If you are interested, email me at kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu.

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Community Outreach Needs



**JMG Lesson at Harvest for the Hungry -
March 16th
from 9am-11am**

***We could really use a lead teacher on this date. I will be at the Tomato Basil Bash and unable to present this lesson on Recycling.**

***Please reach out to Preston or Ellen Armistead to sign up or for more details.**

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Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
21017 County Road 171
Angleton, TX 77515
979-864-1558

<https://brazoria.agrilife.org/horticulture/>

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**Brazoria County Horticulture - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service**