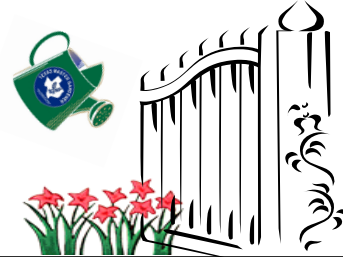




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue 3

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

March, 2018

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

The Ellis County Master Gardener's
18th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo
Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ 9 am– 5 pm
Waxahachie Civic Center

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SCAPES GREENERY, WAXAHACHIE CIVIC CENTER

Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10 a.m. on
1390 AM.

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

Melinda Kocian

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*Visit any sponsor for free tickets!!
For complete details
please visit www.ecmga.com*



Ellis County Master Gardeners' "Back to Basics" Lawn and Garden Expo – March 24, 2018

The Waxahachie Civic Center will be home to the 18th annual Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn and Garden Expo on Saturday, March 24th. Exhibitors will pack the center with outdoor-living necessities, plants, machinery, yard art, and landscape project materials. Adults can attend sessions on gardening topics, or "Ask the Experts" about specific gardening challenges. The Children's Workshop will have numerous interactive displays and take-home projects. And don't forget the Master Gardener Plant Sale

with a variety of flowering plants and vegetables suited for North Texas landscapes. A big "Thank You" to Expo sponsors for making this event possible.



Admission at the door \$5 (Children under 12 free)

FREE Advance Tickets Available from Our Sponsors

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

Planting

- ◆ Plant these annuals early in the month for spring color: petunias, larkspurs, foxgloves and stocks. Other annuals such as marigolds, celosia and wax begonias may be planted late in the month.
- ◆ Plant tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants from pots after March 15th. Plants should be hardened off (gradually exposed to outside temperatures) before putting in the ground.
- ◆ Plant seeds of warm-season vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers starting mid-month.
- ◆ Plant herbs in raised beds with soil amended with organic matter. Plants should be hardened off before planting.
- ◆ Plant perennial flowers in amended well-drained soil. Know each plant's prime blooming season, height, width, and color to ensure season-long color. Mulch new plantings.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- ◆ Trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers can be fed with high-nitrogen fertilizer or compost. For patio pots and other container gardens, apply a diluted, water-soluble, high-nitrogen fertilizer once a week.
- ◆ Remove old growth from Bermudagrass lawns by lowering mower one or two notches, allowing the grass to spread faster and choke out weeds. Bag the clippings for composting or as mulch.
- ◆ Prune spring-flowering shrubs and vines such as flowering quince, azaleas, forsythia, bridal wreath (Spiraea), Lady Banksia rose, and Carolina jessamine immediately after they finish blooming.

Garden Watch

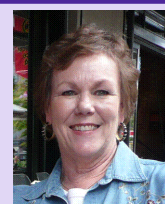
- ◆ If frost or freeze is predicted, cover vegetable plantings and tender annuals with frost cloth. It can make a six to eight degree difference in temperature.
- ◆ Control black spot, powdery mildew, and thrips on roses with an appropriate fungicide or systemic insecticide. Use a stream of water or insecticidal soap on aphids. When a pesticide is needed, always use the least toxic one first.
- ◆ Apply pre-emergent herbicide on lawns to control broadleaf and grassy weeds if needed. A "weed and feed" fertilizer is not recommended because it is too early to fertilize lawns.

Conservation-Wise

- ◆ Install a drip irrigation system in your vegetable garden for increased production and maximum water efficiency.
- ◆ Consider shade-loving plants where turfgrasses won't grow. Ornamental trees, shrubs, ferns, ornamental grasses, and groundcovers are good solutions. Check the plant tag for light requirements before purchasing.

Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



White Rock-Lettuce –Sunflower family (Asteraceae)

Pinaropappus roseus (Less.)

Region: 2, 5-8, 10 (Ellis Co. is Region 4)

Size: 6 – 18 inches

Blooms: March – May, Perennial



White rock-lettuce is a small, smooth plant. Most of its leaves are at ground level, but a few advance up the stem. These are one to three inches long and are usually sparingly lobed. Leaves and stems exude a milky sap when broken. Solitary flowers at the top of stems are white to yellowish above and pinkish to rose-lavender underneath. The flower heads are one or two inches across with many petals, which are square-toothed at their tips. White rock-lettuce is widespread and is found in many habitats, especially on dry gravelly or calcareous (limy) soils or rock outcrops. It has good ornamental qualities.

2018 EXPO PLANTS FOR SALE

The Master Gardeners Expo will offer a variety of plants for sale, as listed below. Vendors will also be present with a large selection of flowers, plants, and herbs to choose from. There will be various garden items for sale at the Expo.

Black Foot Daisy
Brazilian Rock Rose
Buddelia Bush Black Knight Butterfly bush
Budelia Bush Nanho Bush
Carpet Rose Red Cascade
Coreopis Early Sunrise
Columbine Texas Gold
Fig Celeste
Flame Acanthus Anisaacanthus
Forsythia
Katies Ruella Mexican Petunia

Mist Flower Eupatorium Greggii
Phlox Pilosa Prairie Phlox
Pink Ice Plant Coopers Delosperma
Pomegranate Standard Orange Wonderful
Rock Rose Pavonia
Round Sedum
Ruella Katie Pink
Salvia Gregii Autumn Sage
Salvia May Night
Stachys Lambs Ear Helen Von Stein
Turks Cap Big Momma
Turks Cap Pink Malvaviscus

Lots of door prizes! Drawings throughout the day. Must be present to win.

Expo Mini Workshops for Adults

THE ELLIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE WITH YOU AT EXPO THIS YEAR IN THE FORM OF MINI WORKSHOPS

These workshops will be offered from **1:00-2:30 pm** and **2:30-4:00 pm** at the East end of the Exhibit Hall

1:00-2:30 pm Workshops

Container Gardens for Sun or Shade by Micki Roark

Containers are the most versatile method of gardening available! We can create miniature landscapes using shrubs, perennials, annuals, or edibles throughout the year. This workshop will provide principles and techniques in creating containers to be used in indoor and outdoor spaces. We will plant a container of sun-loving plants and a container of shade-loving plants, using step by step instructions with readily available materials.

Roses and Companion Plantings by Mattie Thompson

How to take care of your roses. Care, pruning and varieties

Seed Saving by Monica Nyenhuis

Seed saving refers to the practice of saving various types of reproductive material and seeds from plants such as flowers, herbs, grains, vegetables, and tubers for future use. The information presented should help you start your own seed saving.

Water Conservation using Ollas by Jane Slone

Ollas for irrigation purposes are partially buried in the garden bed where they slow-release water into the bed. Ollas aid in water conservation while introducing moisture directly into the ground.

2:30-4:00 pm Workshops

Culinary Herbs and Edible Flowers by Arlene Hamilton

Did you know many of the common flowers in your garden are edible? The trick is knowing those that are and those that are not. Sweet flowers such as roses, violets, and lavender can be incorporated into desserts and drinks. Savory flowers such as dill, chives, nasturtium, and rocket add interest to dips, soups and salads. Flowers can be delicious and add a special treat not just to the palette but to the eye as well. Arlene will be demonstrating how to grow and use edible flowers. Handouts will include the "Dos and Don'ts" of using flowers in food, lists of edible flowers, culinary herbs to grow in North Texas, along with some recipes and sweet and savory samplings!

Home Irrigation systems Design, Efficiency and Maintenance by Jim Derstler and Allan Paxton

Information will be provided for the basics of designing an efficient irrigation system, and provide you the knowledge to install a system yourself or the tools to ask the smart questions of a contractor. Instructions will be provided to help you maintain an existing system, to perform simple test procedures to determine if any adjustments or replacements are required to keep your from pouring your money down the drain.

Landscapes of Tomorrow: Back to Basics by Scotty Rigsby

Landscapes of tomorrow are not that different than what we have grown up with. They just need to be tweaked a little bit based on the concerns of 21st century water conservation, global warming, increasing populations, and what we can do to help sustain our portion of the planet. There are some basic things we used to do that we will revisit.

Organic Gardening by Carolyn Ross

Starting a successful garden begins with great soil. Lighting and placement around the house is another way to determine success. Talking about plants that are good for your soil type and gardening zone is an essential part of the conversation. Everyone will learn about the available products to help you have that success.

Vegetables by Susan Clark

What a joy it is to harvest your own vegetables, but sometimes the bounty is overwhelming! What to do? Visit this class to learn creative ideas for preserving and prolonging your delicious harvest. Recipes, samples, and demonstrations will all be a part of this helpful workshop.

Visit our Facebook page for more details

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 spring.

Monday, March 5, 6pm–7:30pm, Turf Grass Introduction. This class will teach how to get a perfect yard. You will learn about the varieties of grasses that are good for this area of Texas. How to select the correct grass, where to purchase, and when is the best time to plant, and finally, how to prepare the soil before planting. Instructor: Scherle Barth. Cost: \$14.00

Thursday, March 8, 6pm–7:30pm, Native Plant Landscapes. Most gardeners recognize Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush as native plants but are not aware of the shrubs, vines, trees, and other plants that are native to our area and can be added to our landscapes. This class will introduce you to some of these plants and the reasons for including them on your property. Instructor: Maureen Nitkowski Cost: \$14.00

Thursday, March 22, 6pm–7:30pm, 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 summer long. The instructor will bring plants for you to see, enjoy flavors and aromas! Instructor: Bea Rocha. Cost: \$14.00

Monday March 26, 6pm–7:30pm, Ollas, A New Way of Conserving Water in the Garden. This class will go over the benefits of using ollas, and how to make your own olla for use in your garden. The process of making an olla will be demonstrated, and directions for making one will be handed out to the participants of the class. Ollas may be the most efficient method of local plant irrigation in dry lands known, due to the micro porous (unglazed) walls that do not allow water to flow freely from the pot, but guides water seepage to the plants. Instructor: Jane Sloan. Cost: \$14.00

Monday, April 2, 6pm–7:30pm, Irrigation Systems Design and Efficiency. This class will provide the basics of designing an efficient irrigation system, and provide you the knowledge to install a system yourself, or the tools to ask the smart questions of a contractor. Information will be provided to help you maintain an existing system; simple test procedures to determine if any adjustments or replacements are required to keep you from pouring your money down the drain. Instructor: Allan Paxton. Cost: \$14.00

Thursday, April 5, 6pm–7:30pm, Rainwater Harvesting. Harvesting rainwater is one of the many possible steps a homeowner can take to help stem water shortages and be economical. This class will provide you with information on active and passive systems. Learn how to get started with a simple rain barrel for your landscape or install a complete potable water system in your home. Instructor: Jim Derstler Cost: \$14.00

Monday, April 9, 6pm–7:30pm, Turf Grass/Lawn Maintenance. Is your lawn overgrown with weeds or have brown spots that is supposed to be green, or do you just want to know how to better take care of it? This class is for you. This class will provide information on grass diseases, weed control, and how to maintain your lawn for the growing season. Instructor: Mike Peters. Cost: \$14.00

Tuesdays April 24–May 15, 6pm–8pm, (four classes) 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. Topics covered: 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

Thursday, May 3, 6pm–7:30pm, Landscape Design in Ellis County. Learn the secrets to successful landscaping in Ellis County. Subjects covered will be 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: Scott Rigsby. Cost: \$14.00





Expo Workshops for Children

All Day Events



The Children's Workshop Room has become a favorite area at the annual Ellis County Master Gardener Lawn & Garden Expo. Children and adults all enjoy the educational exhibits, hands-on activities and lively atmosphere. Our opportunity to move to a larger room has been such a success that we will again be set up in the light filled Crape Myrtle Room of the Waxahachie Civic Center.

Master Gardener volunteers are available to assist children with activities and answer parent questions about gardening with children. Indian Trail Master Naturalists are always a big part of the Children's Workshop Room, and working closely with the Master Gardeners, provide fun learning activities all day.

Representatives from the Junior Master Gardener program will be on hand to talk with teachers and parents of homeschool students. The Children's Workshop Room exhibitors have included Texas Honeybee Guild, with their live honeybee demonstration hive. Learn about the important role bees play in our food production from Master Gardeners that are home beekeepers in Waxahachie.

Texas Discovery Gardens will return with unusual critters and information about their education and outreach. Cedar Hill's own Backyard Wildlife Resource Center will be back for a second year giving visitors a chance to learn about wildlife found around their own homes. Fascinating insect collections from local residents have also been on display. Parents and children are welcome to bring their insect questions.

Texas Tree Farms of Waxahachie will be donating crape myrtle plants to each child visiting.

The Children's Workshop Room is always a buzz of activity with educational opportunities children can participate in, including take home crafts, tomato plants and more! Plan to visit the Children's Workshop Room for a fun time for children of all ages!



Move clocks on hours forward on March 11, 2018 at 2am

START YOUR CONTAINERS!

By Nancy Fenton



Late February or early March are great times to get your potted plants and baskets started for super summer blooms. There are many plants available both at our local stores and the upcoming Master Gardeners Spring EXPO. The challenge will be getting them started so they will take off and survive the hot months too!

Begin with a clean container and good soil. Reusing pots and baskets is fine, but wash them with soap and water first, and then give them a good fungus buster soak in Clorox rich water (two tablespoons per gallon will do it). Any good potting soil will work. You can mix it with garden loam or compost $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$; just try to avoid our sticky clay! Containers also must drain well.

Standard design theory for containers is work in sets of three—one type to hang down, one to fill and one to thrill (up high). Plants should be similar in water and sun needs as well as varied enough to give some contrast as to height and color.

Be careful to choose plants that like somewhat the same amount of water and sun. Shade loving plants coupled with sun lovers will leave one of their number struggling....Containers that have a “heavy drinker” next to a “non-drinker” don’t seem to fare too well either. Once the choices are made, soak all the plants right before planting; 10 or so minutes. A bit longer will not hurt, but do not drown them by leaving them for days! Once they are out of the pot, check the roots. If they are tightly packed or growing around the bottom, break the roots up to loosen them and stimulate new growth. If they are growing out the bottom of the container, you may have to take scissors or clippers to them. “Butterfly” packed roots and spread them out in the new container also works. It will encourage a strong base for further growth. Plant those baby plants high in the container, but still be sure to cover the root ball. Water thoroughly and stand back.

Go the extra mile by lightly watering each day for a full week while the plants recover from the shock of moving. You don’t have to flood new plants. Remember the roots weren’t too far under the surface when you planted them! Check after a week and water as needed. Fertilizing containers at least once a week with a diluted liquid fertilizer is also a good idea. Containers, if properly planted, drain well and have a lot of roots in a confined space. Watch when the heat turns up for signs of wilting. Hot afternoons will wilt even some of the hardiest ones, but a good clue for prompt watering is the wilt that holds over into the cool morning hours.

Containers can have edible herbs combined with blooms. Creeping Rosemary, Pineapple Sage, and ornamental Cabbage or Kale all like to be relatively dry and can rejoice in bright sun.



2018 EXPO Guest Speaker Val Nolen

“Solving the Mystery of Tomatoes and Peppers”

owner of Mother Herbs Garden in Cedar Hill
1007 West Belt Line Rd. Cedar Hill TX 75104
972-107-2938
motherherbsgarden@gmail.com



Join Val at 10:00am in Meeting Room C & D for this show stopping fun class! Full of everything you want to know to be a prize-winning tomato-pepper grower. This information is for the 'Green' and for the 'Fully Ripe' gardener so come with a note book and any questions you may have. We will cover all the issues....Why did the blooms fall off?...I had a beautiful plant with no fruit; what's the deal?...What's an indeterminate?...Can I grow them in a pot?...How do I control the bugs?....Come down and join me and we'll learn all the answers....I've been trialing, testing and growing for 20 years in North Texas and will introduce you to the best tomato and pepper varieties for our region. Some you may already know, others I'm sure you've never heard of and will never find in the general market place, but I will have them with me and available for sale.

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR MARCH

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



- Prepare beds for planting flowers and vegetables. You may want to consider renting or buying a garden tiller to speed up the process; however, a strong back and a garden fork will still do an excellent job.
- For every 100 square feet of bed area, work in a several-inch layer of either compost, pine bark or sphagnum peat moss, plus 5 pounds of balanced fertilizer.
- Check with your local county agent for the average last killing freeze date for your area. Remember that killing freezes can occur after this date.
- Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish blooming.
- Select and order caladium tubers as well as geranium and coleus plants for late April and early May planting. Do not plant caladiums until soil temperature reaches 70°F

- As camellia and azalea plants finish blooming, fertilize them with three pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer. Check mulch on azalea and camellia beds and add where needed.

- In North Texas there is still time to plant seeds of your favorite annuals in flats to be transplanted out-of-doors when danger of frost is past.



- Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Your best bet at this time of year is to depend on container-grown or balled-and-burlapped plants for landscape use.
- Start hanging baskets of petunias and other annuals for another dimension in landscape color.
- Plant dahlia tubers in fertile, well-drained soil.
- Dig and divide summer and fall flowering perennials just before they initiate their spring growth.



Farmers Market returns Saturday, April 28!

410 S. Rogers (across from City Hall in the old lumberyard building)

If you would like to learn more about the farmers market and being a vendor, there will be an informational meeting Thursday, March 23, at 6 pm at Waxahachie City Hall in the council chambers. Application forms as well as market rules and guidelines will be available. Vendors will be able to tour the market area, turn in paperwork and fees, and ask questions at the meeting. Returning sellers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Anita Brown at city hall, (469) 309-4111.

For more information, visit <http://www.waxahachie.com/Departments/DowntownDevelopment/DowntownFarmersMarket>

Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events



Mockingbird Nature Park Walk. Members of the Indian Trail Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program invite you to join them on their monthly Wildflower walk **Saturday, March 17**, at 9 am and also are pleased to announce that Bob Richie will lead an Edible and Medicinal Wildflower Walk on **Sunday, March 18**, from 2-4 pm. Both walks are at Mockingbird Nature Park. On Sunday's walk Bob will share his passion for urban foraging. He will start with a quick botany lesson on how to positively identify the plants, and also discuss useful and medicinal plants found in our area. Everyone is invited to attend, and there is no charge. Bring

drinking water and wear close-toed shoes. Insect repellent is a good idea. Walks will be canceled in the event of rain. Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: Information@itmnc.com

Join the **Indian Trail Master Naturalists** at their monthly meeting on **Monday, March 26**. The program for the evening is Nature Journaling by Walt Davis – Natural History Museum Director and Curator, retired. Walt Davis, a lifelong professional in the field of natural history and science, will speak on “Nature Journaling” and the way it sharpens our powers of observation of natural phenomena.

Eclectic Gardening

With Jane Slone, Ellis County Master Gardener



Artemisia Plant

"Powis castle"

If you have not tried this plant, it is one that I suggest you consider this year. There is something about the silver and green that is a great addition to the garden. It is easy to grow and easy to maintain. And I love the smell and variety of color it provides the garden. The silver provides a great background for flowers.

Artemisia is the genus name for a group of 200 to 400 different species. It is composed of hardy herbaceous plants and shrubs. Herbaceous plants may or may not have woody stems. Some herbaceous plants are annuals, but the artemisia plant is a perennial. Perennial is defined as a plant that will return each year.

Artemisia will survive the cold weather and does not die back to the ground as some perennials. This plant is often called wormwood. This species is not the true wormwood, but many have given it this common name. *Artemisia vulgaris* is the variety that is called woodworm.

See statement on page 10.

So before using for culinary purposes research the various species to determine its purpose. Culinary or ornamental? This variety of plants is a bushy, woody-based perennial or sub shrub which is grown for its aromatic silvery foliage. It rarely flowers.

There are many varieties that can be bought and used in our geographical area. The best variety is *"Powis castle"*. This variety is a cross between two other types of artemisia. In North Texas *"Powis Castle"* is the variety that grows well in our area. It is an evergreen in this region and can look rather shabby during the winter months. A good pruning in the spring will bring forth new growth. It has a very dense filigree like foliage, and will grow up to 4 to 6 feet in diameter. Powis also has that great silvery color. The plant will have small yellow flowers. I do not consider them attractive and trim them off as they bloom. It is hard to grow from seed, and it is best to buy starter plants from the nursery.

The most important thing to know about artemisias is that these plants need well-drained soils. They can perform well in rock gardens, growing in extremely sharp drainage with long droughts. Planting them in heavy soils, like moist clays, will most likely cause them to die out from rot. If they are grown in too moist of soil, the plants tend to grow very quickly, flop and fall open. Planting them in dry soils is an easy way to prevent this and keep plants more restrained.

Artemisias are plants that love sun and dry heat, so give them as much as you can. In part shade plants are at much higher risk for disease. In areas with humid summers many species of artemisia can be prone to foliar diseases and overall decline of the foliage—keep them in well-ventilated areas and full sun to prevent this. A hard cutback of the plants in summer can be beneficial to encourage new growth of previously suffering plants.

Continued on page 10



Artemisia Wormwood



Powis Castle

Continued from page 9

It is also important to note that many species of artemisia spread vigorously by rhizomes, or underground stems. Several types are considered invasive and should be watched when planted. If you have doubts about planting these, look for varieties that are slower to spread, or for mounding types that do not spread. You can also keep them in check by planting them in containers. This plant will do well in an alkaline soil. If you are using this as a companion plant, be sure that the other plants will survive in an alkaline soil as well. It is best to use in a large container because of its size. It is possible to root and use if you continue to trim it as it grows.

Some varieties of artemisia are used as medicinal purposes. It is not advised to use any type of plant for food, beverage, or medicinal unless you are sure that it is safe. Just like mushrooms, some are safe to ingest, and others can be deadly if ingested. In researching this topic there is conflicting information about artemisia and if this is the woodworm variety. If you look at the scientific names and compare the woodworm and the "Powis castle", you will find that they are listed as different scientific species.



This is the statement discovered in my research

"Many related plants are referred to as mug wort by people, but *Artemisia vulgaris* is most often meant when a plant is called mug wort." Written by a Master Gardener named By Ph.D.

I would not use this variety for any purpose other than an ornamental plant.

In determining what can be used in cooking or medicinal purpose.

Tarragon (pronounced TEHR-uh-gon) or *Artemisia dracunculus* (pictured left) is an herb that is popular in the world of cooking. In fact, **tarragon** is such a vital part of French cuisine that it is one of the "Fines Herbes." See reference below

<https://articles.mercola.com/herbs-spices/tarragon.aspx>

If you take cuttings and place in water or soil, the roots will sprout, and a new plant will grow. It spreads easily and can become invasive if not pruned. It will also trail. Any plant that we place in the garden should have the best possible environment.

Container, border, garden plant; give it a try in your garden this summer.

***Ellis County Master Gardener
Scholarship 2018***



REMINDER: All scholarship applications must be received no later than 4:00pm on March 16, 2018.