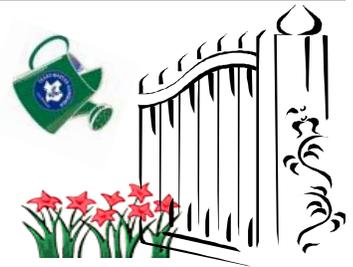




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume IV, Issue 10

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

November, 2010

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 to your landscape. We will be featuring horticulture articles that we hope you will find interesting, 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, click on subscribe, and it will be sent around the 1st of every month. Best of all; it's FREE!

Melinda Kocian, editor

What's Happening in November

Now through November 14, 9am - 5:00 pm daily — Autumn at the Arboretum. The annual fall festival featuring all-new Storybook Pumpkin Village. 66-acre garden filled with 40,000+ decorative pumpkins and gourds, more than 150,000 colorful fall plants and flowers; chrysanthemums, salvia, coleus, ornamental grasses and impatiens. For more info: 214-515-6500 or www.dallasarboretum.org.

Saturday, November 13, 9am and 12 noon - Cedar Ridge Preserve - Fall Bird Walks Texas Master Naturalist and long-time birder Jim Varnum leads you on a walk through forest and prairie to find resident and migrating birds, and teaches you what to look for in habits, characteristics, and calls. Expect to spot at least 20 species, including interesting goodies such as hawks, chickadees, titmice, kinglets, warblers and sparrows. We'll also talk about anything we see – wildflowers, trees, grasses, butterflies, etc. Each walk will entail about 2 hours of easy walking. Wear sturdy shoes, bring your binoculars, a camera and sun/bug protection. All ages are invited! For info: jevvarnum@aol.com, or 972-243-4098.

~~~~~  
**Garden Inspirations**, 108 Ridge Crest Dr., Waxahachie, 214-497-3918,  
[marilyn@gardeninspirations-tx.com](mailto:marilyn@gardeninspirations-tx.com)

**Monday, November 15, 7pm - Winter Gardening** - Addresses attracting birds to our yards with a great variety of evergreens and berried shrubs. Planning your landscapes to have winter beauty.

**Monday, December 20, 7pm - Christmas Open House** - Care tips for holiday plants.

## Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)  
For reservations, Call Melissa Cobb, 972-923-4631

**Monday, November 1 - 6:00-7:30—Backyard Composting**—Join Lee Gabor to learn what to do with all those leaves and grass clippings. Fall is the perfect time to start a backyard compost pile. You'll produce rich organic matter for your garden and landscape next spring. Cost: \$11.00.



## Listen to KBEC.....

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

The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a 5-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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**Interested in becoming a  
2011 Expo Sponsor Or Expo Exhibitor?**

Contact James Kocian at:  
[expo.ecmga@yahoo.com](mailto:expo.ecmga@yahoo.com)

**Reserve the date: March 26, 2011!**

## *It's November...What Needs to be Done?*



### **Mexican Bush Sage and Fall Aster**

*Photo by Nancy Prikryl*

*Mexican Bush Sage is a beautiful perennial that grows to approximately 4-5 feet high and 4 feet wide, forming a loose spreading mound. The showy elongated arching clusters are velvety purple to lavender-blue with white blooms. Cut back to within several inches of the ground in late fall. The Fall Aster is a perennial in the mum family; has beautiful purple flowers with a yellow disk in the center. They multiply readily by stolons. Prefers full sun and is drought tolerant. Both perennials are late summer/early mid- to fall-bloomers, which attract bees, butterflies and birds.*

### **Tips for November**

Utilize landscape contractors, maintenance companies and laborers that are knowledgeable about and adhere to sustainable landscape methods.

### **Planting and Sowing**

- Time to move trees and shrubs around in the landscape. They may need more afternoon shade, more sun, or they may have gotten too large for the area where they were planted. It is not necessary to amend the soil in the planting hole. Use existing soil only.
- Plant the spring-flowering bulbs that you ordered soon after they arrive. Wait until December to plant tulips and hyacinths—they need 6 to 8 weeks chilling.

### **Fertilizing and Pruning**

- Ideal time to plant cool-season greens such as spinach, lettuce and arugula
- Feed vegetables that you are growing now.
- Feed winter annuals growing in the ground with a regular lawn fertilizer.
- Use a water-soluble plant food for containers each time you water.

### **Garden Watch**

- Caterpillars like to feast on cool-season vegetables. If they are a problem, use a spray containing BT.
- Check potted plants growing outside for insects, and spray if needed, before bringing them indoors.
- Look out for scale on cast iron and other plants. Use a horticultural oil to control.

### **This and That**

- Collect leaves for the compost pile. Use a mower with bag to remove leaves from the lawn.
- Order seeds you intend to plant later on to get the varieties you want.
- Perform maintenance on all power equipment. Run gasoline-powered engines dry.
- Sharpen mower blades and any other tools as needed.

## Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian  
Ellis County Master Gardener*



*Teucrium cubense* Jacq.  
**Mint Family (Labiatae)**

### **Small Coast Germander**

**Range:** 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 (Ellis County is range 4)  
**Size:** 2 feet  
**Blooms:** March through December, Annual/Perennial

Germander is represented in Texas by three species with several subspecies. Germander has square stems and opposite leaves; all species from colonies. Small coast germander (pictured) has lobed, cleft, or scalloped leaves. Stalked white flowers are three-fourths of an inch long. *T. laciniatum*, cutleaf germander, flowers in the leaf axils. It has half-inch white flowers and the broadly lobed leaves are incised nearly to the midrib. *T. canadense*, American germander, or wood sage, has flower spikes up to eight inches long with individual flowers reaching a length of one-half to three-quarters of an inch. They may be creamy white, pale pink or pale lavender.

## Herb of the Month

By Arlene Hamilton  
Ellis County Master Gardener



### November Herb of the Month – Mexican Mint Marigold, *Tagetes lucida*

You may have noticed a sturdy little plant with clusters of three-quarter inch golden flower blooming in the November garden. Mexican mint marigold has a lot to offer the Texas gardener. It thrives in our hot, humid climate, its bright yellow flowers are the last to bloom before frost and it has a licorice-anise aroma. Many southern cooks use its dark green leaves as a substitute for French tarragon, a temperamental herb that seldom grows successfully in the southern garden. Native to the mountains of Mexico and Central America, this neat, upright plant will grow to three feet but looks best if trimmed back in midsummer. According to legend, the ancient Aztec chieftains used a powder made from the leaves to calm the victims of sacrificial rituals.



The fresh leaves can be chopped and used to season chicken, fish and salad greens. The sweet, anise flavor brews up a wonderful tea, either hot or iced. When making a white sauce or a cheese sauce add some chopped mint marigold toward the end of the cooking time as its flavor breaks down quickly when heated. In salads, vinegars, oils, or quick-cooking recipes, substitute it for French tarragon in equal proportions.

Mint marigold's dried leaves and flowers add fragrance and color to potpourris and sachets. Harvest the long stems before a frost, while they are still green and with bright flowers. Bundle, tie and hang in a dark dry place to dry. When crisp-dry remove from stems and add to a potpourri of other aromatic herbs and flowers. The flowers add long-lasting color to fresh bouquets and dried arrangements.

This robust plant thrives in almost any well-drained soil and is relatively easy to grow. It requires very little fertilizer and will tolerate short droughts. Place in full sun for best blooms. In our Zone 8, mint marigold will die back in the winter but new green shoots will emerge in early summer, after the soil has become warm. If you have allowed the seeds to remain on the plant they will scatter and germinate in late summer with a profusion of robust seedlings. These seedlings are easy to propagate and move to new locations or share with lucky friends. The flowers will attract bees and butterflies to your garden. I have planted some with blue fall asters for a striking color combination in a west-facing flower bed. Pink roses in their autumn flowering offer an additional splash of color.

## Vegetable Gardening

By Pat Dockins  
Ellis County Master Gardener



### VEGETABLE GARDENING IN NOVEMBER

The average first frost for this area is sometime between November 11 through November 24<sup>th</sup>. This is the time that fall gardening care begins. Start paying close attention to the weather forecasts. Covering tender plants of vegetables with baskets, blankets, sheets, burlap bags or even buckets can extend the growing season a little longer. Just don't use plastic as it conducts the cold and won't be of any use at all. Warm days after the frost will allow some of the fruit to mature as long as it has its nightly cover.

Some cool weather crops such as lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, spinach and Brussels sprouts can withstand some cold. Kale not only tolerates cold weather – its flavor actually improves after frost. Cauliflower will not be damaged by light frost but should be harvested before a hard freeze. Asparagus should be cut to the ground after the stalks are killed by frost; mulch to protect roots from frost damage and to control weeds. Horseradish should not be dug until after a hard freeze. It can be dug as needed until early spring, but the roots should be peeled and grated for use soon after digging. Carrots, parsnips, turnips and other root crops planted in August and September can be kept in the ground over winter if they are protected with a light covering of mulch and dug as needed until spring.

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When you harvest lettuce and spinach use your scissors to cut just the tops off leaving the roots in the ground. The plants will make new leaves.

After tender crops have been harvested and over-winter crops cared for, pull up all the stakes and cages and clean up your garden. You can turn under most of your plants – such as beans, peas, and squash as they break down quickly. Tougher plants like corn and okra need to be cut up into smaller pieces before you till or hoe them in. Two kinds of plant matter that you *shouldn't* turn under are (1) those that won't decompose completely by spring (cabbage cores, for instance) and (2) those that are diseased or insect-infested.

Now would be a good time to add compost to your garden. Woodchips, manure, leaves or even better, the City of Waxahachie has great mulch that is finely ground that would be good to add to the garden now (and it's free to citizens of Waxahachie). If you wait until spring to add organic material to the garden, it may not have time to decompose and add its valuable nutrients to the soil by the time you are ready to plant.

Continue to supply supplemental moisture as needed.



## Predicting Winter Weather: Woolly Bear Caterpillars

By James Kocian, Ellis County Master Gardener

Have you seen cute, fuzzy and downright fun to watch caterpillars inch their way across a sidewalk. The harmless caterpillar has enjoyed being at the center of weather folklore. Like the groundhog's shadow, the woolly bear's 13 distinctive black and reddish-brown bands have become a rule of thumb in forecasting winter.

### Woolly Bear Facts

The common moth *Pyrrharcia isabella* is known by different common names at its two main life stages. The adult is the Isabella tiger moth and the larva is called the banded woolly bear. The larvae of many species of Arctiid moths are called "woolly bears" ("wooly bears", "woollybears") because of their long, thick, fur like setae. This species is black at both ends with a band of coppery red in the middle. The adult moth is dull yellow to orange with a robust, furry thorax and small head. Its wings have sparse black spotting and the proximal segments on its first pair of legs are bright reddish-orange.



The banded woolly bear larva emerges from the egg in the fall and overwinters in its caterpillar form. It survives winter freezes by producing a cryoprotectant in its tissues. Once the weather warms, the larva devours all the grass and weeds it can, pupates, and becomes an adult, which then lives through the summer. It is the larvae of this species which are the subject of common folklore, which has it that the forthcoming severity of a winter can be predicted by the amount of black on the caterpillar; this is the most familiar woolly bear in North America.

### The History Of Woolly Bear

The woollybear wackiness all started more than three decades ago. Northeast Ohio TV weatherman Dick Goddard of Fox8 TV in Cleveland talked with some friends and co-workers about his idea of a celebration built around using the woollybear to forecast what kind of winter is ahead.

The annual Woollybear Festival is held every Fall in downtown Vermilion, Ohio, on Lake Erie. The one-day, family event, which began in 1973, features a woolly bear costume contest in which children, even pets, are dressed up as various renditions of the woolly bear caterpillar <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woolly\\_bear\\_caterpillar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woolly_bear_caterpillar)> .

The festival, normally held in mid-October, has been moved up one month starting Sunday, September 23, 2007. It is touted as the largest one-day festival in Ohio.

The exit of summer always ushers in Fall familiarities - apple cider, pumpkins, changing landscapes and the site of nature's most recognizable caterpillar: the woolly bear.

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## What is a Master Gardener?

By Shirley Campbell  
Ellis County Master Gardener



Master Gardeners are trained members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others and be able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their Texas AgriLife Extension Service office to provide horticultural information to their communities.

### IS THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM FOR ME?

To help you decide if you should apply to be a Master Gardener, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I want to learn more about the culture and maintenance of many types of plants?
- Am I eager to participate in a practical and intense training program?
- Do I look forward to sharing my knowledge with people in my community?
- Do I have enough time to attend training and to complete the volunteer service?

### Training

If accepted into the Master Gardener Program you will attend a training course which offers a minimum of 56 hours of instructions that covers topics including: lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, insects, disease and weed management, soil and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening, home fruit production, garden flowers, and water conservation. The course and study materials cost is \$150.00.

The Master Gardener training course will be held each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the month of February 2011. Hours will be from 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Street, Waxahachie, Texas. Class size is limited and attendance is required at all sessions to complete the program.

### Volunteer Commitment

In exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer at least **75 hours of service by November 1<sup>st</sup>** following training to earn the title of "Texas Master Gardener". The volunteer time will take place during the normal work week with the exception when we have the Annual Lawn & Garden Expo which is on a Saturday in the spring.

The type of service done by Master Gardeners varies according to community needs and the abilities and interest of the Master Gardener. Some Master Gardeners answer telephone requests for information related to gardening. Master Gardeners may speak to local groups and conduct workshops. They may help establish school and community garden projects, work with 4-H youth, or assist their agent with news or radio releases related to gardening. The Master Gardener Coordinator in the county Extension office decides how volunteer time can be best used. Master Gardeners are representatives of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in all volunteer work related to the program; Master Gardeners follow the research-based recommendations of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The title "Texas Master Gardener" can be used by volunteers only when engaged in activities sponsored by the Extension Service.

### Certification

Participants become certified Master Gardeners after they have completed the training course and fulfilled their volunteer commitment.

Application forms are available on the Ellis County Master Gardener website at [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com) or by calling 972-825-5175. Classes fill quickly and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be returned by **January 3, 2011** after which you will be called to schedule an interview.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A & M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the longer the middle brown band, the milder and shorter the coming winter; the shorter the brown band, the longer and more severe winter will be.

The truth behind the woolly bear's band length actually has more to do with age than with predicting the weather. As the caterpillar prepares to overwinter, the caterpillar molts, becoming less black and more reddish-brown as it ages. Woolly bears overwinter from September to May, and are commonly found along nature trails and wooded edges and crossing sidewalks and roadways seeking overwintering sites.

Woolly bears share winter predictions with some of nature's other critters like honeybees and yellow jackets. Folklore tells that honeybees will store honey en masse in preparation for a severe winter and yellow jackets will build nests either high in the trees or in the ground depending on what the coming winter has in store.



## Dakota Gold *Helenium*

by Jackie Wilhite, Ellis County Master Gardener

Every year the list of Texas Superstars expands. This year Dakota Gold *helenium* was added to the list of Superstars. This plant was bred from a weed that grows along Texas highways known as yellow bitterweed. Because it was able to survive tough Texas summers, being tromped in pastures and the frequent mowing of the roadside ditches, this was an ideal candidate for breeding an ornamental plant with all the characteristics to survive and thrive for Texas growers.



It started in the mid-1990s with a Texas AgriLife Research horticulturist named Dr. Michael Arnold mentioning to some of his graduate students that bitterweed would make a good candidate for a "environmentally friendly ornamental". After about 10 years of trials through cross pollination, a prototype was chosen for its low growing, flowering and spreading capabilities. Dr. Arnold and Texas A&M then licensed the plant to Ball Horticulture for further testing. In a short two years, the company improved upon the plant by successfully growing it far away from its beginning in Texas. It is no big surprise that the plant does well in Florida since it has lots of sunshine and heat like Texas. What is surprising is that the same plant did well in the much colder climate of Chicago.

Dakota Gold *helenium* grows 12-18 inches tall with dark green circular foliage and blooms stalks of bright yellow flowers similar to daisies. It likes well-drained soil, plenty of sunshine and tolerates heat well. A very promising plant for a variety of climate and landscaping challenges.

All Texas Superstars must meet certain guidelines. AgriLife Researchers and Texas AgriLife Extension Service horticulturists designate plants that perform well for Texas consumers and growers. The plants must also be easy to propagate. This insures a reasonably priced plant that will meet the demands for its use. Dakota Gold *helenium* is one of five plants designated to join the growing list of Texas Superstars in 2010. For a complete list of these plants, please visit <http://texassuperstar.com/>.

For more information on any of the material mentioned in this article, please visit our website at <http://txmg.org/ellis/> or call a Master Gardener at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Office at 972-825-5175.

*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A & M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*





## Landscape Gardening

by Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

Ellis County Master Gardeners have a website at [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com). Check this website for information on gardening in Ellis County, sign up for a monthly newsletter or access other websites including Texas A&M horticulture website. Questions for Master Gardeners will be answered with a return telephone call or email if you leave a message at 972.825.5175.

### Gall-Making Insects and Mites

Galls are swellings on plants that can be caused by injury or by several species of gall-making insects. Gall-making insects are generally not considered pests, and some galls are even considered attractive and are used in flower arrangements and other crafts. Most gall-making insects do not damage the host plant; however, certain species may cause aesthetic damage—such as leaf discoloration, early defoliation, or twig and stem drop. Galls occur on a wide variety of plants, but the most common ones occur in oaks, hackberries, roses, willows and asters. The susceptibility varies from plant to plant, even within the same species.

**Prevention and cultural control.** Gall-forming insects must attack host plants at a precise stage of tissue development in order to induce gall formation. Because most galls and gall-forming insects are not a threat to plant health, attempting to control them is not usually warranted. Learning to recognize different galls and the insects or mites that cause them may provide peace of mind. If galls are considered unsightly, they can be removed by hand or infested plant parts can be pruned and discarded. However, this may not prevent future infestations. Removing the host plant and replacing it with a non-susceptible species or a more resistant specimen is the only sure method of control.

**Biological control.** Several species of wasps parasitize gall-forming insects and reduce the number of galls formed. These wasps are natural enemies of gall-making insects and function as their biological control agents. To protect these beneficial wasps, avoid using broad-spectrum insecticides during the time they are searching for hosts (from late spring through early summer). Adult gall-forming insects leave galls through exit holes. The vacated space is almost immediately occupied by small spiders and other beneficial insects such as lacewing larvae, ants or parasitic wasps. Thus, old galls house beneficial organisms that feed on insect pests. The honeydew-like substances associated with some galls may attract ants, wasps and bees.

**Chemical control.** Although there are some insecticides and miticides registered for use against gall-making insects (including insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils), their use is generally unwarranted. It is very important to know the basic biology of the specific gall-making insect or mite involved before applying a pesticide. Unless pesticides are applied when adults are laying eggs or during the crawler stage, they may not control the pest. Once galls begin to form, the insects and mites are protected inside them and cannot be killed with either a surface-applied pesticide or a systemic pesticide. Furthermore, pesticides may kill the beneficial insects that help control gall-making insects.

(This information is from an article by Carlos E. Bográn, Bastiaan M. Drees and Jeremy L. Hudgeons\*

\* Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist—Entomology and Professor and Extension Entomologist, The Texas A&M University System; and graduate student, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University.)

### **What to do in November**

- Roses often put on some of their best displays in the November-December period of cooler weather. Encourage them at this time with plenty of water during dry spells and good cultivation, finishing with a topping of fresh mulch to save moisture and ameliorate temperature changes.
- November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. In the Panhandle, planting is often delayed until February or early March.
- Bring in late-blooming plants such as decorative kalanchoes or Christmas cactus so they may finish flowering in the warmth of the house.
- Reduce the fertilization of indoor plants from late October to mid-March. An exception would be plants in an atrium or a well lighted window.
- Continue to set out cool-season bedding plants, such as pansies, violas, stock, snapdragons, and dianthus.
- Prepare beds and individual holes for rose planting in January and February. Use composted manure, pine bark, and similar materials mixed with existing soil.
- Protect your lawn from excessive winter damage by providing irrigation during dry periods.
- Don't forget tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the refrigerator. They can be planted any time in December if they have received 60 or more days of chilling.
- Take advantage of good weather to prepare garden beds for spring planting. Work in any needed organic matter, and have beds ready to plant when needed.



## Photo Contest

By Nancy Fenton, Ellis County Master Gardener

Hey Gardeners! It's time for our annual Master Gardener photo opportunity. Grab your cameras and get out in your yard. Show Ellis County what you do best. Our contest is now underway and you can enter online at [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com). The deadline for entries is February 15, 2011. Vegetables and summer garden pictures are great, but don't forget to include those great fall and winter photos too. There is no cost to enter and you may enter as many as five times. Keep one eye on your garden and your other eye on the prize.

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in two categories.

- Single Specimen
- In The Garden

Each winner will receive gift certificates from one of the following:

- The Greenery in Waxahachie
- Roland's Nursery in Waxahachie
- EarthTones Greenery in Midlothian



## It's November - What Else Needs to be Done?

By Dee Stroope, Ellis County Master Gardener

**Remember, the average first frost date in our area is November 15.**

- This is the month for cleaning up the garden and getting prepared for the winter. The next several months is the time for transplanting trees and shrubs without causing stress to them, since they enter winter dormancy in November and are not nearly as susceptible to damage.
- Plant mustard, radish and spinach SEEDS early this month in your winter garden. Plant lettuce, mustard greens, peas and spinach PLANTS. This is also your last chance to plant wildflower seeds.
- We're done mowing the lawn, and we need to fertilize with a high-nitrogen fertilizer, at one-half the recommended rate. Fertilize the winter flower beds with a balanced, water-soluble plant food when you water.
- Plant perennials, trees and shrubs this month. It's also time to divide perennials, such as day lilies, bearded iris, shasta daisies, violets, wood ferns and cannas. Remember, the iris is the official flower of Waxahachie.
- If you're not planting a winter garden, plant cover crops such as clover, hairy vetch or annual rye on the garden soil to protect it from weed infestation, help prevent erosion and till in as organic matter in the spring.
- For a green winter lawn it is time to over-seed your lawn with winter perennial rye.
- Prune out those dead limbs from trees and shrubs before the leaves fall, as it is easier to spot them now.
- Cover your strawberries with 2 to 4 inches of straw as winter mulch, and if you grow raspberries, protect the canes from the damaging winds by tying and staking them.
- Now is the time to decide if you are going to rake the falling leaves and compost them. If not, the leaves will fall and provide a protective layer over the soil. If you mow after the leaves have fallen, you will speed up the decomposing process and save yourself time and effort.

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- You need to run all gasoline-powered engines dry before storing them for the winter. If repair is needed, the repair shops are not as busy and you may want to purchase new equipment at close-out sales.
- Prune your chrysanthemums back almost to the ground when done blooming.
- Prune bougainvilleas and tropical hibiscus before bringing them indoors. Inspect and clean up your potted plants by controlling the insect pests on the plant or in the soil with an organic solution.
- Protect your peach and plum trees from bacterial stem canker and peach leaf curl with a spray application of Bordeaux mixture after all of the leaves have fallen.
- Because the average first frost date in our area is November 15, get ready to protect plants before a freeze. Water the plants well, drape a row cover over them and fasten the fabric at the soil line. For larger plants, use water jugs by cutting off the base and sealing the top opening with foil.

To access monthly gardening information, you may subscribe FREE to the E-Gardening Newsletter online at [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com).

You may enter the Ellis County Master Gardener photo contest FREE now through February 15, 2011 by way of the website. Prizes will be awarded.

Call the Ellis County Master Gardener Office at 972-825-5175 or check our website at [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com) for more information.

## News Release

### Using Postemergent Herbicides for Winter Broadleaf Weeds

By Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent  
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ellis County



Fall to early winter is the ideal time to control winter broadleaf weeds such as henbit, chickweed and dandelions. Too often, homeowners wait until the weather is too cold for the postemergent broadleaf herbicides to work effectively or they wait until the next spring when the weeds are mature and more difficult to control. Generally, late September to late October is the ideal time to control these young, actively growing broadleaf weeds. In September, you may not see the newly germinated broadleaf weeds below the turf canopy, but with the cooler temperatures and recent rainfall, these weed seed have started to germinate. The table contains a list of postemergent herbicides for use in home lawns that are generally sold in the garden/retail stores. **Again, it is important to always read the herbicide label before purchasing and before applying the postemergent herbicide for broadleaf weed control.**

| <u>Common Name</u>                          | <u>Trade names (partial list)</u>                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2,4-D                                       | 2,4-D Amine No. 4;<br>American 2, 4-D Selective Weed Killer                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2,4-D, MCPP,dicamba                         | Ace Spot Weed Killer<br>Green Light Wipe Out Broadleaf Weed Killer <sub>2</sub><br>Ortho Weed-B-Gon Max<br>Specracide Weed Stop for Lawns<br>Hi-Yield Lawn Weed Killer<br>Ferti-lome Weed-Out lawn Weed Killer |
| carfentrazone, 2,4-D<br>Mecroprop_p,dicamba | Ferti-lome Weed Free Zone<br>Weed B Gon Max for Southern Lawns                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2,4-D, mecroprop_p,<br>dicamba              | Bayer Advanced Southern Weed Killer for Lawns<br>Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns<br>Ferti-lome Weed Out lawn Killer                                                                                            |
| 2,4-D, mecroprop,<br>dichloprop             | Total Lawn Weed Killer                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2,4-D, mcpp, dicamba,                       | Spectracide Weed Stop 2X for Lawns<br>Hardball, Lescro A-4D                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2,4-D,2,4-DP                                | Patron 170 Ester                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2,4-D, dicamba, fluroxpyr                   | Escalade                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

2,4-D, clopyralid, dicamba  
 2,4-D, dicamba  
 2,4-D, MCPP, dicamba

2,4-D, MCPP-p, dicamba  
 2,4-D, MCPP, dicamba, carfentrazone  
 2,4-D MCPP, dicamba, sulfentrazone  
 2,4-D, MCPP, 2,4-DP  
 2,4-D, triclopyr, clopyralid  
 trifloxysulfuron

Millennium Ultra  
 Lesco Eight-One  
 Three-Way Selective, Trimec Southern,  
 Trimec Bentgrass, Trimec Classic,  
 Trimec Turf Herbicide  
 Triplet HI-D, Triplet Selective  
 Speedzone, Speedzone Southern  
 Surge  
 Dissolve, Triamine  
 Momentum  
 Monument

**Potential Problems with Applying Herbicides in the Fall**

Care should be taken when applying these preemergent and/or postemergent herbicides in the fall to early winter months. Listed below are some situations where herbicide application should be avoided if possible.

- Moderate to heavily shaded areas of the lawn. Grasses growing in especially heavy shade are going to already have a limited root system and applying herbicides in these areas could increase the stress problems on the turfgrass plants.
- Active disease problems such as Large patch (formerly called Brown Patch) and Gray Leaf Spot. Applying herbicides to areas that already have active disease problems, will make the disease situation worse. This is especially true for the Gray Leaf Spot.
- Turfgrass under stress. Most areas of the state experienced near record heat and drought conditions for the month of August 2010. If the lawn is still showing signs of stress from the summer, then avoid making the herbicide application until the grass has had time to recover.

For further information, contact Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent-Agriculture/Natural Resources, 701 South I-35 E, Suite 3, Waxahachie, or call 972/825-5175 or email: [wmarnold@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:wmarnold@ag.tamu.edu)

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