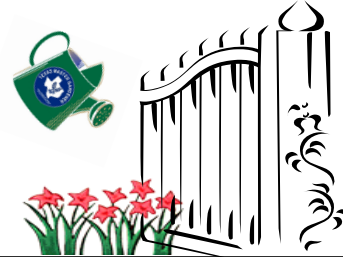




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume X, Issue 9

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

September, 2017

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. Best of all; it's FREE! Editors and Newsletter Team: Susan Ellis, Donna Hubbard, Bree Shaw

What's Happening in September?



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
- ☼ Tell a friend to sign up for the **E-Garden Newsletter**... it's **FREE!**

September 9th—Ellis County Master Naturalists will be having a “Wild Art Fun” for kids of all ages. Wild Art will be created out of sticks, stones, seeds, grasses and feathers.

September 16th—Texas Super Stars. What's new in the world of these plants, flowers, grasses, trees and more. Discussed by Ellis County Master Gardeners.

September 23rd—Brining, Fermenting and Pickling with the Market Chefs. Learn some tips and tricks for safe handling of your garden bounty. The Chefs will share recipes and samplings.

September 30th—Autumn Décor and Festivities are on display by our creative crafters. We will have handmade wreaths, soaps, jewelry, fiber art and more.

October 7th—First Annual Chili Cook Off. Join us for some mild to fiery hot chili samplings. Several of our sellers plan to show off their skills with chili peppers. You will be the judge voting for your favorite sampling.



Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10-8:25 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

INDIAN TRAIL MASTER NATURALISTS EVENTS



Join the **Indian Trail Master Naturalists** at their monthly meeting on **Monday, September 25**. The program for the evening is entitled “**Itchy Business-13 Things You Need to Know About Poison Oak and Ivy Rash**”. Amy Martin, an author with twelve years working in wildlife habitat management, will discuss the best remedies for removing the urushiol from the skin and the barrier creams that work along with the best herbs to treat the rash. Meeting location: First United

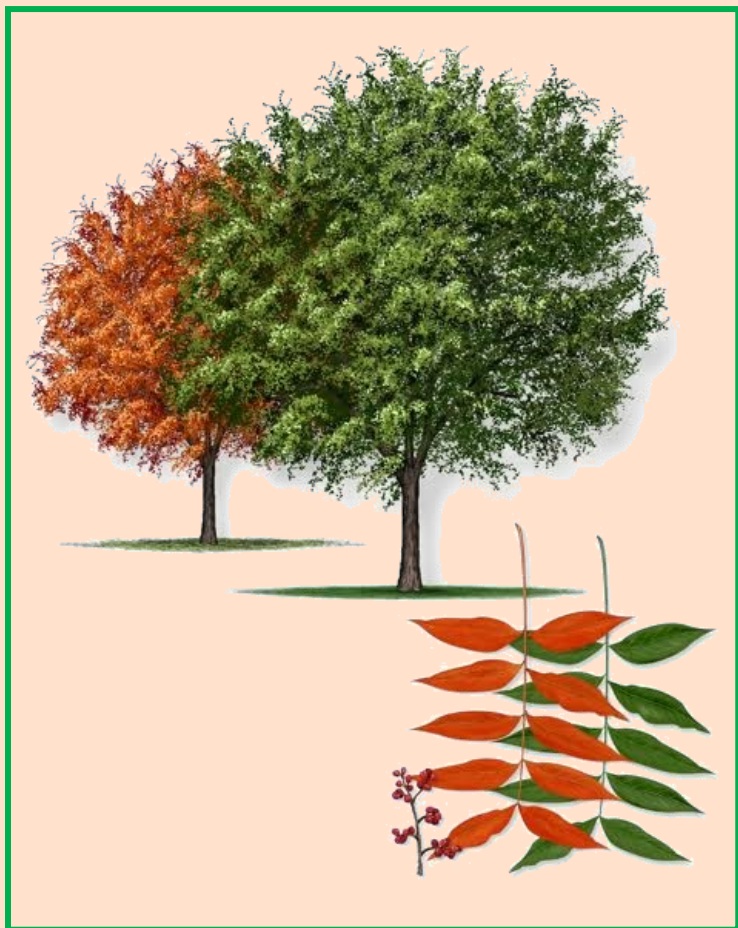
Methodist Church, Family Life Center 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu

Saturday, September 16, 9am, Wildflower & Bird Walk. Members will be leading a walk at Mockingbird Nature Park. Join in this ½ mile stroll along the trails to identify wildflowers and birds. Free to the public. Participants should bring drinking water and binoculars. The walk will be canceled if raining. Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: Information@itmnc.com

Inside this issue:

<i>It's Sep, What Needs to be Done?</i>	2
<i>Wildflower of the Month</i>	3
<i>What is Chlorosis?</i>	3
<i>Fall Light House for Learning</i>	4
<i>Tree Selection Basics</i>	5
<i>Recipe of the Month</i>	5
<i>Pruning Roses</i>	6
<i>September Factoid</i>	7
<i>Garden Check List</i>	8
<i>Pop-Up Horticulture</i>	8
<i>Eclectic Gardening</i>	9
<i>Iris Give Away Pictures</i>	10

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



Planting

- ▲ Plant these fall vegetables now: beets, carrots, “greens” (mustard, collard, turnip), kale, lettuce, radishes and spinach.
- ▲ Lawn establishment using warm-season grasses such as Bermudagrass, St. Augustine, zoysia and buffalograss should be completed early in the month.
- ▲ Overseed established Bermudagrass lawns with perennial ryegrass this month, if desired.
- ▲ Plant these fall-blooming annuals from bedding plants before buds have opened: marigolds, petunias, asters, pinks, snapdragons and mums. Wait until cooler weather to plant pansies, violas and ornamental cabbages and kale.
- ▲ Complete sowing bluebonnets to ensure spring flowers. For season-long color, purchase a wildflower mix that contains annuals and perennials, as well as cool-season and warm-season plants such as bluebonnets, black-eyed Susan, Indian blanket, Indian paintbrush, Mexican hat, plains coreopsis, purple coneflower and evening primrose. Sow seeds in areas that are free of grasses and lightly tilled. Lightly rake area to get good seed-soil contact before watering.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- ▲ Apply high-nitrogen fertilizer (4-1-2 ratio) on lawns and shrubs to prepare plants for fall and winter. Container plants will benefit from using high-nitrogen, water-soluble fertilizers.
- ▲ Tidy up summer perennials by removing dead and faded flower stems and seed stalks. Continue through fall.
- ▲ Root-prune trees and shrubs to be transplanted this winter. Cutting the roots around the plant with a spade will stimulate new root growth in what will become the soil ball when plant is moved.

Garden Watch

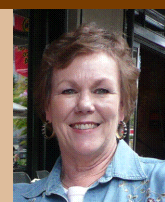
- ▲ Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to lawns early in the month to control winter weeds. Depending on the type of weed targeted, it may be necessary to apply two products – one for grassy weeds (annual bluegrass, ryegrass, etc.) and another for broadleaved weeds (chickweed, clover, dandelions, henbit, etc.).
- ▲ Check for spider mites on tomatoes and new transplants. Treat with strong stream of water or insecticidal soap.
- ▲ Make final application of Image® or SedgeHammer® before mid-month to control nutsedge in warm-season lawns.
- ▲ Remove webworms from pecan trees. Cut off the ends of branches as soon as the webs appear. Tear open large webs to expose worms for the birds. Spraying is not practical.
- ▲ Spray roses suffering from black spot and powdery mildew with labeled fungicide.
- ★ Prepare beds for spring-flowering bulbs. Add generous amounts of organic matter to improve water drainage.

The **Chinese Pistache** is a rapid-growing, deciduous tree reaching heights of 40 feet with a width of 30 feet. This tree is long lived with spectacular red to red-orange fall color. The Chinese Pistache tolerates full sun with low to moderate water needs. This hardy tree is extremely pest resistant and has been designated as a Texas **Superstar®**.



Featured Texas Wildflower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Blackfoot Daisy – Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)
Melampodium leucanthum T. & G.

Region: 4 through 10 (Ellis County is Region 4)
Size: 1 foot
Blooms: March – November, Perennial

Blackfoot daisy is one of the most drought-tolerant plants in Texas. It blooms from spring through summer, on gravelly or rocky soils, in cracks of rocks and on slopes and ledges. In flower, it looks like a little white bouquet along the roadside. Each branch of the woody stems ends in a single, one-inch flower head, centered with a yellow disk. The seven to thirteen petals are notched at the tips. Look just under each petal to see a small bract, shaped like a foot. These bracts turn black at maturity; thus the common name. The linear leaves of blackfoot daisies are opposite, narrow and may be slightly lobed. Short, rough hairs coat the leaves and stems.

WHAT IS CHLOROSIS?

Submitted by Melinda Kocian

Chlorosis in plants is a result of nutrient deficiency, insufficient light, or certain viral diseases, and causes the leaves to become yellowish from lack of chlorophyll being created within the plant.

The most common form is Iron Chlorosis which is a result of a deficiency of Iron in a plant. Iron is a key element in the creation of chlorophyll. Iron Chlorosis is caused by a plant being unable to extract sufficient Iron from the soil. It is very common in high pH and heavy clay soils. These types of soils bind up the iron into a form that the plant cannot use properly.

Iron Chlorosis will affect the young leaves first and then spread to the older foliage as the condition worsens. If the new growth turns yellowish first, this is the likely problem. Some plants are very tolerant of high pH and clay soils, while others are not. The best way to prevent it is to either choose plants that are tolerant or amend the soil to improve the chances of your plants being able to extract the iron in the soil.

Iron chlorosis is usually associated with deficiency or unavailability of iron in the soil or a form of iron that is difficult for the plant to extract, but it may also appear when roots are damaged by overwatering, poor drainage, or over fertilization. Any condition that kills roots or does not allow feeder root development can lead to iron chlorosis.

There is a foliar form of iron that you can spray directly on the leaves or injected into the soil where the roots can easily absorb

it. This can alleviate the problem somewhat, but it is best to do what you can to correct it if possible.

Treat iron chlorosis by eliminating the cause. A soil test will determine soil pH. Alkaline soil, or soil which is not acid enough, may be treated with sulfur or iron sulfate to make it more acidic. Poorly drained soils should be improved and plants subject to iron chlorosis should be watered carefully. The color of plants several months after soil is amended will indicate need for future treatment.



Another reason: Many red oaks planted here are not adapted to the soil. Pin oaks and mixed breed red oaks are great trees but must have acid soil. They will not grow well or even survive long-term in alkaline soils, such as the black and white soils of North Texas.

Even if you change the soil pH with vinegar, which can be done, you will have to deal with the alkaline conditions of the irrigation water.

All red oaks naturally crossbreed like crazy and when the resulting trees are heavily crossed with the genetics of pin oak, northern red oak, Southern red oak and other trees suited to acid soils, they will never be healthy in alkaline (high pH) soils.

The solution is to take the ill-adapted trees out and plant natives and well-behaved introductions that like the alkaline soils. Texas red oaks are great trees unless they are crossbred with the acid-loving trees.

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 yards for fall.

Thursday, September 21, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. Landscape Design in Ellis County Learn the secrets to successful landscaping in Ellis County. Will discuss soil climate/ temperature, rainfall, native and adapted plants, trees, shrubs, perennials, etc. Class includes a PowerPoint presentation with photos and examples of designs and landscapes in Waxahachie and Midlothian. Class is taught by the "Landscape Director" for the state of Texas on the board of TNLA (Texas Nursery and Landscape Association) and Ellis County Master Gardener. Instructor: Scotty Rigsby Cost \$14.00

Thursday, September 28, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. Container Gardening. For those who only have a small space or patio, container gardening is the way to raise flowers or vegetables. A handout will be provided. The class will cover Proper container size and shape, How to add an olla (water device) to lessen hand watering, Proper soil mixture/Placement of container/ Fertilizer/Light requirements and what to plant for the best results-more as time allows. This will include a demonstration and the planting of a container garden. Instructor: Jane Slone Cost: \$14.00

Monday, October 2, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. Companion Plants. Companion planting is putting plants together that like and help each other. For the Organic gardener this is a must and for others it helps with less problems and better yields. Instructor: Jane Sloan Cost: \$14.00

Tuesdays, October 10-31 (Four Classes), 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Beginning Farmer/Rancher. If you are a land owner 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. Class will be held at the Ellis Co. 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

Thursday, October 19, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. Poultry for Beginners. From incubation to finished bird. Topics will include housing, food requirements and illness prevention. This class will primarily cover chickens but other bird types will be touched on like Turkeys, guinea fowl and pea fowl. City ordinances will be discussed. Instructor: Rebecca Keese Cost: \$14.00

Thursday, October 26, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. Herbs for All Gardeners. An introduction to growing and using herbs in our daily lives. This class will cover how to plan and start an Herb Garden for your specific needs in the garden or container. You will learn how to preserve your herbs and enjoy their flavor all winter long. The instructor will bring plants for you to see, enjoy flavors and aromas! Instructor: Bea Rocha Cost: \$14.00

Monday, October 30, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. All About Trees. Do you have trees or are planning to add trees to your property? This class will go over the various trees that do well in Ellis County, including native trees. Subjects covered will be: what to look for in the Nursery, how and where to plant and how to care for your trees after planting. Pruning basics is included which cover when and how to prune. Next to your house, trees are the next most important investment on your property; learn how to protect that investment. Instructor: Alan Paxton Cost: \$14.00

Thursday, November 9, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. How to Have a Beautiful Lawn in Ellis County. Does your yard have brown instead of green or unidentified weeds? Then this class is for you! You will learn what is the best turf for your yard, how to test the soil before fertilizing and the proper use of herbicides/insecticides. Using proper techniques for watering so not to waste water or kill your grass. Instructor: Mike Peters Cost: \$14.00

Monday, November 13, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Fall Succulent Holiday Decorating. Ideas on how to bring a fall favorite, the Famous Pumpkin, to life with normal succulents, and create a beautiful fall decoration that will last for months. Instructor: Mary Brower Cost \$14.00

Monday, December 4, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Gardening in Ellis County Soils. Good soil is crucial to successful gardening. Most soils in Ellis County are either heavy clay or shallow and rocky, both pose problems for the home gardener. There is hope! This class will offer insight into how you can improve your soil for growing vegetables, flowers and other landscape plants. You will learn about the different soil types, properties, how to modify or amend soils to improve your gardening experience. We will also talk about soil testing, and selecting the best fertilizers (synthetic vs. organic) to meet plant needs. Whether you are a rookie or a veteran gardener, this class will give you a head start on next season's gardening! Instructor: Monty Gearner Cost \$14.00



Tree Selection Basics

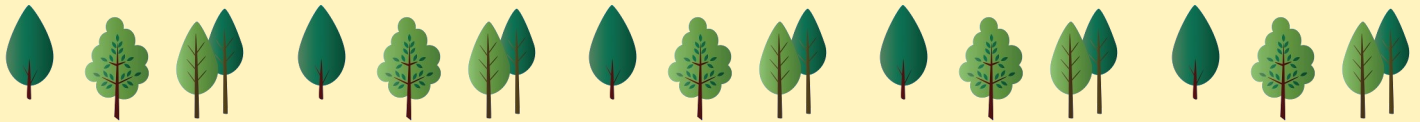
By: Jackie Wilhite

Purchasing a tree can be a bit intimidating if you haven't done a bit of research prior to the nursery visit. Make a few basic considerations and the shopping process will go a lot faster. Like the reason for the tree (shade, privacy or maybe both) and where it will be located. What is the proximity of the closest building, roads, sidewalks or utilities? Are any power lines overhead? Are regulations in place that would prevent the addition of a tree to this property? What is the mature size – height and canopy of the tree that is under consideration? Most full size trees will spread 40ft in diameter. Keep this number in mind when making the tree selection. Trees come in a wide range of sizes-choose the best variety for the location.

Landscape of the area where the tree will be placed should be fairly level with little or no slope. Once the ideal location has been determined for planting a tree, a perk test should be done. Dig a hole 18" deep and fill it with water. Leave the site for an hour to allow the water to drain from the hole. If most of the water drains, this is considered to be a good locale. If half or less of the water has drained out, the site is considered fair. If hardly any water drains from the hole after an hour, the drainage in this area will be poor and anything planted here could fail due to suffocated roots

The best quality trees will have a dominant central trunk up to the canopy. (Not all trees develop one single trunk naturally-they must be trained) Check the trunk for old injuries or broken branches. Old pruning cuts that have not healed properly could indicate a weakened plant. While shopping for the best looking tree, don't be afraid to lift the tree from its container. If the roots are circling inside the container, move on to the next plant. Sometimes these circling roots (if not too severe) can be pruned away when planting. This takes some time and knowledge for the best possible outcome. The ideal plant will not be root bound. Plant the tree in a hole no deeper than it was in the pot at time of purchase. The trunk should begin to flare at the top of the soil when it has been planted correctly.

Maintenance for the tree species should also be considered prior to purchase. Be willing to keep the tree watered for the first year while it is developing a root system. Mulch the top of the tree without touching the trunk. Some things cannot be controlled like the rate of growth and rooting system development, fire, wind, hail or how long the tree will live. But if a few steps are taken prior to putting the tree in the ground, successfully growing a strong healthy tree will be accomplished.



Featured Recipe of the Month

Asian Inspired Green Beans

By Rebecca Keesee

2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 1/2 pounds fresh green beans
2 slices bacon
1/2 cup red bell pepper strips
1/2 cup thin onion wedges
1/2 cup whole cashews

- ▲ In a small bowl, stir together the teriyaki sauce, honey, and butter.
- ▲ Fill a bowl with cold water and ice cubes.
- ▲ Bring a large pot of water to a boil and add the lemon juice. Drop in the beans and cook for 4 to 5 minutes, or until beans are bright green. Drain the beans in a colander and then plunge them into the iced water. Drain again and set aside.
- ▲ In a skillet, cook the bacon until very crispy, crumble and set aside. Saute the bell pepper and onion in the hot bacon fat for 2 minutes. Add the beans, cashews, and bacon to the skillet. Add the teriyaki-honey sauce and toss gently.

Pruning Roses

By: Shirley Campbell, Ellis County Master Gardener



Would You Prune Your Roses Throughout the Year?



Many gardeners state: Pruning of roses should be done in February. This article from Dr. Welsh said we should consider looking at our roses every month. This article appeared on the TAMU Horticulture website several years ago. Yes, February is the primary month to do the pruning, but Dr. Welsh provides us with a perspective to consider pruning throughout the year.

Solving the Mystery of Pruning Roses

Dr. Doug Welsh, Landscape Horticulturist at Texas A&M University, offers these tips on pruning roses.

February is the month when most modern roses need to be pruned. Even if your roses have already begun growth, the time has come to prune. Annual heavy pruning is essential to insure the prolific bloom and long-life of a rose bush.

Explaining the concept of rose pruning without a live bush to demonstrate is difficult, so let your mind visualize the following steps in rose pruning:

- ✿ Pruning of roses is actually done year-round. Every time you cut off old blooms and remove twiggy growth, you are actually promoting new growth. There are two times a year when you prune more seriously, spring and fall.
- ✿ You will need the following items: a good pair of hand pruners (preferably the scissor type referred to as a by-pass pruner, not the anvil type), a sharp keyhole saw, large loppers, a heavy pair of leather gloves, a pruning compound and a dull knife.
- ✿ The first step in spring pruning of Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas and Climbing roses is to remove any canes that are dead or just old and non-productive. These canes are usually gray in color and scaly.
- ✿ This pruning will encourage future “basal breaks” which are the life blood of any rose bush. Basal breaks refer to new shoots, soon to be producing canes, which arise from the graft union. These should not be confused with “suckers” which arise from the rootstock below the graft union. Remove all suckers.
- ✿ The next step involves taking a good look at the bud union. If you have any old, dry, scaly wood on the union, remove it. Use the dull knife to scrape the bud union to remove the scaly wood. By doing this it will again make it possible for new basal breaks to come about.



- ✿ Beginning to fine tune the pruning, remove all twiggy growth on the remaining canes (note: the fine tune pruning on climbing roses should be done after they bloom in the spring). Try to clean out the middle of the bush as much as possible. This allows for good air circulation to prevent insects and disease.

- ✿ Now you are ready to prune on the good healthy canes. If your roses have already flushed growth, it is important to prune each cane back to a dormant bud. A bud that has already begun growth and is then pruned will simply continue to grow vigorously and bloom very little. A dormant, non-growing bud will initiate growth after pruning and will produce an abundance of blooms.



Rosa Fortuniana

One comment used to describe pruning is to “prune to an outside bud”. This means when picking the point on a given cane to cut back to, make sure there is a good bud on the cane facing toward the outside of the plant. This will insure the growth of the new bud is to the outside, therefore keeping the center of the rose bush clear and open for air circulation.

- ✿ Another guideline in pruning back an individual cane is to cut the cane at the point when the diameter of the cane is the size of a pencil or slightly larger. This is normally at a height of 18 to 24 inches. If there is the need to prune back to a dormant bud, the size of the cane may be larger and the cane length may be shorter.

- ✿ If old and large canes have been removed to the bud union, it is a good practice to seal these large cuts. This helps prevent insects and diseases from infecting the cuts. Smaller canes usually don't need to be sealed. Use some sort of sealing compound such as orange shellac or even Elmer's glue.

- ✿ When pruning is completed, remove any old foliage left on the canes and rake up and remove any leaves or twigs. This will help reduce the disease and insect pressure on the young, tender shoots and buds.

(Continued on page 7)

Texas Superstars (Continued from page 6)

The final product of your pruning should be a rose bush about 18 to 24 inches tall with four to eight canes. Add some fertilizer, water, and tender-loving-care, and that pitiful looking rose bush will soon give you a shower of flowers.

Miniatures should be pruned now, too. As for how to prune, use the same guidelines given for the larger type roses except do it in miniature. The end product will be a rose bush about four to six inches tall with four to six canes.

If you don't have any miniature roses, plant some this spring. You will be surprised at the wealth of blooms such a small plant can produce.

Use the miniatures in groups of threes, fives, or sevens to make a real splash. The miniatures also work well as a border plant along the front of a shrub bed. And finally, try some miniatures in clay pots and decorative containers to add color to decks, patios, and apartment balconies.



September 30, 2017 10 am

Create a miniature garden that will transport you back in time to when Dinosaurs roamed the land! Fun for kids of all ages and everyone in the family. Everyone will take home their creation at the end of this fun filled class. \$30 per person, upgrades available. Call (972) 723-0702 to reserve your spot.

Save The Date!
Saturday, March 24, 2018



SEPTEMBER FACTOID

Trees Increase Property Values – Well-placed, high quality trees can raise property values by as much as 20%. During new construction, remodeling or other major projects, remember to protect your natural investment by fencing around trees at the dripline temporarily to prevent root and bark injuries and soil compaction in the critical root zone.



Find us on:
facebook®

Are you on Facebook? Ellis County Master Gardeners have a community Facebook page 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, herbs, and more...we cover it all! You'll find us at the link below. 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>

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR SEPTEMBER

by Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist, TX A&M

- ☼ Sustaining adequate moisture in the garden and landscape is the #1 priority for late summer and fall, Water trees and shrubs by giving them at least one inch of water per week, delivered slowly, around the plants as far out as the "dripline" extends.
- ☼ Rejuvenate heat-stressed geraniums and begonias for the fall season by lightly pruning, fertilizing, and watering.
- ☼ Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture. Hollies will frequently drop their fruit under drought conditions.
- ☼ Prune out dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning until midwinter. Pruning now may stimulate tender growth prior to frost.
- ☼ Divide spring-flowering perennials such as irises, Shasta daisies, gaillardias, cannas, day lilies, violets, liriope, and ajuga. Reset divisions into well prepared soil with generous amounts of organic material worked into the top eight to ten inches. Water in thoroughly.
- ☼ Prepare the beds for spring-flowering bulbs as soon as possible. It is important to cultivate the soil and add generous amounts of organic matter to improve the water drainage. Bulbs will rot without proper drainage.
- ☼ Plantings at this time can provide landscape color for three seasons in central, east, and south Texas. Annuals set out early enough will bloom as soon as Thanksgiving, and frequently last until Memorial Day. Annuals that should soon be available in nurseries and garden shops include petunias, calendulas, pansies, snapdragons, stock, sweet peas, and violas (from seed).
- ☼ Christmas cactus can be made to flower by supplying 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness and cool nights (55 degrees F.) for a month, starting in mid-October. Keep plants on the dry side for a month prior to treatment.
- ☼ Replenish mulches around trees and shrubs.
- ☼ Start cool-season vegetables, such as mustard, lettuce, arugula, broccoli, carrots, and turnips, from seed in well prepared beds.
- ☼ Harvest okra, peppers, squash, and other vegetables often to encourage production.

Get Ready for Fall Seminar!

September 16, 2017 10 am

Learn Tips to prepare your landscape for the Fall. Our experts will broaden your knowledge of what it takes to have your landscape ahead of the season. Free to the Public



Last month's article, Plant of the Month "Mystic Spires Blue Salvia" written by Pat Cheshier, was reprinted in error from Earth Tones Greenery Newsletter. We apologize for this misprint.

2017 Pop-Up Horticulture

An Educational Program Presented By the Ellis County Master Gardener Association

Waxahachie Sims Library 10am

Sat, Sept 9 Container Gardening 101

Micki Roark

Waxahachie Farmers Market 8am-1pm

Sat, Sept 16 Texas Superstars

Sheila Cloonen

Sat, Oct 21 Fall Gardening

Mattie Thompson

Chautauqua Preservation Society Annual Assembly (Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie) 9am-5pm

Sat, Sept 30 Celebrating Public Spaces Instructors (TBA)

ECMGA Butterfly Garden (Waxahachie Hike & Bike Trail) 9am-11am

Sat, Oct 7 Attracting Butterflies

Cheryl Sandoval and Carolyn Ross



Eclectic Gardening

With Jane Slone, Ellis County Master Gardener

This MONTH:

DAYLILIES ARE A FAVORITE IN OUR TEXAS GARDENS



What are Daylilies? Daylilies are not really "lilies." In fact, they are quite different. True lilies grow on tall stems with flowers at the top. Daylily flower stems (called "scapes") are generally much shorter, and grow from a fountain of grass-like foliage at ground level.

Daylilies are members of the genus, *Hemerocallias*, not *Lilum*, which is the genus name of true lilies. *Hemerocallias* is a combination of two Greek words meaning "day" and "beautiful." This tells you the flowers last only one day and are beautiful. Few people realize the flowers fade so quickly, because as one fades, the next one on the stalk (or "scape") opens, keeping a planting of daylilies in bloom for weeks, sometimes for months.

Daylily Anatomy These plants have a stem like structure called a scape. When planting, roots and crown are important to consider. The roots should spread into a flared circle, and the crown should be about one inch below the soil level.

Types of Daylilies Diploid vs Triploids. The terms are used to denote the number of chromosomes. Just as in humans the chromosomes provide features unique to each plant. Diploid denotes the daylily has twenty-two chromosomes. Eleven from the egg cell and eleven from the pollen cell. Triploid has three sets, and polyploid even more chromosome numbers.

Bloom Season In older varieties each flower lasts only one day; the blooms open daily over a long period. Early, mid-season, and late varieties are also available. By planting some from each group it is possible to have almost continuous blooms throughout the summer. Hybridizers continue to expand the list of reblooming varieties. These are referred to as rebloomers. Hybridizers have crossed the plants and have produced daylilies that bloom more than once. Many reblooming varieties are now available. All types of Daylilies should have the dead blooms removed daily. At the end of the season all

flowers and the scape should be cut to the ground.

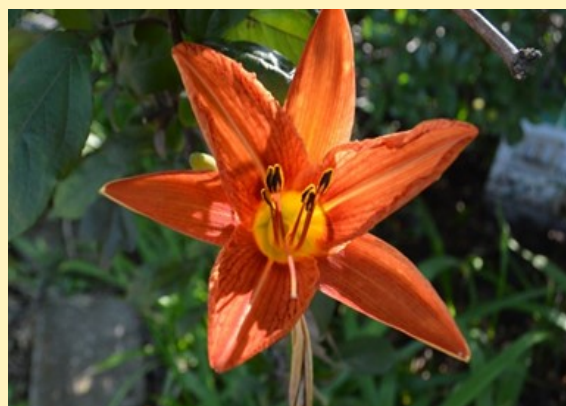
Growing These plants are perennials and should return each year. Plant in full sun. If you think that they are receiving too much sun, provide shade in the afternoon. If you do a mass planting with plant varieties, make sure that the water requirements are the same. Daylilies are drought-tolerant once established, but perform best with consistent moisture.

Soil Clay soils can be improved by the addition of compost, humus, peat moss, or sand which will help make it more friable. Sandy soil will benefit from the addition of compost, humus or peat moss which will serve to increase water retention.

Nutrients These perennials prefer a well-drained loam with a pH approaching neutral. Soils rich in organic matter encourage profuse blooming, although many of the older hybrids will grow well even in a sandy situation. Fertilize lightly once the plants are established, but avoid using mixes high in nitrogen. A summer mulch is appreciated since it will help soils retain moisture and buffer soil temperatures.

Drainage Daylilies prefer well-drained soil. In problem areas, one way to achieve adequate drainage is to prepare raised beds.

Planting Dividing: Daylilies should be divided every three to five years; repeat-bloomers every two years as new growth supports the rebloom. Two spading forks held back-to-back and pried apart makes this chore easy. Transplant anytime the soil is workable, watering well after planting in the new location. The crown should be planted about 1 inch below the soil level.



Pests Daylilies rank high on the list of plants resistant to insects and diseases. Thrips occasionally feed on buds or flowers distorting the blooms and causing cork-

like lesions on the flower spikes which may then break at the affected area. Use insecticidal soap to discourage these tiny pests, and remove and destroy any infested buds or flowers. Spider mites can infest the foliage during hot, dry weather; wash them off with a forceful water spray regularly. Yellowing leaves and brown leaf tips result from normal senescence after flowering. Regular grooming will keep plants looking fresh. If foliage becomes unsightly, cut it back to the ground, water well, and in time new foliage will appear.

Irises, Irises and more Irises !!!



That's what happened when the Ellis County Master Gardeners brought their annual Iris Giveaway to the Waxahachie Downtown Farmers Market on Saturday, August 19.

In keeping with the Iris theme, Master Gardener Kathy Graves, located under the white "Pop-Up" tent, demonstrated proper planting techniques and fielded questions about growing and caring for this old garden favorite.



Jackie Milam, Susan Ellis, Betty Clouse and other Master Gardener volunteers teamed up to hand out close to a thousand Iris bulbs to Market visitors.



Needless to say, the Iris Giveaway was a huge success again this year!



Thank You All!

Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and visitors for making the
2017 Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo
a great success!

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