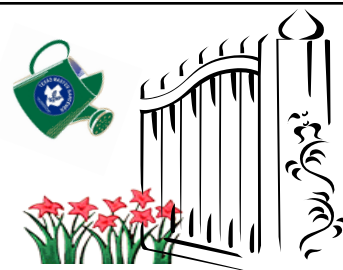




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume VIII, Issue Four

Official E-Newsletter of the Ellis County Master Gardeners Association, Waxahachie, Texas

April, 2015

Welcome to the Ellis County Master Gardener's **E-Gardening** Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you a month-by-month agenda of what you should be doing with your landscape. We will feature horticultural articles that we hope you will find interesting, and important dates where you can find the Master Gardeners speaking, demonstrating, and passing out information relative to your garden. If you would like to receive this newsletter monthly via your email address, log onto our website www.ECMGA.com and click on subscribe. It will be sent around the first of every month. Best of all; it's FREE! Susan Clark, Editor

Thank you to everyone who attended the 15th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo! It was a great day and the Ellis County Master Gardeners appreciate your support. See you next year!



Best of Show Roland's Nursery

Most Creative Booth Countryside Greenhouse



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on 1390 AM.

The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a five minute segment every week, offering you helpful information on what you need to be doing in your landscape, as well as "happenings" around the county. Be sure to listen in!

Melinda Kocian

Inside this issue:

It's April, What Needs to be Done?	2
Wildflower of the Month	3
Expo 2015 Highlights	4
ECMGA Photo Contest Winners	5
Squash Bugs	6
Lighthouse for Learning	7
Tycoon Tomatoes	8
Landscape Gardening	9
Farmers Market 2015 Opening	10





Potato Soup

By June and Ron Garrett

6-8 potatoes, boiled or baked
(reserve cooking water)
1 lg. onion, or more
4-6 cloves garlic
4 stalks celery
2 carrots
4 cubes chicken bouillon
Pepper, thyme or other spices
1 c. sour cream
A few tablespoons flour, dissolved in water
3-4 cups cooked navy beans, optional

Chop potatoes, onion, garlic, celery and carrots. Place back in potato water along with the rest of the ingredients. Simmer all. Mash a portion of soup to consistency you want.

ONION CHIVES

Perennial: 18" clumps. Hollow green leaves that grow up from tiny bulbs, chives have a delicate onion flavor. Add chopped leaves to soups and salads; use in cottage cheese, cream cheese, omelets and baked potatoes.

Pretty purple flowers are edible and add zing to green salads. Plant seedlings or seeds in early spring in full sun or in part shade. Chives make a good border plant and are a companion plant for roses and tomatoes as a deterrent to black spot and mildew.

It's April....What Needs To Be Done?

Planting

- ◆ Soil purchased for use in beds, low areas and containers should be examined closely. Often, nut grass and other weeds, nematodes and soil-borne disease are brought into the yard through contaminated soil sources.
- ◆ Seeds of amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, zinnia and other warm-season annuals can be sown directly in the beds where they are to grow. Keep seeded areas moist until seeds germinate. Thin out as soon as they are large enough to transplant. Surplus plants can be transplanted to other areas.
- ◆ Many flower or vegetable seeds left over after planting the garden can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing in a sealed glass jar in your refrigerator.
- ◆ You can still plant cucurbits like squash, cucumbers and melons. Many herbs can also be planted from transplants, e.g., dill, parsley, fennel, mint, oregano and thyme.

Pruning and Fertilizing

- ◆ Apply a high-nitrogen fertilizer to lawns. Frequent mowing will keep an established lawn thick and healthy, but avoid removing more than one-third of the leaf surface each time.
- ◆ Prune spring-flowering shrubs soon after flowering. Keep the natural shape of the plant in mind as you prune and avoid excessive cutting except where necessary to control size.
- ◆ Roses have high fertilizer requirements. For most soils, use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts, then use ammonium sulfate, or another high nitrogen source, every four to six weeks, usually just as the new growth cycle starts following a flowering cycle.

Garden Watch

- ◆ Attempt to check the progress of vegetables such as lettuce, greens and potatoes daily to find the first signs of insect pests such as caterpillars or sowbugs, or stink bugs feeding on the tips of potato stems.
- ◆ Check new tender growth for aphids. A few can be tolerated, but large numbers should be controlled. Always follow label instructions on approved pesticides for control. Washing them off with a strong spray of water may be all that is necessary for adequate control.
- ◆ Eliminate fire ants in your landscape by broadcasting labeled bait while temperatures are between 70 and 90 degrees. Follow label directions closely to achieve best results. Contact your county extension office at (972) 825-5175 for more information.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Texas Bullnettle, Mala Mujer

Cnidoscolus texanus (Muell. Arg.) Small
Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae)

Region: 1-8, 10 (Ellis County is Region 4)

Size: 1 through 3½ feet

Blooms: March through September, Perennial



Be very careful if you want to smell these flowers! Bullnettle is well defended, with stinging hairs covering all parts except the flowers. Once stung, you'll know this plant forever. Upright and branched, it is common across Texas and frequently forms large colonies in disturbed areas. Fragrant, white, tubular flowers consist of five to seven flaring sepals that form loose terminal clusters.

Seeds are held tightly in compartments of a tough, almost round seedpod and the large, edible seeds are considered very tasty when ripe. A tuberous taproot, branching underground, lets bullnettle thrive during hot summers and drought. Mala mujer (bad woman), another common name, was

SPRING

**"In the spring, at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt."**

Margaret Atwood, *Bluebeard's Egg*



Find us on:
facebook®

Are you a Facebooker? Ellis County Master Gardeners are on Facebook and we'd love to have you join us. Use our page as your point of contact to ask us gardening questions or get information about flowers, vegetables and herbs...we cover it all! You'll find us at the link below, and all you have to do is click the "Like" button to see our daily posts! We look forward to hearing from you with questions and comments.

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

EXPO 2015

From Micki Roark, Expo Chair: "On such a beautiful Spring day, it was wonderful to see so many people attending the 15th Annual Lawn and Garden Expo! Thank you all for visiting the dynamic vendors to purchase a great variety of plants and garden related items offered. Thank you for attending the outstanding lectures. Thank you for bringing your children to play and learn in the Children's Workshop. We believe our EXPO will only get better each year with such loyal support!"



From Pat Dockins, Plant Sales Chair: The Master Gardeners did a wonderful job tending to approximately 3,500 plants in the greenhouse to prepare for the annual plant sale. The crowd that appeared at 9am was the largest ever and they knew what they wanted...butterfly plants, roses, and tomatoes. Thank you to all the outstanding volunteers who helped to make the sale run smoothly.

From Melinda Kocian: "As I walked around visiting with the exhibitors and sponsors; multiple laps, I might add, I was overwhelmed with the thank-yous for such a wonderful show, how beautiful everything was, but especially how grateful they were for how helpful everyone was. They don't get any help unloading or loading at any of the other shows they attend. And, ESPECIALLY, getting fed! James (Melinda's husband and the vendor coordinator) has even had a few phone calls and emails from exhibitors with thanks. I tell them all, we provide the venue, but it is them that really make the show. They all go out of their way to make their displays beautiful! It really is overwhelming!"



From J.R. McMahan, Children's Workshop Chair: "The Children's Workshop Room was visited by over 200 children. They learned about local butterflies and were able to build their own insect house to take home. Junior Master Gardeners provided gardening books for reading and Texas Discovery Gardens, Texas Honeybee Guild and Smokey Bear were all popular with the children and their parents."



In The
Garden



3rd Place
Michael Lowe

1st Place
Jesse Van Wey

2nd Place
Chris Bhore



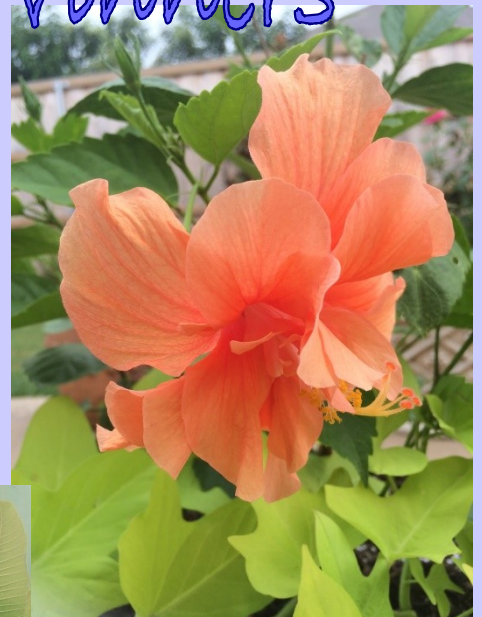
2015 Photo Contest Winners



1st Place,
Jesse Van Wey

3rd Place
Kay Sides

Single
Specimen



2nd Place
Beverly Robinson



Squash Bugs: Tactics for Winning the War

Compiled by Susan Norvell

Ellis County Master Gardener



As Master Gardeners, we are asked all the time about ways to eliminate or control squash bugs. Believe it or not, there are lucky gardeners who don't even know what a squash bug looks like! But if you live in parts of the country that have a heavy population of them, like here in North Texas, you'll never be rid of them one hundred percent no matter what you do.

Defining "Winning the War"

In areas like ours where the squash bug is common, winning the war against squash bugs is defined as keeping the number under control by killing every one you can and getting a good harvest of squash. If you're going to grow any cucurbits (squash, melons, gourds, cucumbers, pumpkins, luffas, or watermelons), it usually takes a combination of strategies used consistently in order to get the desired results.

Choose a Strategy that's Practical for You

Every proposed strategy is not suitable for everyone. There are some that I absolutely know would work for me, but for one reason or the other, it may not be practical to use that strategy in my garden. Since things can change from year to year, one strategy that's not practical this year might be practical the next.

Know Your Enemy

When adult squash bugs come out of the soil in the spring, any females who didn't lay all their eggs last year can start laying eggs right away. So eggs can be on the plant before the overall population of bugs start to mate.

Eggs can be bronze, black, or gold colored. They can be spaced apart or close together, but usually with an equidistant spacing arrangement. Bugs start feeding and laying eggs first on the part of the plant closest to the ground.

A Tip for Finding More Bugs: When you see those lower leaves start to shrivel, wilt, turn yellow and then die, that's usually squash bug damage. In the early morning and in the heat of the day, bugs will tend to congregate under these leaves. When you're looking for squash bugs, this is the place to start.

Eggs hatch in seven to nine days depending on temperatures. The young tend to feed in a group and stay right where they hatched. That doesn't last long and each will move to different parts of the plant to feed. This is the part that makes early detection crucial. Once they start multiplying it makes your job much more difficult.

The bugs will continue feeding on the plant and its fruit until frost! They overwinter in the top six inches of the soil either in your garden or near by.

Your Most Important Tactic

Of all the tactics you use in your master plan to wage war on squash bugs, the one that is first and foremost for success is the action you take to seek out and destroy squash bugs. You must be consistent in your "seek and destroy" mission to be success-

ful.

If you can't check twice a day, check once a day. If you can't do that, check every other day. Certainly, I would recommend not going longer than every third day without looking for and destroying squash bugs and removing eggs.

Try to plan your checks in the early morning or late evening. Avoid handling the plants when they are wet with dew or rain.

My Plan of Attack

I am in my garden twice each day and spend a few minutes each time finding and destroying squash bugs and removing the egg masses. I take my garden gloves with me and squash every adult and nymph squash bug I find. First I check for bugs under the bottom leaves that show signs of damage and then I look under the other leaves. I find a lot of eggs right at the leaf base in between the veins of the leaf.

Alternative to squashing: Handpicking and placing the bugs in a small bowl of soapy water will kill them. I literally tear the egg masses off of the leaves. I put that part of the leaf in my pocket so that when I get to the house I can put it in a plastic bag, seal it, and put it in the trash.

Alternative to tearing the leaf: Remove the eggs with duct tape. Stick the tape on the eggs and pull off.

Important Note: The eggs will hatch even if they are not on the plant. Flush them down the toilet or put them in a

plastic bag and dispose of them.

I only grow a few squash plants because I just don't want to spend anymore time on this task. The more plants you have the longer it will take you check for squash bugs and eggs.

WATER as Part of your Seek and Destroy Strategy

If you have the use of a hose or water wand near your garden, you can use water as part of your seek and destroy strategy.

Spray your plants, especially the underside of leaves and around the roots. The water drives the squash bugs out in the open where you can destroy them by whatever method you have chosen.

Hand-held or Shop VACUUM

You can vacuum up bugs and possibly the eggs. This allows you to capture more bugs at once. This is particularly useful after you've used a spray of water to get larger numbers of the bugs out in the open. Also, lift those bottom leaves to get large numbers at one time.

IMPORTANT: Make sure you empty the vacuum and either destroy the contents (burning will work) or place in a sealed bag and put in the trash. Again, the eggs will hatch even if not on the

(Continued on page 7)





Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

For reservations, call Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631.

Register online at http://www.wisd.org/default.aspx?name=CO_LighthouseforLearning



Monday, April 13, 6pm–7:30pm, Herbal Vinegars, Butters, and Spreads. Dried or fresh, herbs lend a wonderful flavor, aroma, and even healthful factor to foods we enjoy on a regular basis. In this class, you will learn how to prepare and use herbs to create tasty herbal vinegars, butters, and spreads. This is a hands-on class where you will come away with recipes and your own herbal vinegar to take home. Instructor: Susan Clark. Cost: \$12.00 + \$5.00 supply fee.

Monday, April 20, 6pm–7:30pm, Backyard Chickens. Before you start your backyard flock, come learn some tips on how to successfully manage backyard chickens. We'll discuss city ordinances, neighborhood associations and neighbors as well as housing, predators, sanitation, and raising or obtaining laying hens. Instructors: Ginger Cole and Khalin Zadwick. Cost: \$12.00

Tuesdays, April 21–May 12, four classes 6pm–8pm, "Ag 101"–Beginning Farmer/Rancher. Join this experienced instructor as you cover topics: soils and soil fertility, soil testing, pasture management, basic livestock productions and pond management. This class will be held at the Ellis County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 701 S. I-35E, Suite 3 in Waxahachie. Instructor: Mark Arnold, Cty Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources. Cost: \$22.00

Squash Bugs (Continued from page 6)

plant. Very inexpensive handheld mini bug vacs are available just for this.

Boards and Burlap

Another tactic used to find and destroy greater numbers at one time is to place wood boards or pieces of burlap down around the plants in the evening. In the early morning and again in the heat of the day, bugs take shelter there. Lift the boards or burlap and kill or vacuum up the bugs in numbers.

End of the Season –Trap

Near the end of the season or when your plants are about done, squash bugs will amass on what remains. This is an opportunity not to be passed up. Killing off the remaining numbers will cut down on what you have to deal with next year by preventing this group from wintering over in your garden or near your garden.

Check the plant remains everyday. New bugs will continue to gather on them. Use a chosen strategy to kill them.

Growing in Containers

A strategy that has been successful for many gardeners is growing in containers or grow bags. Grow bags hold plants high enough off the ground that it's easier to see and kill the squash bugs when performing "bug-checks".

Container growing in combination with other strategies can be especially successful. For example, one gardener put some type of weed barrier on her lawn and then set the containers with the squash down on that. There was no place for squash bugs to escape or hide. If one was found, it could easily be caught and killed.

Diatomaceous Earth (DE)

Diatomaceous Earth (DE) is all natural. It's made from tiny fossilized water plants. Because of its microscopic razor sharp edges,



it can be lethal to insects. When dusted with DE, or when it is applied as a wettable powder spray, it can cut through a bug's protective covering, dry them out, and kill them.

The insect must come in contact with the DE for it to effect them. It does not kill instantly. It's best used discriminately in the garden because it can kill your beneficials as well as the bad guys. Using it on plants and trees that are flowering can kill your pollinators.

Soap Sprays

Soap sprays are another method for killing squash bugs. The spray should kill the young almost instantly, but will take a few minutes to knock down the adults.

Following are two different recipes for a soap spray.

The first is one tablespoon of liquid soap per gallon of water. If my math is correct this works out to one teaspoon per every 5-1/3 cups; 1/2 teaspoon for every 2-2/3 cups.

Another recipe called for 1/4 inch soap in a small squirt bottle; then fill it with water. (They emphasized DO NOT SHAKE UP. I'm not just sure why, but I think I'll follow this direction until I can see for myself.) After you spray the bugs, they should start dying within minutes.

WARNINGS: You still want to be careful to avoid spraying your pollinators and other beneficials. By spraying just before dark, you will avoid most bees.

Soap sprays should be sprayed directly on the bugs, **NOT** on your plants! **Soap can do major damage to your plants especially during intense heat and sunlight.** It can easily burn foliage and often won't show up for a few days. You may want to test it on a lower leaf just to see what it will do.

Of course, there are other methods for controlling and eliminating squash bugs, but I've given you several safe and reasonably effective methods. So go forth, seek out and destroy those pesky squash bugs!

Tycoon Tomato: As good as the Celebrity?

By: Shirley Campbell, Ellis County Master Gardener



Tycoon tomato has many characteristics that rival or even best the Celebrity tomato, the long-standing favorite of many commercial and home growers, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist.

Released in 2011 in San Antonio, Tycoon tomato has superior resistance to diseases and nematodes, and it can produce very large fruit of superior quality. All these characteristics and more won it the Texas Superstar title, said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension agent for horticulture in Bexar County and member of the Texas Superstar selection board.

To be designated a Texas Superstar, a plant must perform well for consumers and commercial growers throughout Texas. Superstars must also be easy to propagate, which ensures the plants are not only widely available throughout Texas, but also reasonably priced.

Tycoon is resistant to tomato yellow leaf curl virus, a disease that has become a major problem for many varieties in the past few years, Rodriguez said. It is also resistant to the fungi verticillium and fusarium, races one and two, and tomato spotted wilt virus, as well as nematodes.

Tycoon is an annual and determinant variety, which means that it is bushy rather than vining, and produces and ripens all its initial fruit crop at nearly the same time, most often within about a two-week period, he said.

Most home gardeners as well as commercial growers prefer determinant varieties because they're easier to manage and usually don't take up as much space. Also, the plants continue to produce fruit well into the summer, another plus for Texas gardeners.

As if all these favorable characteristics weren't enough to qualify Tycoon as a

Texas Superstar, it's also capable of growing very large tomatoes, Rodriguez said. A common-size tomato for most reliable varieties, including Celebrity, is about six to eight ounces.

Tycoon, the new Texas Superstar, can produce tomatoes as large as one pound or heavier. The fruit tends to be oblate rather than round.

"...we've been seeing and hearing reports from other growers as well that under optimum management, Tycoon can produce tomatoes one pound and larger and of very high quality," he said.



As for flavor, that's a subjective matter, Rodriguez noted, but Tycoon does have a very good sugar-to-acid ratio, which should please most people's taste.

In addition to disease resistance, summer plants must tolerate Texas heat well, and Tycoon has proven itself exceptional in this regard too, Rodriguez said.

Tycoon's resistance to tomato yellow leaf curl virus was a major factor in its being chosen as a Superstar, he said.

"In the fall when they start defoliating cotton, we get a lot of whiteflies driven into the urban areas," Rodriguez said. "Whiteflies are a vector of the virus, and

it's been devastating for growers. In a randomized block planting of different varieties—AgriLife Extension's fall trials test the same varieties as in the spring—they were all devastated by the disease, except for a plant here and a plant there, which was unaffected. And guess what that unaffected plant was: Tycoon."

Optimum management for Tycoon is the same as other determinate tomatoes, he said. It needs full sun, and should be planted early spring after the danger of frost has passed. In the summer, optimum planting times are 80 to 90 days prior to the first freeze in the fall, and it's best to use high quality transplants.

If seed is used, it should be started six to eight weeks prior to the planting date. As it is a bushy determinant variety that can grow three to four feet tall and two to three feet wide, Tycoon will need to be staked.

Fall-planted tomatoes go in as early as July 4 to no later than late August.

"Back in the early 80s, Celebrity tomato, which is probably still the traditional standby

tomato that everyone should grow as the backup tomato, has become an all-American selection tomato," Rodriguez said. "At this point, looking at how Tycoon has been performing and from feedback from others, in the future we think it will possibly be as highly ranked as Celebrity."

The Ellis County Master Gardeners want to say "Thank You" for attending our Lawn and Garden Expo. If you were one of the lucky ones to purchase one of our Tycoon tomato transplants, know that you made a wise choice.



Landscape Gardening

From: Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

Ellis County Master Gardeners have a website at www.ecmga.com. Check it for information on gardening in Ellis County, sign up for this monthly newsletter, or access other websites, including the Texas A&M Horticulture website. Questions for Master Gardeners will be answered with a return email or telephone call when you leave a message at (972) 825-5175.

GROUND COVERS

Ted Fisher, Travis County Horticulturist, Texas Agricultural Ext Service, Austin

What's green and hugs the ground? Ground covers. Whether it's a span of lush and lovely lawn grass, or a low sprawling vine, these plants are popular with gardeners.

There are a host of ground covers that grow in areas where grass is unsatisfactory. Perhaps you are faced with a landscape problem: a steep slope, heavy shade, a dry location, or perhaps you are just looking for an alternative to the beautiful, though sometimes monotonous, expanse of continuous turf.

In any case, ground covers can be the solution. Texas nurseries report increasing interest in ground covers. Landscape architects, long advocates of ground cover use, have awakened an interest in nearly every gardener. Parks, industrial landscapes, shopping centers, and other large-scale landscapes use ground covers by the thousands.

Once established, ground covers require very little care. However, proper soil preparation is a must. Till or spade the soil deeply, mixing in liberal quantities of peat moss, compost, or other organic materials. Rake thoroughly and carefully to remove Johnson grass and Bermuda grass roots and runners.

Within a year, your ground cover should be established and well on its way to providing you with years of low maintenance, utility, and beauty. Although Texas gardeners cannot enjoy the array of ground cover plants adapted to areas such as Southern California, there are many interesting and attractive types that can be used in our area. Here is a list and brief description of some of the best.

English Ivy. Dark green, evergreen vine. Tolerates heavy shade to moderate sun. Grows to 10 inches. Many varieties available.

Algerian Ivy. A larger-leaved cousin of English ivy. Beautiful glossy, green foliage that prefers moderate shade. Very aggressive.

Ajuga. Low-growing (six to eight inches) evergreen plant with clumpy growth. Neat, compact, aggressive. Green or bronze foliage, generally blue flowers. Best in shade.

Vinca Major. Trailing evergreen vine with scattered, blue flowers. Good in shade. Very vigorous grower.



Liriope. Clumpy evergreen plant with grass-like foliage. Blue or white floral spikes in the summer. Several varieties.

Monkey Grass. A small-leaved cousin of the liriope. No conspicuous flowers. Aggressive. Adapted to sun or shade.

Asiatic Jasmine. Robust evergreen sprawling vine for full sun or partial shade. Probably the best all-around cover plant for all areas of the state except far North Texas.



Potentilla. Lovely light green foliage. Single yellow flowers appear throughout the growing season. Very quick covering. Fine for sun or shade.

Creeping Junipers. Many low-growing forms available. Common for rock gardens, near patios,

or in other hot areas. Require full sun.

Honeysuckle. Trailing vine that is excellent for rough areas, difficult slopes, and dry areas. Fragrant flowers in spring. Many other low-growing plants, such as **sedum**, **santolina**, **lantana**, and **holly fern**, also make excellent ground covers.

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR APRIL

- ☼ Now is the time to select and plant large vines for use in the landscape. These might include the blue, season-long blooming Skyflower (*Thunbergia grandiflora*); Wisteria, either Chinese, Japanese or American varieties, in blue, rose or white; Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) in shades of tangerine, dark reddish orange with yellow highlights); Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*) in orange-red or clear gold) or Cat-Claw Vine (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) in yellow.

(Continued on page 10)

Landscape Gardening (Continued from page 9)

- ☼ Continue to spray rose varieties susceptible to black spot, using an appropriate fungicidal spray such as Funginex. Use every seven to ten days, or as recommended.
- ☼ Climbing hybrid tea roses may be pruned as soon as they complete flowering.
- ☼ Removing spent flowers, trimming back excessive growth, and applying fertilizer to an established bed can do wonders towards rejuvenating and extending the life of pansies and other cool season flowering annuals.
- ☼ Instant warm season annual color can be planted using transplants of trailing lantanas, cosmos, zinnia, firebush, copper plant, moss rose (portulaca), purslane, Dahlberg daisy, purple fountaingrass, and pentas for sunny locations. For shade areas, choose begonias, impatiens, caladiums, and coleus. Select short, compact plants. Any flowers or flower buds should be pinched to give plants an opportunity to become established.
- ☼ Put your hibiscus, bougainvillea, mandevilla and allamanda vines in containers for tropical landscape color.
- ☼ April is a month to plant the gardener's favorite vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, and peppers along with cucumbers, lima or butter beans, cantaloupe, okra, southern peas, pumpkin, squash, and watermelon.
- ☼ Mulch trees, shrubs, vegetable garden and flower beds (after soil has warmed) with two to

four inches of mulch. Pine needles and oak leaves make a good mulch for acid-loving plants. Spread coffee grounds around azaleas and other acid-loving plants and water as needed.



☼ Start weeding early in the flower garden. Early competition with small plants can delay flowering. A mulch will discourage weed growth and make those that do come through easier to pull.

☼ April is the ideal time to fertilize lawn grasses after the lawn grass has been mowed twice. Weeds can literally take over a lawn this month if they are

not controlled. Frequent close mowing, hand pulling or the use of a herbicide usually provide adequate control.

☼ In heavily shaded parts of the landscape where grass is difficult to maintain, choose one of the well-adapted groundcovers such as English or Algerian ivy, Asian jasmine, or mondo grass.

☼ It will soon be time for bagworms to attack junipers and other narrow-leaved evergreens. Light infestations may be controlled by handpicking and burning. Control measures such as Sevin dust or spray should be applied while the insects and the bags are about one-half inch in length.

☼ Watch newspaper and other publicity for information regarding wildflower trails, and plan to take a trip.

OPENING DAY ♦ APRIL 11

**Every Saturday from April to October from 8am–1pm,
410 S. Rogers (across from City Hall in the old lumberyard building)**

Visit the Master Gardeners' Booth!

- ☼ Useful gardening tips
- ☼ Plants and herbs for sale
- ☼ Free handouts...Some items for a fee
- ☼ Themed events every week



The Waxahachie Farmers Market opens the 2015 season on April 11th. There are many returning vendors along with some new local suppliers. Please plan to come out to meet your local Farmers Market folks. On opening day, Spotted Horse, a native Indian, will be on hand. We'll have garden rock painting for the kids as well as samples of some of the goods for sale.

The market is open Saturdays from 8am to 1pm and is located at 410 S. Rogers St. The kids activity continues the second Saturday of each month. We also have educational programs, seasonal food samplings, our annual Grill Fest and lots more planned. Be sure to visit often and support your local Farmers Market.

Thank You All!!

Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and visitors
for making the 2015 15th Annual
Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo
such a success!

Gold



Bronze

Green

AmeriGrafix
CNB of Texas
Roland's Nursery & Landscape
Tex-Scapes Greenery

Exhibitors

Advantage Academy
ARK Country Store
Artisan Outdoor Lighting
Backyard Masters
Barris Pottery & Ceramics
Best Bug Bait
Betha's Best
Bluemoon Soaps
Brim Seed Company
Bug Bouncer
Central Kubota
Chic 2 Cheap
CKB Designs
Complete Outdoor Living
Concrete and More
Concrete Miracles
Costco Wholesale
Countryside Greenhouse
Creative Quilters Guild Ellis
Derksen Buildings
Diamond W

EarthTones Greenery
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Gary's Greenhouse
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Happy Pest Solutions
H-E-B
Homestead Gristmill
Homestead Maintenance BCS
Hot Produx
Indian Trail Master Naturalist
Innovative Products
Invisible Fence of Texas
Jams Jellies and More
Just Nuts

Kaitlyn's Styles of Pasta
KBEC 1390
Landmark Equipment
Living Magazine
Mower Depot
Ovilla Garden Club
Pampered Chef
Pier #7
R & E Plants
Rainbows 4 Sail
Renewal by Andersen
Roland's Nursery & Landscape
Rolen's Honey Bee Removal
Silverado Landscape
S & S Sandblasting Arts
Skinkle Tools
Sky Homes
SplashAway Pool
Stone Cre8tions
Sweet Sister Enterprises
Texas Bluebird Society

Texas Honeybee Guild
Texas Toffee
Tex-Scapes Greenery
The Greenery
Tommy's Bird Houses
Tomorrow's Treasures
Travis Equipment
Turf-Scape, Inc.
Urban Farmers
Vintage Bank
Waxahachie Care
Waxahachie Daily Light
Waxahachie Equipment Co.
Waxahachie High Greenhouse
Waxahachie HS Project Grad
Wimbish Tree Farm

We couldn't do it without your support!