



Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume VIII, Issue Nine

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

September, 2014

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

What's Happening in September

IT'S BACK! 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!**
- ✧ **NEW! Look for the plant of the month on sale-see page 8.**

Saturdays from now until October 25, 8am–1pm, Ennis Farmers Market. Local vendors featuring baked goods and produce, activities for the family, and more. Information at <https://www.facebook.com/ennistxfarmersmarket>. Located at N. Dallas St. in Downtown Ennis.

Sept. 20–November 26, Autumn at the Arboretum. Over 50,000 pumpkins, gourds, and squash come together to form the Pumpkin Village. A multitude of special events are also available throughout the festival including a hay bale maze, scavenger hunts, and the Tom Thumb pumpkin patch. For more info about events and visiting the arboretum, go to: www.dallasarboretum.org/

Saturday, Sept. 6, 8am–1pm, BRIT First Saturday–Vineyard/Orchard Day. Enjoy tours, Plant ID and Preservation Studio, food trucks, live entertainment, and a farmers market (8-12). Events include: plant walks, a Sustainable Wine Growing Exhibit, and Bella's Story Time for children at 10:30 and 11:30! For complete details, visit <http://www.brit.org/events/more-children-families>.

Saturday, Sept. 6, 7am–10am, Walk and Talk Bird Tour with Dan Harvey and Jane Ramberg at the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center. Binoculars and field guides are available for use. Cost: \$10.00, includes admission. \$5.00 for members. Visit <http://www.wetlandcenter.com/> for directions and a map. For info, call (972) 474-9100 or email contact@wetlandcenter.com.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 11am, Garden Explorers Walk: Fall Wow's in Our Gardens. Get out in the garden on this family friendly walk! Search for everything Mother Nature shares with us this time of year. It ends in time to catch the Butterfly Release talk at noon in the conservatory. Included with admission (\$8/adults, \$6 for ages 60+, \$4 for ages 3-11). **Texas Discovery Gardens**, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas. TexasDiscoveryGardens.org

Saturday, Sept. 13, 9am–3pm, Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center–Volunteer Training. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Training provided for the following areas: Habitat Crew: trail maintenance, prairie restoration, invasive plant removal; Education Docent: teach school kids with the Eco-Investigation program; Reception Docent: administration, guest services, Nature Store; Animal Care: feeding and cleaning enclosures for education animals; Special Events: festivals, outreach, guided hikes, and more. Required Basic Training from 9am–12pm; Specialized Training 12:30pm–3pm. Free! Lunch included. To learn more or register for training, contact Julie Collins at (468) 526-1991 or jcollins@audubon.org. Must be 18 or older.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 9am–5pm, FREE Water-Wise Landscape Seminars with Bonnie Reese. Attend two FREE Water-Wise Landscape Seminars sponsored by Dallas Water Utili-

(Continued on page 3)

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Listen to KBEC

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

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

Melinda Kocian

Inside this issue:

<i>It's Sept, What Needs to be Done?</i>	2
<i>Wildflower of the Month</i>	3
<i>Herb of the Month</i>	4
<i>Grill Fest 2014</i>	5
<i>Bagworms...Revisited</i>	6
<i>Myths and Facts About Drought</i>	7
<i>Insects...Friend or Foe?</i>	8
<i>ECMGA on Facebook!</i>	9
<i>Sept. Farmers Market Events</i>	9
<i>Lighthouse for Learning Classes</i>	10
<i>Plant of the Month</i>	10
<i>Landscape Gardening</i>	11



DESERT WILLOW

Desert Willow is a small, twiggy, willow-shaped tree that is actually not a willow. *Chilopsis linearis* is an outstanding native tree that is related to the catalpa and crossvine. It is ideal for small landscapes because at maturity it reaches about 25 feet and casts a light shadow that grass will grow beneath.

Desert Willow will grow in unimproved soils including clay with at least six hours of sun daily. It blooms continuously from May through September in colors of white, pink, or burgundy and will live on rainwater alone after established. Once the bloom cycle has completed, seed pods approximately four to six inches long appear for some winter interest. The seedless variety is called 'Art's Seedless' for those who prefer no seed pods.

DESERT WILLOW TIPS AND LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

Although Desert Willow is drought tolerant, it will do better with supplemental watering. It has a high tolerance for chlorinated water. Prune often for dense growth and more flowers. Trumpet shaped flowers can be found all summer long in shades of pink, purple, burgundy, and white. It does not have any notable fall color. Desert Willow can be grown as a large shrub suitable for background planting, windbreaks, or screens. It can also be trained into a small tree with multiple or single trunks.

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

Planting

- Plant fall-blooming annuals from bedding plants before buds have opened such as marigolds, petunias, asters, dianthus, hollyhocks, snapdragons, and mums.
- Wait until October when the weather is cooler to plant pansies, violas (Johnny jump-ups), and ornamental kale and cabbage.
- Most spring- and summer-blooming perennials can be planted (like salvias, roses from containers, butterfly weed, phlox, coneflower, and lantana). Likewise, coral honeysuckle, crossvine, trumpet vine, and wisteria can be planted. Amend the planting bed with compost and replant.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials from containers. Fall planting will allow them to establish roots before hot and dry weather arrives next year.
- Dig, divide, and replant spring-blooming perennials such as iris, day lilies, coneflowers, bulbs, liriopse, and Mondo/monkey grass.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- Apply an all-nitrogen fertilizer on Bermuda and St. Augustine lawns or wait until the first week of October after the grass has stopped growing.
- Use a pre-emergent on lawn grasses to help prevent germination of winter and spring weeds.
- Continue to deadhead summer-blooming perennials to prolong seasonal color.
- Root-prune trees and shrubs (cutting the roots around the plant with a spade to stimulate new growth) to be transplanted this winter.

Garden Watch

- Spray roses for blackspot and mildew that can be extremely troublesome in September and October.
- Check for spider mites on fall tomatoes and newly planted transplants. Treat with a strong stream of water or insecticidal soap.
- Webworms are prevalent on pecan trees. They start as small webs at the ends of branches. Cut off the ends of those branches as soon as the webs appear. They are difficult to control once established. Tear open large webs to expose worms for the birds.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener



Gayfeather, Blazingstar—Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Liatris spp.

Region: 1–10 (Ellis County is Region 4)
Size: 1–3 ½ feet
Blooms: August through October, Perennial

Across Texas, one species or another of *Liatris* will be seen along roadsides in gravelly, sandy or calcareous soils, on plains, prairies, edges, hillsides, slopes, and roadsides. The stiffly upright plants grow from a corm (an underground, bulb-like stem) that may produce a few to many stalks forming a clump.

There are no petals, but four to eight disk flowers form flower heads that cluster densely, opening from the top of a terminal spike downward. The spikes may be twelve inches in length. Leaves are mostly narrow and in some species are six inches long near the stem's base. They are crowded and spiral up the stem, becoming progressively smaller until they are small bracts in the flowering spike. *Liatris* has had many medicinal uses; as a diuretic, as a mild kidney or liver tonic, and even as a clinical test for kidney function. A root tea has been used for laryngitis.

What's Happening (Continued from page 1)

ties. Landscape designer and author Bonnie Reese of Beautiful Landscapes will speak at both a morning session ("Water-Wise Landscape Design 101") and an afternoon session ("Fantastic Plants for North Texas"). Attendees at each session will receive a copy of Ms. Reese's book, Common-Sense Landscaping. Space is limited; please register online at SaveDallasWater.com or by calling (214) 670-3155. Contact person: Noel Nielson (214) 670-5378, E-mail: noel.nielson@dallascityhall.com Performance Hall (Bldg E) at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Avenue, Dallas.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 10am, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Pond Trail Hike. This 1.8 mile trail is great for families and those interested in native plants and animals. Cost: \$5.00, includes admission. Visit <http://www.wetlandcenter.com/> for directions and a map. For info, call (972) 474-9100 or email contact@wetlandcenter.com.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 8am–11am, Conservation in Action Workday–Cedar Ridge Preserve. Work in the butterfly garden and on the trails. Water and snacks provided. For info, call Jim Varnum at (214) 543-2055 or email jvarnum@aol.com. 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. www.audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html

Saturday, Sept. 27, 9am–12pm, Dogwood Canyon—Fourth Saturday Workday. Located at 1206 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. For info, contact Julie Collins at jcollins@audubon.org.

Indian Trail Master Naturalists

For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu

Visit: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/>

Saturday, Sept. 13, 9am, Wildflower Walk. Members of the ITMN will be leading a walk at Mockingbird Nature Park. Join in this ½ mile stroll along the trails to identify wildflowers. Free to the public. Participants should bring drinking water. The walk will be canceled if raining. The park is located at 1361 Onward Road, at the corner of Mockingbird Lane and Onward Road in Midlothian. Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: Information@itmnc.com

Monday, Sept. 22, 7pm, Indian Trail Master Naturalists present "Into the Prairie: A Celebration of Native Prairie Grasses". Rich Janynes, TX MN and Environmental Scientist will give an overview of the role of native grasses in contributing to the high biodiversity of native tallgrass prairies. The program is free and follows the 6pm Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. Meeting location: First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie, TX. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu

Herb of the Month

By Arlene Hamilton
Ellis County Master Gardener



SEPTEMBER 2014—END OF SUMMER IN THE HERB GARDEN

In Texas, September doesn't always feel like fall, but cool weather is coming. Now is the perfect time to prepare your garden for cool weather herbs. Get out there and survey the summer damage. Pull up those sad looking brown sticks and bushes that once were colorful calendula, nasturtium, dill, cilantro, and other annuals that did not survive the summer. Cut back your mints and lemon balm; and be sure to keep deadheading all the herbs to promote more green growth.



Give the garden a light coat of fertilizer and work it in. I use mushroom compost, seaweed, fish emulsion, and molasses that I drench on the plants with water from my rain barrels. Yes, I'm organic! If you are not attempting a fall crop of tomatoes pull those plants out as well.

Remember to keep cutting back your basil to keep it producing and sweet tasting. Now is the time to make some basil pesto. Try freezing it in ice cube trays then dump them into a zipped freezer bag. Next winter when preparing pasta, soups, or stews, pull one or two out of the bag and drop in the pot near the end of cooking. The aroma fills the house with the smell of summer!

Italian, Greek, and Mexican oregano are thriving in the garden. Now is the time to harvest and dry for later use. To harvest the long stems, cut off any seed heads, tie the stems into bundles, and hang upside down in a dark dry place. After they are crisp dry, a quick pull of the stem through the hand will strip all of the leaves off. The spicy smelling leaves are ready to bottle and store in the spice cabinet or on a dark shelf.

Parsley, which is a cool weather biennial, thinks summer is its second season so both the flat leaf and curly should have flowered and set seed. They need to be pulled out and tossed into the compost along with the rest of the tired plants. You can plant seeds, but they are slow to germinate. It's better to purchase small plants when you see them in the nurseries.

Garlic chives should be blooming or getting ready to. Add them along with their cousin, onion chives to salads, butters, dips and sprinkled on baked potatoes. Let the beautiful white flowers of the garlic chives bloom as they are wonderful attractors of pollinating insects.

One of the beauties of the late summer garden is Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), which is neither a mint nor a marigold, but does come to us from Mexico. Also known as Texas tarragon, this sweet anise-flavored herb is our

delightful substitute for French tarragon, which does not like our hot summers and needs a colder dormancy to reproduce. Come October and November it will produce lovely yellow



flowers. Use it in vinegars, sauces, and any recipe that calls for French tarragon.

Remember, there are still plenty of hot days in September, so frequent and deep watering is necessary. Also, pests seem to get a second foothold on plants as the nights cool down. Keep checking for caterpillars. Pick off the caterpillars unless they are one of our beautiful butterflies. Aphids and scale can be controlled with insecticidal soap sprayed upward from underneath the leaf.



As seen on [#21975 TasteSpotting/18.09.08](#);



Our newest vegetable convert...Nolan Porter tasting his first grilled beet!



Serving up lots of tasty samples!

Grill Fest 2014

August 2, 2014
Waxahachie Farmers Market



Grilled peaches...very popular!



Our faithful vegetable preppers and grillers!



Bagworms...Revisited

With Homer McCain

Ellis County Master Gardener



Recently, I noticed a familiar bag-like object dangling from my dill, an herb used for cooking. As I pulled it off, I knew right away that it was the unwelcome bagworm, which can do serious damage to trees and plants if not detected and allowed to remain on the plant.

Although bagworms prefer cedars, junipers, cypress, and other members of the conifer group, they are also found on many other broad-leaf plants, like the native Mexican plum, barberry, and various oaks. If not controlled, they can defoliate a tree or shrub leading to the death of the plant.

Bagworms are the larva of the black moth, which is in the butterfly family. Since the male moth flies at night, they are rarely seen. The adult female moth has no eyes and is wingless. After mating, the female bagworm builds her own bag and lays her eggs in the fall and they hatch in the spring. She leaves the bag by dropping to the ground through a hole in the bottom and dies.



The larva hatch and lower themselves on silk threads attached to branches of the plant and start to build their own bags. The bags are brown and conical-shaped

with openings in the top so the larva can crawl out and forage on the leaves of the plant.



Each larva (wormlike) carries the bag on their back as they move around the plant and consume the leaves of the tree. They strip the leaves and leave only the stems. The silk bags are camouflaged with leaves and debris from the host plants and are difficult to see.

After dining, they retreat to their bags and pupate for about three weeks before emerging as full grown moths in the fall.

Some biological controls are wasps, birds, and insect predators; but they are not a completely effective method.

Spraying with insecticide is an option, but only effective after the eggs are hatched and the larva is small. Some sprays such as Bt (an organic insecticide) can be effective if applied to the leaves in early spring when the larva first appears.

You will have better results by spraying before the bags are one inch or longer. As they grow larger, the insects are less susceptible to this control method. There is only one generation per year although each species has slightly different habits and lifecycles that can affect the timing of the spraying.

Once the bags are formed, they are impervious to most pesticides. The most effective method of control is hand-picking and destroying them.

Hand-picking bagworms off the plants

and crushing or burning them takes time and perseverance. You can be sure you have killed the bagworms you pick, but you can't be sure you have reached the entire population, especially in larger trees. Hand picking is the best preventive method from the time eggs are laid in October and continuing through mid-May.

If a spray is needed, ask a knowledgeable nursery person for a pesticide that is labeled for use on bagworms. Always carefully read and follow directions on the label before using any pesticide.

Visit <http://landscapeipm.tamu.edu/ipm-for-ornamentals/bagworms/> for more information about bagworms.

If you have further questions concerning bagworms, contact the local AgriLife Extension office at (972) 825-5175 and ask for a Master Gardener.



Myths and Facts About Drought

By: Shirley Campbell, Ellis County Master Gardener



Myth – Drought effects end when rainfall returns.

Fact – Prolonged rainfall may be needed to saturate the lower levels of the soil. A dry summer may set plants up for winter injury. Effects may even be seen next season with more severe disease problems on many plants.

Myth - If my tree starts losing its leaves in August, it is dying.

Fact – Many trees such as maples, oaks, and cottonwoods purposefully lose some of their foliage early in dry years. In severe drought, more than half the leaves may be shed before the end of August. The tree reduces its surface area by losing leaves and is able to conserve moisture in the branches and roots by losing some leaves. Leaves that turn brown and crispy but are not shed by the tree are a sign of more serious and permanent drought injury.

Myth – Native plants are not bothered by drought.

Fact – Native plants grow in many different soil types and habitats in the wild and are not always drought-resistant. Native plants should not be overlooked when planning and planting the drought tolerant garden, however, since many of them are extremely drought tolerant and beautiful, as well.

Myth – If I can't water, more mulch will help my plants make it through the drought.

Fact – If the soil is dry, more mulch has a detrimental effect. The benefits of a thick layer of mulch are no greater than

if a thin layer of one or two inches is used. In fact, dry mulch can shed water for several minutes before it becomes moistened during a heavy downpour.

Myth – If I can't water but one hour a day, I should spread the water equally to all the plants in my yard.

Fact – If you're going to water, concentrate on a small area and make sure that you saturate the soil to a depth of six inches. Work on a different area each day and divide your landscape into ten manageable zones, such that each one gets watered every two weeks or so. Once you get water into the lower levels of the soil, it is not easily lost to evaporation and is available to your plants for several days.

Myth – I know my trees and shrubs made it through the drought without a problem. They bloomed as soon as rain returned, out of season!

Fact – Many spring flowering trees and shrubs respond to rainfall following drought by blooming out of season. This is not a sign of good health, but is rather a sign of the plant's attempt to reproduce prolifically when death seems a possibility.

Myth – The drought will certainly be over by the end of September when temperatures become cooler.

Fact – While cool temperatures reduce the evaporation of water from the soil and plants, if large amounts of rainfall are not forthcoming, drought will continue. It is important, therefore, to continue watering plants that need it well into the autumn. Cooler temperatures

and shorter days do make the water you apply go further to help the plants.

Myth – I can stop watering as soon as my trees, shrubs, and perennials go dormant.

Fact – Dormant plants, while not actively growing new leaves and shoots, are very much alive. Trees and shrubs typically grow new roots in the fall. Spring flowering bulbs like tulips and daffodils grow all of their roots in the autumn, and many perennials grow lots of new roots and rosettes of foliage in the autumn. Water is very critical in the autumn for these plants

Myth – Cooler, clearer weather following the passage of a cold front eases the effects of drought on plants. Hot humid weather makes the drought worse.

Fact – While cooler temperatures slow the evaporation of water, humidity often plummets after a cold front passes. If weather is breezy and sunny with low humidity, water evaporates very quickly from plants and soil to make the drought worse. Soil holds its moisture well in humid weather, even if the temperatures are high; dew may cover plants from dusk to midmorning in humid weather to ease the effects of the drought.

Information obtained from United States National Arboretum



**Interested in becoming a
2015 Expo Sponsor Or
Expo Exhibitor?**

Contact James Kocian at
expo.ecmga@yahoo.com

Reserve the date: March 28, 2015!

Insects: Friend or Foe?

By Carolyn Foster
Ellis County Master Gardener



Let's talk about insects. Insect population is influenced a lot by temperature, humidity and precipitation. Seedlings and transplants are so inviting to slugs, snails, sow bugs and cut worms. But there are also aphids, beetles, mites, thrips and whiteflies, just to name a few. They can be controlled by chemical, organic or cultural techniques.

Following are some of the most common pests you will encounter in your garden.

APHIDS: Soft bodied, green, brown or reddish insects that suck plant juices. Cluster on shoots, buds, or undersides of leaves. Foliage and blooms are stunted or deformed. Sticky honeydew attracts ants. Lady beetles feed on aphids or use insecticidal chemicals or soap or systemic insect controls.

MITES: Minute pests that suck juices from the underside of foliage. Stippled leaves appear dry, turn brown, red, yellow or gray; then curl and drop off. Webs may be visible on the leaves. Clean up trash to destroy breeding places. Treat with insecticide three times at four to five day intervals.

THRIPS: Tiny, brownish, yellow-winged insects. Flecked or silver-white streaking and stippling appear on foliage and flowers. Dispose of spent blooms and apply insecticide or Sevin to control.

WHITEFLIES: Nymphs are scale-like, flat, oval, pale green, brown, or black depending on species. Pure white adults are easy to see. Leaves become mottled, turn yellow, and die.

To control pests, use an insecticide that kills on contact or a systemic solution to kill insects as they suck juices from

leaves. Cover all plant surfaces, especially the underside of leaves. Inspect your garden often to monitor insect numbers and activity.

Always read and re-read chemical labels, follow mixing and application instructions, and triple rinse your equipment. **REMEMBER, MORE IS NOT BETTER.** Always choose products with **LOW TOXICITY** for humans and warm-blooded animals.

Mechanical methods also provide some control: paper collars around the stems of plants prevent cutworm damage; sticky barriers on trunks deter crawling insects; aluminum foil on the soil under plants repel aphids; hand picking insects and egg masses is quick and sure; rolled up newspaper traps earwigs; slugs and pill bugs can be trapped under boards or the pan filled with stale beer; a two quart container with a 10% solution



Continuing with insects and pest control, let's talk about biological controls.

Biological control uses parasites, predators, or pathogens (bacteria, viruses and fungi) to keep pest insect populations low. Check your local nursery for products they carry.

BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS: (Bt) a bacterial insecticide controls the larvae of moths and butterflies. The spores are harmless to warm-blooded animals and beneficial insects.

BACILLUS POPILLIAE: Milky spore bacteria controls grubs in some areas.

NOSEMA LOCUSTAE is a spore (Protozoan) used to control grasshoppers. It is sprayed on the plants and when ingested by grasshoppers, germinates causing death. Slow control.

TRICHOGRAMMA: Minute wasp that attacks the eggs of more than 200 pests including cut worms, armyworms, fruit worms, moths, and butterfly eggs. Wasps should be released when trouble is first noted and a follow up treatment may be needed.

GREEN LACE-WINGS: The larvae (aphid lions) prey on aphids, spider mites, leafhoppers, thrips, moth eggs, and small larvae. Adults feed on honeydew, nectar and pollen. They must have an ample supply of food or they will leave.

PRAYING MANTIS:

The mantis is a voracious predator and is cannibalistic immediately after hatching. Mantids usually wait for the food to come to them rather than hunt for it. They prefer grasshoppers, crickets, bees, wasp and flies.



of molasses and water will attract and trap grasshoppers and some beetles; some can be washed off with a one or two percent solution of Ivory liquid; and some swear by a solution containing onions, garlic, and pepper mixtures.

(Continued on page 9)

Insects...Friend or Foe? (Continued from page 8)

LADY BEETLES: Aphids are the food of choice, but lady beetles will eat mealy bugs, spider mites, soft bodied pests, and eggs. They will leave if food is not available. In hot, dry weather, they will enter a non-active state. At this time, feeding and reproduction cease thus providing little control.

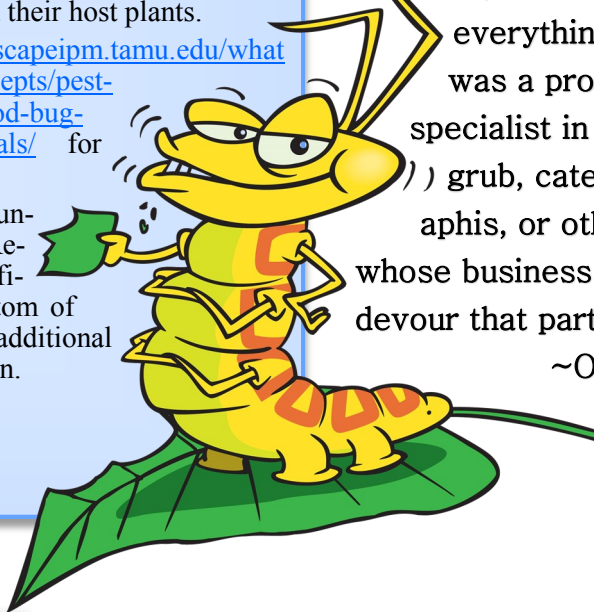
Companion planting is another control that is growing in popularity. Some examples are inter-planting tomatoes with basil to deter tomato hornworms and roses with chives or marigolds to repel aphids.

Remember, most pests are insects, but not all insects are pests. There are beneficial insects that are our friends, so make sure

you learn to recognize them. The first step is proper identification. Then we want to learn about the lifecycle, seasonal cycle, habits, and their host plants.

Go to <http://landscapeipm.tamu.edu/what-is-ipm/ipm-concepts/pest-identification/good-bug-bad-bug/beneficials/> for more info.

Click the links under "Related Resources on Beneficials" at the bottom of the page for additional useful information.



On every stem, on every leaf,... and at the root of everything that grew, was a professional specialist in the shape of grub, caterpillar, aphid, or other expert, whose business it was to devour that particular part.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes



Find us on:
facebook®

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

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

September Farmers Market Events

September 6 is our annual Master Gardener Iris Give-Away. We will start handing them out as soon as the market opens. At 9am, MG Shirley Campbell and Waxahachie resident David Smith will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about planting and caring for irises.

September 13 being the second Saturday means it's kids activity day at the market. Bring your young ones by the booth next to the Master Gardeners for a hands-on project. Make a butterfly and learn a little about the unique patterns on their wings. Remember to check out the plant of the month. MGs are digging up their excess plants all this month and will have them for sale at the MG booth!

September 20 is Salad Celebration time at the market. Come on down to sample some yummy salads made with many ingredients you can buy at the market. We will share some recipes and would love to hear about yours as well.

September 27 we are celebrating Hand Sewn and Home Grown merchandise at the market. Stop by to see what your creative vendors make and grow. There is handcrafted pottery, aprons, dresses, jewelry as well as plants, jams, jellies, salsas, tamales, and of course, fruits and vegetables. It's a great time to say hello to all our Farmers Market vendors and thank them for being at the market to share their goods. Remember to check out the surprise plants at the MG booth.

Lawn & Garden Expo



Save The Date!
Saturday, March 28, 2015



Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

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

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



Monday, September 29, 6pm–7:30pm Miniature Gardens. Do you love gardening, but maybe don't have the time or room for a big garden? Do you want to bring the outdoors inside? How about a living gift for a friend? A miniature garden is a fun way to have a full size garden with all the amenities in one pot! It can be whimsical, elegant, or classic...whatever suits your taste. The first part of the class will share ideas and techniques to making your own miniature garden. Then we will build a small garden for you to take home. Container, plants, soil, and some accessories are included in the material fee. **Instructor:** Susan Clark. Cost: \$12.00 + \$10.00 supply fee paid to instructor

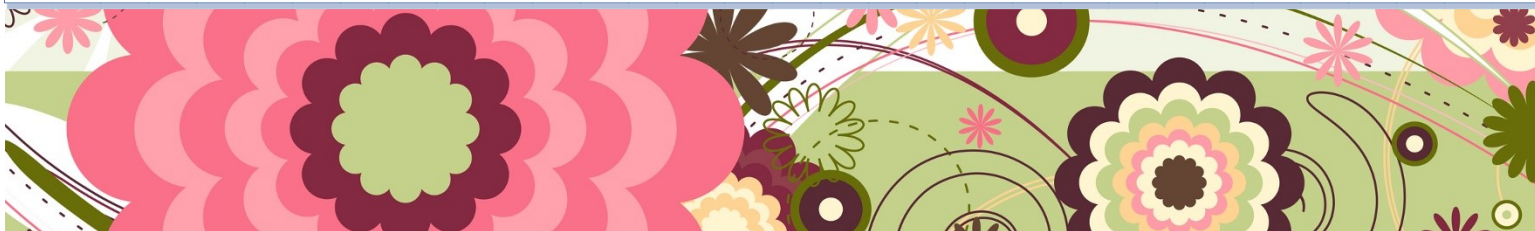
Monday, October 13, 6pm–7:30pm Culinary Herbs and Edible Flowers. Are you ready to start an herb garden? Have you ever tasted a flower? Learn the basics of growing herbs and edible flowers and how to harvest and prepare them. Not all flowers are edible, some are even poisonous, so learn the "Dos and Don'ts" of using flowers in food. Learn how to combine herbs and edible flowers into tasty and colorful dishes. Fall is the perfect time to begin planning your herb and edible flower garden. Come and learn how to get started. **Instructor:** Arlene Hamilton Cost: \$12.00

Monday, November 3, 6pm–7:30pm Seed Saving. Learn to harvest, clean, and store seeds for successful germination. Learn how to save seeds from heirloom vegetables and perennial flowers. Determine what plants are best for seed saving and when to propagate from existing plants. **Instructor:** Monica Nyenhuis Cost: \$12.00

Monday, November 17, 6pm–7:30pm Drip Irrigation–The Basics. We are all aware that water is one of our most precious commodities and that we need to be very careful how we use it in our gardens. Drip irrigation is the most efficient way to water gardens and trees and it is the system that makes the most sense in terms of conserving and limiting water use. In this hands-on class you will learn the types of equipment used in drip systems, how to design a drip system, and how to install and maintain the system. **Instructor:** Jim Goss Cost: \$12.00

Monday, December 1, 6pm–7:30pm Greenhouse Management. Considering buying or building your own greenhouse? Learn the basics of greenhouse management, starting with choices of site, design, heating, cooling, lighting, and watering needs. You will learn about propagation and will experience hands-on learning in the WHS Greenhouse. **Instructor:** Jim Dockins Cost: \$12.00

Tuesdays, October 7–28, four classes 6pm–8pm Ag 101–Beginning Farmer/Rancher. Join this experienced instructor as you cover topics such as: soils and soil fertility, soil testing, pasture management, basic livestock productions and pond management. This class will be held at the Ellis County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 701 S. I-35E, Suite 3 in Waxahachie. **Instructor:** Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources Cost: \$22.00



Farmers Market Plant of the Month

There will not be one specific Plant of the Month for September. Instead, Master Gardeners will be featuring plants from their own gardens. Each weekend in September, some of the Master Gardeners will bring potted plants that grow in their gardens. We will be snipping and digging out of our gardens to bring you plants we have tried and tested. We will discuss how the plant grows in our garden and how to make them succeed in yours.



Stop by our booth at the Farmers Market.
We love to talk plants and hear your gardening stories.



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.

Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*)

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist, Texas AgriLife Ext Srv

This native of Mexico is widely cultivated in Texas and the Gulf South for its striking, lacy pink, dark rose pink, or white flowers. Like many of our popular heirloom plants, it has at least several common names, such as 'heavenly vine' and 'rose of Montana'.

It is a vigorous vine, with heart-shaped leaves, that needs the support of a trellis, fence, or tree. The first hard freeze of autumn kills all the top growth, but established plants return readily the next year from sweet potato-like tubers that some sources describe as edible. It is generally root hardy in the southern half of our state, and can be easily grown in containers elsewhere.

Garden Checklist for September, 2014

- ✓ *Aster oblongifolius* is a good source of blue for the fall garden
- ✓ Sustaining adequate moisture in the garden and landscape is the number one 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, liri-ope, 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.

Thank You All!!

**Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors, and visitors for making the
2014 - 14th Annual
Ellis County Master Gardeners' Lawn & Garden Expo
such a success!**

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