

Here's the Dirt



Fall into September



Welcome to September! Where is that first cool front? It's calling my name, along with a cozy cardigan and a hearty bowl of soup. Boy oh boy! I can't wait. But in the meantime, us gardeners are probably thinking about what we'll be planting in the coming weeks. Are you a fall veggie person or do you enjoy planting trees and shrubs? Whatever the case may be, I wish you the best of luck with your Fall gardens. Monday is a holiday and I plan on taking the day off to spend with family. Please be sure to enjoy the long weekend and I will see you very soon.

What's Growing On...

Happy Labor Day! 09/04/23 - Office Closed

September Board Meeting
09/05/23 @BEES 9 am

September General Meeting
09/08/23 @AgriLife 10 am

Keep Pearland Beautiful - FB Live! "Strawberries are My Jam!" 09/14/23 7 pm

Member Plant Sale -
09/15/23 @BEES 9-11 am

Strawberry Jamboree
09/29/23 Clute Event Center
9am - 12pm

Here's the Dirt

Community Outreach Needs



Sept. 29th - Any volunteers for the Strawberry Jam

* Oct. 6th - Volunteers for Clean-up & planting with Don Sabathier

* Oct. 8th - Speaker for the Brazosport Daylily Society

* Oct. 24th - Hood Case Elem. Alvin ISD

Speaker for K-2

Volunteer for K-2

Speaker for 3-5

Volunteer for 3-5

*Please reach out to Susan Wood to sign up or for more details.

Here's the Dirt

September's Horticulture Hero:

Lisa Woods

CONGRATULATIONS!

Lisa Woods carries her smile with her everywhere she goes and is an incredible asset to our Brazoria County Master Gardeners. She brings her creativity, horticulture knowledge and positive energy to every Master Gardener activity she joins.

Thanks to Lisa's hard work, the beautiful BEES Entrance Garden catches the eye of all who pass by. (Be sure to check out the latest fresh look with the addition of a wheelbarrow planter.)

We are all grateful for her continued support of our outreach programs whether she is working behind the scenes to organize an event or volunteering to lead an outreach activity, always drawing in enthusiastic participants to learn about gardening in Brazoria County. She always makes working an outreach event fun! Above and beyond her horticulture expertise, Lisa has also led a variety of Board initiatives and served in several different administrative leadership roles. Currently she is our Webmaster, technology guru, Awards Committee Chairperson and serves on the Policy and Procedures Committee. All while working fulltime. A true Brazoria County Master Gardener Horticulture Hero. Thank you Lisa for all you do!



Here's the Dirt

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 September 30th. Email me : kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu



Here's the Dirt

August Outreach Volunteers



Thank you to members who volunteered to lead or assist at the August BCMGA outreach events - Loretta Allen, Ruth and August Aimone, Karen Brannen, Carol Butler, Cindy Ducros, Andra Halnon, Ann Hughes, Joanne Knodel, Teri and Mark McKee, Richard Paul, Kathy Pittman, Sandra Rodriguez, Rose Wagner, Linda Ulmer. Our Master Gardener presentations reached all ages in OysterCreek, Lake Jackson, Sweeney, and Alvin.

Here's the Dirt




Upcoming Education

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

GARDENING IN THE GULF COAST

2023



Bring your gardening questions and problems to our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension horticulture agents and specialists during our online discussion.

July 5, 2023
October 4, 2023
December 6, 2023

All sessions begin at 10AM

[Online via Microsoft Teams](#)
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Here's the Dirt



Upcoming Education

9am -12pm | September 29th

Strawberry Jamboree

Save the Date

- Speakers
- Booths
- Recipes
- Canning Demo
- Plants for purchase
- Strawberry Shortcake
- Judging

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION
Horticulture

***September 14th I'll present education on strawberries as well as volunteer opportunities for the Strawberry Jamboree.**

Here's the Dirt



Upcoming Education

**COMPOST
ADVANCED TRAINING**

Save the date!

DECEMBER 6-8, 2023
More details coming soon!

For questions, contact
Brandy Rader at
brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu
<https://fortbend.agrilife.org>

TEXAS A&M
**AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

txmg.org/events

Here's the Dirt



Agent's Corner



*BCMGA
Member
Plant Sale!*

Friday,
September 15

Where: BEES
When: 9:00-11:00 am
What: Vegetable
Seedlings, Annuals,
Perennials
Who: Members who
have paid 2023 dues by
September 1st
And 2023 Interns

*In Person
at BEES!*




Here's the Dirt



Agent's Corner

WHY ARE TREE LIMBS AND LEAVES FALLING?



Dr. Larry Stein, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist

THE SITUATION

As the brutal summer of no rain and intense heat continues, we are seeing an increased number of limbs hitting the ground. Some are apparently healthy limbs, others have compromised areas or weak bark, and even previously dead limbs are falling.



THE BIG QUESTIONS:

1. WHY NOW?
2. ARE MY TREES IN DANGER OF DYING?
3. WHAT CAN I DO?

Graphics: Aggie Horticulture



WHY NOW?

4. Lastly, many trees are starting to drop leaves which is basically a **survival mechanism** for them. The number of leaves a tree has dictates how much water the tree needs. Less leaves = less water. In other situations, the leaves are **browning or burning** which means the leaf does not have enough water to transpire out to cool itself and hence the sun is causing the leaves to burn up.

WHY NOW?

1. Many of these limbs are simply **losing their elasticity**, especially the dry ones up in the trees. The intense heat and lack of rain has dried them out to the point where gravity takes over and they are coming down. This can also happen when these same limbs get laden with water and become super heavy then come down. Often **hypoxylon canker** can be found on such limbs, but many times this fungus is merely secondary and not the cause of the problem.
2. Some apparent, healthy limbs are also falling which again can be attributed to **lack of water** and perhaps a **heavy crop** of pecans and/or acorns. In most cases, there is not much we could have done to prevent this other than to apply additional water. This is often not possible due to water restrictions.
3. There are other limbs that are falling due to having a **weak area in the bark**. You will note this by looking at where the limb came off the tree and seeing weak bark and dead wood. These are situations that are beyond our control and that we have to live with.

ARE MY TREES IN DANGER OF DYING?

In most cases, your trees are **not dying**. They are just trying to **survive!**

WHAT CAN I DO?

About the only thing we can do at this point is **water** the best we can and **pray for rain!**

FOR MORE INFO

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
Instagram: [aggiehorticulture](https://www.instagram.com/aggiehorticulture)
Facebook: [Aggie Horticulture](https://www.facebook.com/aggiehorticulture)

Here's the Dirt



Agent's Corner

CYCLE AND SOAK

Watering your lawn deeply and infrequently helps create a stronger root system.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION
Horticulture

CONTACT US

979-864-1558

www.brazoria.Agrilife.org/horticulture

kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu

WATERING METHODS AND THE RESULTING ROOT GROWTH

Watering Method	Resulting Root Growth
DEEP INFREQUENT	Deep, strong roots
DEEP FREQUENT	Deep, strong roots
SHALLOW FREQUENT	Shallow, weak roots

It's a scorcher out there, but that's no reason to waste water when watering your lawn.

The cycle and soak method of applying water to the landscape drastically reduces and in some cases eliminates runoff. This method of applying water to the landscape is made up of multiple cycles for each station with 30 to 60 minute for the water to soak into the soil between cycles.

1. The first cycle will break the surface tension of the soil and saturate the top layer of soil.
2. The second cycle infiltrates the soil more efficiently and deeply after the first cycle.
3. A third, and sometimes a fourth cycle, is beneficial if a slope is involved or if runoff occurs after the sprinklers run for just a few minutes.

For example: if you have determined you need to run a sprinkler station 12 minutes, schedule your controller run the station 2 times for 6 minutes, or 3 cycles for 4 minute. If a slope or runoff is involved, run the station 4 cycles 3 minutes.

Here's the Dirt



Monthly Blooms

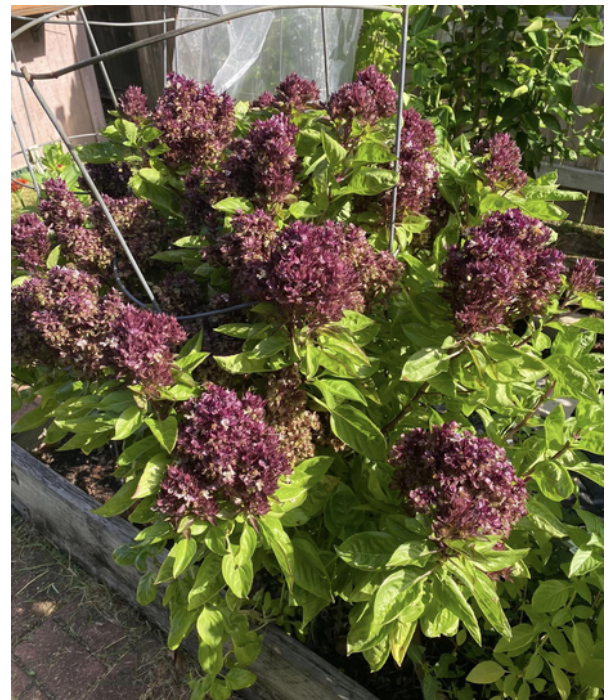
A section of the newsletter highlighting local flowers, trees, and plants in bloom.



Cardinal or Balsamic Blooms Basil gets about 3 feet tall and at least 2 feet wide. Blooms are purple, cut a few stems this morning to bring inside. Great fragrance. All pictures from one plant. It's a Texas Superstar. Lots of bees enjoying it in the garden today.



Photos
courtesy of:
Master
Gardener
Joy Hargett



Here's the Dirt

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.

Here's the Dirt



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

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

Follow us on Facebook

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

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