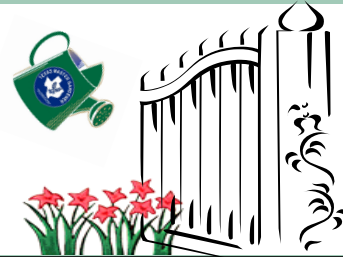




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume IX, Issue One

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

January, 2016

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

10th Annual 2016 Master Gardener Calendar

The Ellis County Master Gardeners are proud to present our 10th annual gardening calendar. The goal this year is to provide you with information about Native Wildflowers in and around Ellis County.



We are especially proud that this year marks our 10th year to be producing this beautiful and informative calendar. As always, the calendar will include month-by-month gardening information, soil preparation and fertilizing timelines.

Your FREE copy is at one of our many calendar sponsors. Please thank them for sponsoring this year's gardening calendar! Without their sponsorship, there would be no calendar.

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

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Ennis

Ennis Chamber of Commerce
Ennis Ford
Tex-Scapes Greenery

Midlothian

EarthTones Greenery
Midlothian Conference Center

Maypearl

Maypearl Insurance Agency
The Cowboy Bank of Texas

Waxahachie

Anne's Health Food Center & Market
ARK Country Store
Boyce Feed & Grain
Carlisle
Central Kubota
College Street Restaurant & Pub
CNB Bank of Texas – all facilities

Waxahachie cont.

Coal City Cob
Creative Quilters of Ellis County
ECIA (Ellis Co. Insurance Assoc.)
Farmer's Market Vendors
Gingerbread Press
KBEC Radio 1390
Larken Farms Orchard
Pam Daniel, Ebby Halliday Realtors
Living Magazine
Roland's Nursery & Landscape
Silverado Lawn & Landscaping
The Dove's Nest
The Greenery
Travis Equipment
Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce
Waxahachie Civic Center
Waxahachie Daily Light



Rain Lily (*Cooperia drummondii*) Rain lilies pop up and bloom one to two days after a rain. Flowers are trumpet-shaped for a few hours after opening, then spread wide. This very fragrant white blossom is at the top of the single unbranched stem, five to nine inches tall. Blooms June to October after a rain.

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

Planting

- * Plant cold-tolerant herbs such as chives, cilantro, garlic and parsley. Onions from transplants can be planted late month.
- * Seed for warm-weather annuals can be planted in flats in a temperature-controlled environment. Tomatoes and peppers, especially those hard to find varieties in the spring, can be started from seed mid-month. All require bright light and warm temperatures (60-70°F). Use grow lights for best results.
- * Transplant small trees and shrubs while they are dormant. It is best if they were root pruned in the fall so that roots will be established before the heat and drought of summer. Water the plant well before digging.
- * Plant shade trees, shrubs and woody ornamentals from nursery containers. Stake newly planted trees to keep them upright for the first year or two.
- * Plant blackberries, fruit and nut trees. Cultivar or variety selection is critical. For this reason, you should contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Ellis County at (972) 825-5175 for recommended varieties. Buy quality plants from reliable Texas-based nurseries when possible.

* Tulip and hyacinth bulbs, which have been chilled for eight weeks, should be planted immediately after removing from refrigerator.

Fertilizing and Pruning

* Prune trees, including live oaks and red oaks, to remove dead, broken and unwanted branches, or to raise the canopy to allow more light underneath.

* Keep a spray can of pruning paint handy to immediately paint any wound on your oak trees. To help prevent oak wilt, we no longer say there

are windows of safety because of cold weather or hot weather. Paint every wound all year long.

- * Water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed; and apply a liquid root stimulator monthly.
- * Peach and plum trees should be pruned to stimulate lateral branches and keep their "bowl" shape. Thin the trees to open the center to allow more sunlight resulting in fruit production over the entire tree.
- * Apply a balanced fertilizer to iris and asparagus. Feed pansies with blood meal.
- * Maintain your free-form crape myrtles by removing "root sprouts" growing from the base, but please, never cut the tops out of crape myrtles. It produces unsightly knots. However, removing spent seed pods are okay.

Garden Watch

- * Remove by hand, broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelions, henbit and chickweed in lawns and beds. If necessary, spot spray turf with a broadleaf herbicide when temperatures are above 70 degrees. Be careful when using herbicides in flower beds to prevent the drift from harming desirable plants.
- * This is a good time to have the soil tested in the lawn and vegetable and flower gardens. Contact the Ellis County Master Gardeners or the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Ellis County at (972) 825-5175 for a soil sample test kit and mailing instructions.

Purple Horsemint (*Monarda citriodora*) Horsemint grows one to three feet tall with green leaf like bracts that have purple-lavender petals. Hardy annual or perennial that prefers dry soil and full sun. Blooms from April to October.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Anemone, Windflower – Buttercup Family (Ranunculaceae)
Anemone decapetala (Nutt.)

Region: 1 through 8, 10 (Ellis Co. is Region 4)

Size: 6–20 inches

Blooms: January through April, Perennial



Blooming earlier than nearly any other flower, anemones bring the promise of spring. Ranging in colors from white, pink, violet and blue to purple, the wheel-shaped flowers are one and one-half inches across and appear at the tips of unbranched stems. Ten to thirty petal-like sepals encircle a cylinder, which elongates to one and one-half inches as the flower matures.

Between a basal rosette of leaves and the flower, a whorl of much smaller leaves surrounds the stalk. Three species of anemones are found in Texas. They grow mostly in grassy areas, their flowers opening in the sun and closing at night. Our word “anemometer,” for wind gauge, is derived from the same Greek word as anemone, or windflower.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY?

Ellis County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting—You are invited!



Scott Green will be speaking at our monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 12th**. Scott will be speaking about **Growing and Maintaining Trees**, especially Crape Myrtles.

Social time begins at 9:30am and the program begins at 10am. Please be our guest! The meeting takes place in the Conference Center of the First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie. For info, call (972) 825-5175.

Save The Date!
Saturday, March 19, 2016



Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events

Join the **Indian Trail Master Naturalists** at their monthly meeting on **Monday, January 25, 2016**. The program for the evening will be about the **Water Reclamation Project at Richland-Chambers Reservoir**. Matthew Symmank, TPWD Wildlife Biologist, Richland Chambers Wildlife

Management Area will present the program.

The program is free and follows the 6 p.m. Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. Meeting location: First United Methodist Church, Conference Center 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu



Winterizing Garden Tools

With Robert Shugart
Ellis County Master Gardener



As temperatures drop and we prepare ourselves for spending more time indoors, don't forget to prepare your garden tools for use next spring. Keeping your garden tools sharpened, polished and cleaned will help you get a jump start on your landscaping duties next year.

Shovels, rakes and hoes. Clean using a wire brush and some soapy water. After cleaning dry them thoroughly and store them away. If your tools are dull, sharpen them using a whetstone or a file. Make certain to start at the outer edge of your tool and move toward the center. Remove rust spots with sandpaper or steel wool, then coat the metal portion with vegetable or linseed oil and wipe a light coating of oil on the wooden handles. The oil will help preserve them and prevent cracking and/or splitting.

Sometimes a sand bucket is used to clean tools. To make an oil and sand bucket, fill a clean, five-gallon bucket with sand and add a quart of oil. Some use motor oil, while others use linseed oil and some prefer an organic alternative such as vegetable oil. To use it, simply dig your tools in and out. The abrasive sand cleans the tool by removing rust and debris.

An alternative to the oil and sand bucket is to use a five-gallon bucket filled with moderately wet sand. It is used the same way, except the tool must be oiled after use. If you choose, tools can be kept and protected in the bucket of sand all winter. Otherwise, hang with the "working end" up in a dry location.

Pruners, pruning saws and loppers. Remove rust with a wire brush and sharpen pruners and loppers with a whetstone. If you have small nicks, remove them with a fine file. Alternatively, save yourself some time by dropping off your pruning saws at a hardware store to have them sharpened for you for a small fee. Some pruners have replaceable parts. In this instance, disassemble, clean and replace any worn out parts. Now that any grass, soil, roots, tree bark and any other foreign substance is removed, it is time to pay attention to bacteria, fungi and weed seeds. This is done by disinfecting with a 2% solution of common household bleach.

Mowers, tillers, chain saws, blowers. Run mowers as late in the season as possible in order to use up all of the fuel in the tank and pick up the last bit of fallen leaves. A handy trick is to use a turkey baster to suck out most of the fuel before running it out. If you choose to leave fuel in the machine, be sure to add fuel stabilizer. Avoid storing extra gasoline in containers over the winter - fresh fuel in the spring is always better for the machine.

Using a hose and wire brush, remove any caked-up soil, grass and leaves. Check your mower blade for any nicks and chips and sharpen or replace the blade. Make certain to inspect your wheels and height adjuster. Wipe down and oil the mower as necessary. Check the chain on your chainsaw and make certain to either sharpen or replace it and don't forget to change the spark plugs.

Sprayers and spreaders. For those used for insect, disease and weed control, simply wash and rinse all parts of the container thoroughly, including the holding tank and nozzle. It may take several times to ensure that the pesticides are removed.

While you are working with sprayers and spreaders, now would also be a good time to check expiration dates on lawn and garden chemicals, making sure you are complying with manufacturer storage recommendations.

Wheelbarrows, wagons, hoses and carts. Clean the items carefully and, if you find there is chipped paint, try spray painting to prevent rusting in the exposed

area. Make certain to grease wheels. For water hoses, make certain to remove kinks to prevent weak points and cracking in the hose. Remove the excess water from your hoses. Store in a dry location and on a support or reel loosely to prevent sagging.

Don't wait until that dark and damp night the weatherman tells you there is a freeze warning. In fact, five days to two weeks earlier is ideal. So, plan ahead now! Then, you can sit down in the easy chair, pull out those seed catalogs and fantasize about next year's garden between snoozes. YOU'VE EARNED IT.



Evergreens for Anytime of the Year

By Jackie Wilhite
Ellis County Master Gardener



Evergreens are the focus of a lot of attention during the holidays. No other time of the year do these plants receive so much attention. They are used as Christmas trees, gifts, wreaths, centerpieces and floral arrangements. The aroma of the evergreen fills the air. Most of the greenery at the holidays comes from spruce, fir, holly or cedar.

The official Christmas tree chosen to stand at the White House for Christmas 2015 was a Fraser fir, which has dark blue-green needles, a pleasant scent and a uniform pyramid-shape.

While beautiful for the holidays, the evergreen is a great plant all year round. It is attractive in its native habitat, makes an ideal anchor plant for a new flower bed or gives color to the landscape. Cedars, junipers and pine trees provide a backdrop of green that enhances the display of fall foliage in deep East Texas. The evergreen colors the landscape while other plants and trees are dormant for the winter.

Early settlers brought what they could to shade their farmhouses as they settled across the plains of the Texas panhan-

dle. The evergreen provided protection from dust storms as well as much-needed shade. Central Texas is also home to a number of cedar and juniper varieties that are underused by landscaping needs.

The word evergreen is defined as retaining green leaves all year long. This is the opposite from deciduous, which refers to the plant shedding its leaves when it prepares to go to sleep for the winter. The new leaves seem to push the old leaves off in species, such as the live oak. In other words, it does shed its leaves, but does it in such a manner that it will have some new leaves and some mature leaves on the tree at the same time.

Other species never lose their leaves. We usually think of trees when we refer to evergreens, but trees are only a small part of the evergreen family. There are a great number of plants used in the landscape that are classified as evergreen. Most of these trees and shrubs are tolerant of cotton root rot, while the remainder are considered to be resistant. These

(Continued on page 7)

Ellis County Master Gardener Scholarship 2016



In 2003, ECMGA decided to make scholarships available to graduating high school seniors residing in Ellis County. We wanted to provide opportunities to these students that chose college studies in horticulture and/or life sciences disciplines. Since then, we have awarded 32 high school students with college scholarships totaling \$55,500.

One of the objectives of the ECMGA is to build partnerships with the Ellis County community to expand horticultural education and opportunities. In keeping with this objective, the ECMGA will again make scholarship funds available in 2016 to deserving high school seniors pursuing studies in horticulture-related fields.

To qualify, the applicant must be a graduating high school senior residing in Ellis County from an Ellis County High School, Ellis County Charter High School or Ellis County Home School Program. The applicant must have an elected academic major in a horticulture-related field that includes, but is not limited to horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, forestry, botany, biology (e.g., plant genetics, plant physiology), landscape design or entomology. Other horticulture-related fields of studies are outlined in the scholarship application package available on the ECMGA website. Applicants must be able to provide proof of acceptance at an accredited institution of higher education.

In addition, this year the ECMGA has decided to allow former ECMGA College Scholarship Awardees currently enrolled in horticulture programs/degree plans to also apply for a 2016 scholarship to continue their college/university studies. ECMGA college scholarships awarded to qualifying students in 2016 will be up to \$3,000. Students applying for the ECMGA Scholarship are invited to visit <http://www.ecmga.com> to download the application package found under the "What's Happening" tab. The completed application may be submitted by registered mail (return receipt requested) or in person to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office located at 701 South I-35, Suite 3, Waxahachie, TX 75165. If additional information is needed regarding the ECMGA Scholarship, please call (972) 825-5175. All scholarship applications must be received no later than 4:00pm on March 18, 2016.

Attract Wildlife to Your Landscape-Feed the Birds

By: Shirley Campbell, Ellis County Master Gardener



Yesterday the robins were everywhere, running along the ground foraging for food. A couple of cardinals were eating the last of the berries on the Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum. And a momma wren was checking out the bar on my new deck to find a place to build a new nest. The American Beautyberry has long been stripped of its berries so soon the birds will look to you for their food to carry them through the winter.

I live in the country along a creek with an abundance of trees providing shelter and food. Many days it's quite noisy, but the birds are such a joy to watch. Invite them in to your landscape to enjoy their beauty and acrobatics.

Found east of the Rockies, the Red-headed Woodpecker is easily identified by its bold red, white and black plumage.



As winter approaches, many birds change some of their eating habits. Birds that usually eat insects may start to eat berries to supplement their diets. Birds will start to look for reliable sources of food for wintertime survival. And, in the fall, many birds begin forming flocks. Flocks of birds are better able to find food and protect themselves from predators.

As winter approaches, you may need to change some of the foods you offer to birds. Providing high calorie and high fat foods can be important to the birds. The birds visiting winter feeders may be arriving in flocks or may come to the feeders as individuals, so you will need to provide different options for the birds.

Feeders should be located out of the wind. The east or southeast side of a house or near a row of trees is ideal. It is best to have a perching spot such as a bush or tree for the birds to use to survey the feeding area and provide sufficient cover for safe refuge from predators and shelter from the wind and weather. The feeders should be posi-

tioned near cover, but in the open to allow birds to watch for danger.

For ground feeding, an area near cover with a clear view of the surroundings is desirable. Placing seed in a ground feeder entices birds such as sparrows, juncos, Mourning Doves, quail, pheasants, towhees and Brown Thrashers. Even the Red-bellied Woodpecker, which is thought of as a tree dweller, does some foraging on the ground.

Peanuts are a treat for the cardinals.



Platform and hopper feeders are especially good for attracting cardinals, wrens, chickadees, titmice, jays and grosbeaks. Hanging feeders, because they blow in the wind, are generally used by those species that are able to hang on while feeding such as chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and finches.

Oil sunflower is a great overall seed to offer in the winter. It has a high calorie per ounce ratio due to its high fat and protein content and its relatively thin shell. Oil sunflower has twice the calories per pound than striped sunflower and its smaller shells make less mess when discarded by the birds.

Suet is a great food to offer many of the birds that will visit backyards in the

winter. Suet is a high energy, pure fat substance, which is invaluable in winter when insects are harder to find and birds need many more calories to keep their bodies warm. Suet can be fed in a variety of feeders ranging from a suet cage to a wood and cage feeder offering protection from the weather elements and designed to require the birds to hang upside down. Peanuts are another great food to offer birds in the wintertime.



good source of protein for birds.

Remember birds continue to need a source for water in the winter. You can help birds find water by providing an open source of water.

Evergreens for Anytime (Continued from page 5)

plants also don't usually suffer from bug or pest invasions. They can be some of the hardiest plants and will be drought tolerant once established.

Some of the most popular medium, small or dwarf shrubs are Rosemary, lavender, yucca, palms, agave and oleander. Some of the larger shrubs will include Nellie R. Stevens holly, Savannah holly and yaupon holly, ligustrum, Chinese photinia, southern wax myrtle, cherry laurel, Texas sage and boxwood.

Some of the semi-evergreen plants include cross vine, Lady Banks rose, Carolina jasmine and clematis (deciduous to semi-evergreen).

When planning a new landscape or incorporating new plants into an established site, remember the evergreen will be present with its beautiful color all year long. You don't have to wait until spring for it to return to its majestic beauty.



Happy New Year

*Here's hoping that
The New Year is
In every way complete.
With happiness,
Success, good health,
And all that
Makes life sweet.*



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

Join Ellis County Master Gardeners and Ellis County Extension Agency in a variety of classes to prepare your gardens and your yards for spring.

Monday, Feb. 29, 6:00pm–7:30pm. Vegetable Gardening. Growing your own food can be such a valuable and rewarding experience. There's nothing like serving a salad or side dish and being able to say you just picked it fresh from your garden. In this class, we will discuss soil preparation, proper planting techniques, care and maintenance of plants, disease and pest control and harvesting. The most popular vegetables for Texas and the best varieties for the area will be covered. Home vegetable gardening is doable with any size plot and this class will give you the information you need to be successful. Handouts will be provided. Instructor: Susan Clark. Cost: \$12.00

Monday, March 7, 6:00pm–7:30pm. Landscape Design. This class will include design, analysis and installation of plants best suited to Ellis county and your particular property needs. Learn proper maintenance techniques such as mowing, weed eating, pruning and trimming. Learn best practices and how to get the most out of your landscape investment. Find out what to look for and where to purchase the best plants. Pictures or drawings of your landscape area are welcomed. Instructor: Scott Rigsby. Cost: \$12.00

Monday March 28, 6:00pm–7:30pm. Perennials for All Seasons. Learn about perennial plants that will return winter, spring, summer and fall. We will cover soil prep, types of plants and the pros and cons to planting perennials. Slideshow presentation of perennials will be shown and live plants will be available for attendees. Instructor: Pam Davis Young. Cost: \$12.00

Monday, April 11, 6:00pm–7:30pm. Culinary Herbs for North Texas. Herbs are some of the easiest plants to grow. They will grow almost anywhere, don't like a lot of fertilizer and generally prefer minimal watering, but they reward you with an abundance of flavor year round. What more could the casual gardener want! Learn which herbs grow best in Texas, which love our hot summers and those that prefer the cooler seasons. We will discuss container gardens, harvesting tips and preserving. There will be lots to smell, sample and perhaps some plants to share. Instructor: Arlene Hamilton. Cost: \$12.00

Mondays, April 18 & April 25, 6:00pm–7:30pm. Irrigation Installation in the Home Landscape (with hands on learning). You can have a green lawn or irrigated garden without spending much money. This is a two-part class with the first session in the classroom at WHS. The second session will be at the Horticultural Learning Garden in Getzendaner Park where the class will assist in installing a drip irrigation system in one of the garden beds. Participants will learn about installation and maintenance of different types of sprinkler systems and what is best for your needs. Learn about the importance of a backflow valve, how to test water pressure and how to winterize the system. Instructor: Alan Paxton & Jim Derstler. Cost: \$24.00

Monday, May 2, 6:00pm–7:30pm. Good Bugs in the Garden. It's common for gardeners to go out with chemicals and try to kill all the insects. But wait!! Not all insects are bad – in fact, most have a very important place in the food chain and can be used to your advantage. When you spray, you kill the good as well as the bad. This class will help you identify some of the common good and bad insects. You will also get some non-chemical ideas on how to keep them from taking over your plantings. Bring insect samples if you want. Instructor: Susan Gilliland. Cost: \$12.00

Tuesdays, April 19–May 10 (four classes), 6:00pm–8:00pm. Beginning Farmer/Rancher. If you are a landowner or have newly acquired a farm or ranchland and are seeking information for the best way to utilize your property, join this experienced instructor for advice. You will 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 Agri Life Extension Office at 701 S. I-35E, Suite 3 in Waxahachie. Instructor: Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources. Cost: \$22.00



My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.



Claude Monet



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.

Pecan Seed Germination

by Dr. George Ray McEachern, Visiting Professor

Let's plant a pecan from seed. Nature's way is simple; native pecan seeds fall to the ground, overwinter in litter, squirrels bury them or floods cover them with soil and they germinate in the spring. One million acres in Texas have been planted by this method, but no one is depending on the system for growing nursery trees. When we want to grow nursery trees, the system can go in as many directions as there are nurseries. Their secrets are not for me to explore, so I will present some of the basic concepts here.

J. W. Worthington in the Texas Pecan Handbook discusses pecan seed germination, and I will summarize. The seeds are taken from dry storage, placed in moist soil, absorb water through the shell for about two weeks, enzymes stimulate growth, the kernels swell, the shell splits, the young root emerges and grows one half inch per day, extending a foot or more into the soil before the shoot emerges through two or three inches of soil. Germination is staggered for each individual seedling and four to eight weeks is required for all seed to come up.

Dry storage is required for the nuts as soon as they are harvested. Kernel percent moisture needs to be reduced from 20 at harvest to 6, 5 or 4 before going into storage. The drying needs to be as fast as possible without using heat.

Stratification is the period of time from drying to planting. For pecans, they can be stratified with moist chilling or dry chilling. The ideal temperature is 45 degrees F and in a pol-

ethylene bag to allow oxygen and carbon dioxide movement through the bag, but no loss of moisture. Some stratify pecan seeds in poly bags with both pecans and a very slightly moist packing medium such as sand, peat moss or vermiculite. Some stratify as nuts only with no medium. The temperature should never go below 35 degrees F because freezing will kill the embryo. Stratification should be from as soon as the nuts are dry until they are presoaked for planting in late February. Most people are now using dry stratification.

Pre-soaking is used to stimulate germination. The nuts are placed in a mesh bag, submerged in a water bath, and soaked in running water for one to four days. Barrels, irrigation canals or rivers have been used, just so that the water is not standing still. Top quality seed will swell and split in only one day. These seed should be checked at least twice daily, handled carefully and planted immediately without allowing them to dry. The seed bed should be ready so that the swollen nuts can be planted immediately.

Variety seedstock for pecan rootstock is discussed by L.J. Grauke in the Texas Pecan Handbook and is summarized, but not limited to the following: Giles in north, Riverside in west and central, Apache in the southwest, and Elliott in east and southeast Texas. Outstanding native trees in the area can also be used for seedstock. High quality kernels which are well filled should be used.

Sprouting on the tree or premature germination while the nuts are on the tree is sometimes a problem. Why does this occur? The pecan, like all deciduous trees, has a rest period, which controls seed germination and spring bud break. Surprisingly, the two systems are very similar. In general, the seed goes through three stages of rest: pre-rest, mid-rest, and post-rest. The rest is controlled in part by an inhibitor hormone called Abscissic Acid (ABA).

This hormone is produced in healthy leaves from bud break to leaf fall. In late August and September if a heavy loaded pecan tree is stressed, its leaves will stop producing ABA and consequently the mature seed in the shucks on the tree have no inhibitor, thus sprouting can



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Contact James Kocian at
expo.ecmga@yahoo.com

Reserve the date: March 19, 2016!

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Landscape Gardening (Continued from page 9)

occur when rain and warm weather occur together. Once pecans are harvested and dried they are in mid-rest and will not germinate. Once stratified for 30 to 90 days, the seeds enter post rest and will germinate when soaked or planted.

Garden Checklist for January

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

- ✿ Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.
- ✿ Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.



Find us on:
facebook®

Are you a Facebooker? You should be! Ellis County Master Gardeners are on Facebook and we'd love to have you join us. Check in to find out where and when our local events will be held—events like the Downtown Waxahachie Farmer's Market or Lighthouse for Learning Classes. Drop by our page after an event to see pictures.

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! Some of the recent articles posted include options to bring color into your winter garden, the Dallas Arboretum trial gardens, vegetable production using aquaponics, hardy plants for North Texas and updates on local events that gardeners will find interesting and educational. You can also post pictures and let us know what is happening in your gardens and landscape.

You'll find us at this link, 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. If you have a QR Code reader on your smartphone, you can scan our code and be taken directly to our Facebook page.



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



Paramutabilis x 'Ryan's Pink'

- ✿ Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias and impatiens should be sown in early January. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.
- ✿ Apply a light application of fertilizer to established pansy plantings. Use one-half pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of bed area. Repeat the application every four to six weeks, depending on rainfall. Dried blood meal is also an excellent source of fertilizer for pansies.
- ✿ Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.
- ✿ Select and order gladiolus corms for February/March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.
- ✿ Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.
- ✿ The life of the plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist, but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.
- ✿ Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.

Thank You All!!

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Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo
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