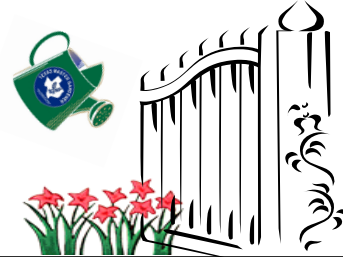




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XI, Issue 7

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

July, 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

What's Happening in July?

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!**

Every week at the Market, there is a unique theme designed to highlight vendor products, in-season produce, children's activities, or interesting garden subjects. Below are the themes for July and early August.

July 7 This is the perfect time to step back, relax and enjoy some refreshing iced teas and herbal waters while shopping the bakers' booths.

July 14 Kids Activity, hosted by the Ellis County Master Gardeners, features the benefits of Ladybugs and Butterflies in the garden. These beneficial insects help eat bad bugs and help pollinate fruits and vegetables. Bring your kids and grandkids to the master gardener booth so they can learn while creating colorful insect art to take home. All crafts are free.

July 21 The Ellis County Master Gardeners bring their famous Grilling Festival back to the market. Ag Agent, Mark Arnold, along with many master gardener helpers will fire up the grills, wash, chop, and prepare locally donated produce for shoppers to sample. This is the highlight of the market season and always brings out large crowds to sample free treats fresh off the grill. If the market sellers grow it, the seasoned volunteers will grill it. There are always some unusual offerings and a few surprises. You don't want to miss this. Serving begins about 9:00 a.m. and goes until the food runs out.

July 28 Market chefs Cheryl and Arlene will be featuring melons in their "Taste of Market" dishes. Come to their booth next to the Ellis County Master Gardeners to sample some of the summer's best, local melons prepared in some unusual dishes; all are delicious. Samplings are free, and recipes will be provided.

August 4 This week the farmers market is celebrating our Crafty Crafters. These talented people carry original creations using their creative talents to make one of a kind jewelry, toys, clothing, soaps, fiber art, wreaths, pet clothing and personal care products. There are artfully designed planter pots and hanging baskets ready to take home. While you shop for local produce, meats, eggs, honey, and grains be sure to enjoy the wonderful items our crafters have to offer.

Ellis County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting—You are invited!

Second Tuesday of the month



Carol Feldman of Feldman Design Studios will be speaking at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 10. The topic is Designing for Habitat: Techniques for inviting wildlife into our home landscapes. Carol, a licensed landscape architect, will discuss design techniques to mimic native plant habitats in our home landscapes.

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

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Listen to KBEC

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

The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a fifteen 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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It's July—What Needs To Be Done

Planting

- ✧ Plant tomatoes and peppers from four-inch pots. Visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetables> for recommended varieties.
- ✧ Early July is the time to plant small and medium pumpkins for Halloween harvest.
- ✧ Plant heat-tolerant annuals that have been acclimated to hot, sunny conditions. This includes moss rose, purslane, trailing lantana, purple fountain grass, firebush, and copper plants.
- ✧ Lawn grasses can be planted this month, but you will need to water twice daily for short intervals to keep soil surface moist until the grass has established good roots, usually in two to three weeks.



Fertilizing and Pruning

- ✧ Fertilize plants that bloom on new growth, such as crape myrtles, tropical hibiscus, and roses with high-nitrogen fertilizer to promote late-summer growth and falls blooms. Apply same fertilizer to boost summer annuals and fall-flowering perennials.
- ✧ Light pruning of erratic spring growth may be done to maintain the natural form. Dead and diseased wood from trees and shrubs should be removed. Major pruning should be postponed until mid-winter.
- ✧ Deadhead all blooming plants. Remove dead leaves and spent blooms from container plants.

Garden Watch

- ✧ Be a “plant health” detective! Plants respond in various ways to heat and drought stress. These symptoms are often misdiagnosed as an insect or disease problem. Correctly identify the problem before turning to a pesticide.
- ✧ Galls on leaves of oaks, hackberries, and other trees are caused by many species of gall-forming insects, and are result of the female stinging the leaf tissues at she lays her eggs. Galls are harmless since the insect doesn't feed on plant tissues.
- ✧ Watch for lawn pests. Dry, light-colored areas in sunny parts of St. Augustine are probably the result of chinch bugs (small black insects with a white diamond on their backs). Apply Merit (imidacloprid) or other labeled insecticide. Grub worms are the culprits if the turf turns brown and easily comes up when pulled on. Treat with a granular insecticide.
- ✧ Rapid death of established landscape plants and orchard trees during the summer may signify the presence of cotton root rot, a soil-borne fungal disease common in our calcareous clay soils. Since there is no effective control, verification by the Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab at Texas A&M (<http://plantclinic.tamu.edu>) will help you know what plants can be used as replacements.

Conservation-Wise

- ✧ Judge watering needs in the morning! High afternoon temperatures leave normally well-hydrated plants lacking sufficient water. If the lawn or plants are still wilted or off color in the morning, watering is required.
- ✧ To slow evaporation rates, always water your lawn after 6 pm and before 10 am. If disease problems are a concern, watering may be delayed until the early morning hours (4 am-10 am). Drip irrigation and multi-stream rotors are great technologies for reducing water loss to evaporation. Soaker hoses and/or hand watering also will work in certain situations.



In the Vegetable Garden

With Jane LaComette, Ellis County Master Gardener

Malabar Spinach

Finally a spinach that can grow in the heat of the Texas summer! Malabar spinach (*Basella Rubra*) is not a spinach at all; but a twining herbaceous vine with edible leaves that looks like spinach. When eaten raw in salads, it tastes of citrus and pepper. It stir fries well, and is an excellent source of calcium and iron, a good source of vitamins A, B, and C, with a high roughage value. It is a great summer substitute. I purchased three vines, staked them up on bamboo poles, and watched them rocket upward to six feet tall. The three vines alone provided enough edible greens for the whole summer. When you harvest, just keep cutting off at the top, and it will regrow. Another great thing about Malabar spinach is how attractive it looks with its flowers and red berries in autumn. Give it a try this hot summer.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Giant Goldenrod – Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) *Solidago gigantea* Ait.



Region: 1 through 10 (Ellis County is 4)
Size: 1 – 6 feet
Blooms: July – November, Perennial

Across the state, beautiful goldenrods hint that fall is soon to come. Positive identification is difficult; even botanists have trouble with them. They are well known for hybridizing. All have rhizomatous roots that spread, so large colonies are common. Long, slender stems branch in the upper portion. These branches bear branchlets on which tiny yellow flowers are densely clustered. Stalkless leaves alternate up the stems. Goldenrod is wrongly blamed for hay fever; its pollen is carried by insects, not the wind. It is said that a tea from this plant was used by Indians in the treatment of digestive ailments. Goldenrod flowers yield a natural dye, shading from yellow to yellow-green. *S. gigantea*, is not found in Region 6, but several other goldenrod species can be seen there.

Ellis County Master Gardeners hard at work and having fun



*June Meeting and Tour at the
Fort Worth Japanese Gardens.
Thank you Maureen for ar-
ranging such a wonderful day.*



The Class of 2018 has been hard at work. Waxahachie Care offers Social Services and a Food Pantry and with the help of Class 2018 they have new raised beds, vegetables lining the fence and numerous new fruit trees. Waxahachie Care can't thank them enough.



Garden Tour 2018

Thank you to all who came out and toured the beautiful gardens and thank you to those who opened up their homes to let us enjoy the beauty.





Featured Recipe of the Month

CHILI LIME SWEET CORN SALAD

FROM: LOVELY LITTLE KITCHEN (PINTEREST)

INGREDIENTS

- * 6 ears of corn, husk and silk removed
- * 2 tablespoons melted butter
- * 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
- * 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- * 1 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- * 1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco*
- * 1/4 teaspoon salt (or to taste)

*Queso fresco is a soft, mild, creamy Mexican cheese that can be crumbled easily. If you cannot find it, feta would be a good substitution



INSTRUCTIONS

In a large pot, bring water to a boil. Boil the corn for 3 minutes, then remove and allow to cool slightly so that they can be handled. Cut kernels off the cob into a large bowl. Set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together butter, lime juice, chili powder, and chopped cilantro.

Pour the chili lime mixture over the corn and mix to coat.

Add the crumbled queso fresco and stir. Season with salt to taste.

Serve at room temperature. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yields 4 –6



Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events



Join the **Indian Trail Master Naturalists** at their monthly meeting on Monday, July 23. The program for the evening is entitled “All the Dirt about Soil”. Jacob Calvit, a Certified Professional Soil Scientist of the Soil Science Society of America, will share with us everything we ever wanted to know about “soil”. The program is free and follows the 6 pm Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. 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, July 21, 8am: Wildflower Walk. Members 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 and wear comfortable shoes. The walk will be canceled if raining. Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: Information@itmnc.com

Registration is now open for the annual **Master Naturalists Training Class** of the Indian Trail Chapter, serving Ellis and Navarro County. Training includes weekly classes in Waxahachie on Tuesday nights, Aug 21 - Nov 13, 2018, and three Saturday field trips. To register, e-mail training@itmnc.com or visit their website to apply online at txmn.org/indiantrail/about. Applications are also available at the AgriLife Extension office at 701 South I-35, Suite #3, Waxahachie, TX 75165. For additional information please call Lynn at 214.802.6993.

"Busting" Common Garden Myths

National Garden Bureau

Submitted by Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

Myth: Pinch the seed pod off if the onion goes to seed.

Busted! Years ago that was a common practice because older (heirloom) varieties were prone to bolting. In today's world with newer hybrids, if you pinch the seed pod off immediately, it will keep the center core of the onion from growing and the end result is a smaller onion that will not store well.

Myth: Knock the tops of onions over to make larger bulbs.

Busted! Actually the opposite is true. If you knock the tops over prematurely, that will stop the bulbing process and thus will make the onion more likely to grow during storage.

Myth: To get sweeter tomatoes, add sugar to the planting hole.

Busted! Sorry Grandma, this is not true. Tomato plants can't absorb sugar in the soil, they produce it through photosynthesis. The sugar content of a variety is predetermined in the plant's genetics.

Myth: Perennials won't bloom the first year, especially bare-root.

Half Busted! With modern breeding and growing techniques, this is no longer true. Go ahead and plant bare root and potted perennials now and enjoy those blooms the first year, assuming you don't plant them past the time they naturally would bloom. However, if you buy a potted perennial that requires over-wintering, then you will have to wait through the first winter to get the desired blooms. It's best to inquire from the seller to find out what to expect that first season after planting.

Myth: Plant peas and potatoes on St. Patrick's Day.

Half Busted! This can't possibly be true for all climate zones. It's much better to refer to the updated USDA hardiness zone map and plant according to the local last frost dates as recommended by local gardening experts. We assume grandma never moved far from where she was born so she must have lived her entire life in the same hardiness zone!

Myth: Pinch off all blooms of annuals before planting.

Busted! In many cases pinching is no longer an absolute must because today's commonly available bedding plants are bred to be more compact with continuous blooms. So, you don't need the pinch to manage growth or promote another flush of blooms.

Myth: Planting tomatoes in a trench or up to the first true leaves promotes a sturdier plant.

Half-Busted! This one is still true for seed propagated heirlooms and hybrids. Planting deeply does help elongate the rooting area since any point on the stem that comes into contact with the soil will root. The exception is when planting grafted tomatoes (plants and/or supplies for grafting are available by mail order) because if the scion takes root it will negate the benefits of the grafted rootstock, so never plant a grafted tomato too deeply.

Myth: Use tuna fish cans around transplant stems to thwart cut worms.

Not Busted! Yes, Grandma was correct and frugal with this tip! When both ends of the can are removed and placed around the plant, it acts as a barrier to keep these natural soil surface crawlers from reaching the plant until the stem has thickened past the tender stage.

Myth: Add chalk or egg shells to the planting hole.

Not Busted! Again, a good tip, as both of these items will help prevent blossom end rot in tomatoes since they provide calcium to the fruit (since egg shells take a while to decompose, crush or grind the shells to enable them to dissolve faster).

Myth: Putting egg shell flakes around the base of plants will prevent slug damage.

Not Busted! Yes, Grandma was right, slugs do not like to crawl over the jagged surface of sharp eggshells so putting a barrier of crushed (not ground too finely) egg shells is a great deterrent.

Myth: Beer traps for slugs?

Not Busted! Yes, they really do work. And there is even research to show they prefer the light beers over the darker ales and lagers. But, if you get a rain or water the plants, you will need to refill the traps with fresh, undiluted beer as those little critters avoid the watered-down stuff.

Save The Date!
Saturday, March 30, 2019



The Creative Quilters of Ellis County Quilt Show was published in our Calendar as taking place on July 14-15. Those dates are incorrect. The correct dates for the Quilt Show are July 21-22.



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>



Living Screens

By Jackie Wilhite, Ellis County Master Gardener

Summertime is a good time to evaluate your landscape to see what plants are meeting or exceeding your expectations. This year's hot temperatures coupled with high humidity and lack of regular rainfall makes it a perfect opportunity to evaluate the sun to shade ratio in the landscape, especially the areas receiving full sun all day. While most of our native plants and those that have adapted to this area like full sun, most plants can benefit from at least some afternoon shade. Evaluations should be done now, and any corrective measures should be scheduled for the cooler temperatures of the month of October. This will allow the plants to become better established with the help of cooler daytime and nighttime temperatures, and more plentiful rainfall.

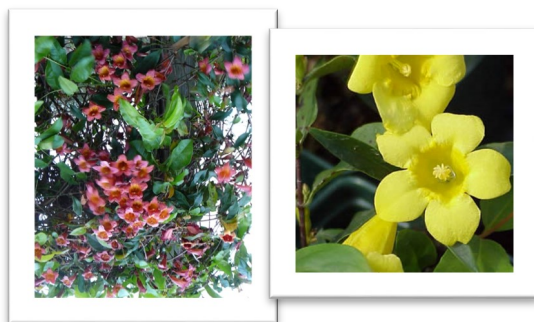
First notice should be given to the areas where the family spends most of their time outdoors, such as patios and backyards or unsightly areas like service areas. If a plant is simply suffering from too much hot afternoon sun, it might need to be moved to a location that is partly shaded. But, if the entire patio is too hot to use, then maybe a screen planting would be beneficial.

Incorporating screens instantly transforms a space into an enclosure of privacy and security while adding a touch of charm and elegance. A fence is an instant screen but add a vine to that fence and the space becomes one of living beauty. Small decorative fences make good screens for service areas like the air conditioner or trash containers. Likewise a trellis, wooden lattice works, or pergolas are also excellent choices. A trellis or pergola with a vine trained to cover them provides shade which in turn lowers the temperatures in the covered area.

Careful forethought about these areas use, size of the area, and plant desired are relevant to the success of the planting. A living screen can be established in three years by trellising a climbing evergreen vine. The top evergreen vines that could be used in this area include cross

vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) (*below left*) and Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). (*below right*). Both are Texas natives. Clematis (Deciduous to semi-evergreen) makes an ideal delicate coverage possibility for service areas like in front of the air conditioner where air-flow should not be minimized. There are several annual vines that can be planted from seed that include hyacinth bean, cypress vine, and morning glory just to name a few. These annuals can even be planted in containers and trained on a trellis or along a fence. Remember, an area used for covering a picnic table or near entrances should not have a vine covering the area that produces sweet smelling flowers because bees, wasps, and ants will be a constant problem. Wisteria makes beautiful coverage for large supports like pergolas but the spring flowers attract the pollinators like bees and wasp. In a short time the vine becomes so large and heavy that it could pull down a lightly framed structure. Save the heavy vines for large structures away from the heavy foot traffic and allow the pollinators to do their job.

These are just a few of the possibilities when it comes to planting living screens in the landscape. For further information, contact the Ellis County Master Gardeners at Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 701 South I-35E, Suite 3, Waxahachie, or call 972/825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu.

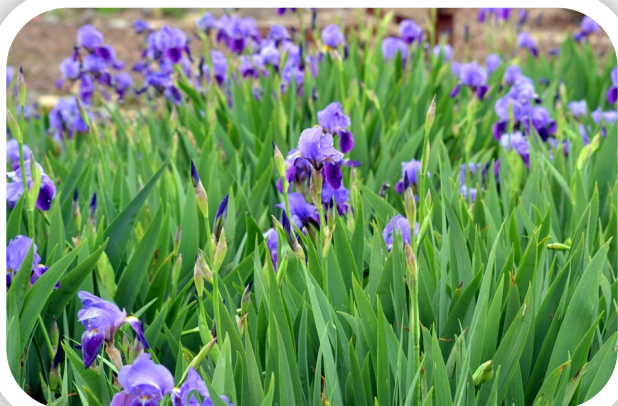


GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR JULY AND AUGUST

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

- ⇒ Bagging and supporting melons increases productivity
- ⇒ By August many fall vegetable seeds and even small plants may be set out for later production. Be careful to give extra water and a little shade to these young plants while they are becoming established. The result will be excellent cool season garden produce.
- ⇒ Trim off faded flowers on crape myrtles and vitex to encourage later rebloom.
- ⇒ Evaluate the volume of water delivered from lawn sprinklers to ensure healthy, stress-free grass during the heat of the summer. One thorough watering which will deliver one inch of water at a time is better than several shallower sessions. The amount of water available through flowerbed sprinklers may be checked by placing several shallow pans among shrubs or flowers.
- ⇒ Caladiums require plenty of water at this time of year if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at the rate of one-third to one-half pound per 100 square feet of bed area, and water thoroughly.
- ⇒ Prune out dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning from now until midwinter. Severe pruning at this time will only stimulate tender new growth prior to frost.
- ⇒ Sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas, and other cool season flowers in flats or in well-prepared areas of the garden, for planting outside during mid-to-late fall.
- ⇒ Plant bluebonnet and other spring wildflowers. They must germinate in late summer or early fall, develop good root systems, and be ready to grow in spring when the weather warms. Plant seed in well-prepared soil, one-half inch deep, and water thoroughly.
- ⇒ Picking flowers frequently encourages most annuals and perennials to flower even more abundantly.
- ⇒ Pick okra, peas, and peppers often to maintain production.
- ⇒ It is time to divide spring flowering perennials, such as iris, Shasta daisy, oxeye, gaillardia, cannas, day lilies, violets, liri-ope, and ajuga.
- ⇒ Make your selections and place orders for spring flowering bulbs now so that they will arrive in time for planting in October and November.
- ⇒ Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture.
- ⇒ A late-summer pruning of rosebushes can be beneficial. Prune out dead canes and any weak, brushy growth. Cut back tall, vigorous bushes to about 30 inches. After pruning, apply fertilizer and water thoroughly. If a preventive disease-control program has been maintained, your rose bushes should be ready to provide an excellent crop of flowers this fall.
- ⇒ It is not too late to set out another planting of many warm-season annuals, such as marigolds, zinnias, and periwinkles. They will require extra attention for the first few weeks, but should provide you with color during late September, October, and November.
- ⇒ Establish a new compost pile to accommodate the fall leaf accumulation.

Annual Iris Giveaway



The Ellis County Master Gardeners will be having their annual “Iris Giveaway” at the Waxahachie Farmer’s Market on Saturday, August 18, 2018. If you have iris beds that need to be thinned (every 4/5 years) and you plan to do that this year, we will be happy to take them. You may either dig them yourself or call us and we will come to your location and dig them for you. By proclamation the iris was made the flower of the City of Waxahachie several years ago, so it is our privilege to be able to share these beautiful flowers with others. Please call Jackie Milam at 972-849-8655 or Dee Stroope at 972-268-2831 for scheduling.

Eclectic Gardening

With Jane Slone, Ellis County Master Gardener

SUMMER TIME AND FREEZING



What to do with all the fruit and vegetables you harvest? If you are like me, you can only eat so much squash. How many ways can you serve squash until your family says NO more. There are certain vegetables and foods that do not freeze well. In researching this article, I was surprised to read boiled eggs do not freeze. Of all the foods that we could freeze and eat during the winter, eggs are not one that I would consider.

Make sure the food you planted and harvested can be stored in the freezer. One major source of fresh food without chemicals is the garden harvest. If we were to consider the chemicals, salt, and preservatives in store bought canned foods, you would grow all your own fruit and vegetables.

So many gardeners have decided to grow their own vegetables. Not everyone can have a plot of land and a strong back. Having a garden is hard work and requires a great deal of time. The other alternative would be to go to the Farmers Market and purchase fresh vegetables to store for the winter.

When I was young, my grandparents had a garden. I learned how to harvest and store vegetables. I was amazed that some houses had cellars. This is a room that remains cool in the summer. Their house sat on posts, and there was a large space from the floor to the ground. If you crawled under the house, it was cooler. The ground seemed to be moist and cool. A great place to store vegetables. I have learned that some store vegetables under their beds. In Texas today most of us do not have a pier and beam foundation. Most houses are built on a slab of concrete. Can we make our own cellar?



Probably not in Texas. I surfed the Bonnie Plant site for ideas and was amazed at what I found about vegetable storage. Below is an excerpt from their website. Some of these would not apply to Texas. Any area below zone 7 is hotter and it is more difficult to store vegetables. I do not know of anyone in my area who has a basement. If you have a space that meets these requirements, see the information below. Generally, the statement for storing vegetables without refrigeration is great. According to Bonnie Plants you can make your own cellar.

Below is the paragraph they wrote about storing vegetables. <https://bonnieplants.com/library/store-veggies-without-root-cellar/>

Any area of your home that stays below 60°F (but above freezing) is a candidate; use a thermometer to monitor the temperature. Some good options to consider include:

- Under basement steps, especially those leading from the basement to an attached garage
- In an extra room with the heating vents closed (where plumbing is not dependent on the vents to keep from freezing)
- In a closet on an exterior wall, especially one with northern exposure
- In an unheated attic
- On an unheated porch
- On a deck
- In a well-ventilated garage or shed (produce breathes and can absorb vapor, so skip these areas if gas or chemical fumes are present)
- In an unheated entryway or mudroom

The only way that I found for our zone to store vegetables is by wrapping them in newspapers and placing them on the floor under a bed (no carpet). You could try using wire racks. Certain vegetables are easier to store like onions. Hang them in a cool place and use as needed.

Freezing is the answer for Texas.

So, what do we need to know before the harvest and freeze?



It is important to pick the fruit or vegetable when it just turns ripe. Never try to freeze overripe fruit or vegetables. The best process is to pick, clean, and prepare the fruit or vegetable as if you were going to eat it immediately. Wash, peel, dry, shred, or cut into small pieces. Then place in an airtight container to store, label and date.

Should you blanch the veggies before freezing? Beans, carrots, corn, and beets should be placed into boiling water for 20 to 30 seconds before freezing. Drain well and immediately place in a cold-water bath. This will stop the cooking process. By performing this procedure, it helps seal in the enzymes and vitamins.

The best choice for fruit is eat as much as you can while fresh. Thawed frozen fruit usually has less flavor than fresh fruit.

Can home grown frozen fruit be used for pies? That is a difficult question. Frozen fruit will have a higher liquid (water) content. Some culinary books recommend that you thaw, drain, and add a layer of granulated sugar to the bottom crust before adding the

Continued on page 10



The Ultimate Solar Machine By Shirley Campbell

The ultimate solar machine runs on solar energy, soil, water, air, and love.

- ⊗ The ultimate solar machine runs on polluted air and gives back clean air. It is a living breathing air conditioner.
- ⊗ One acre of these machines can remove approximately 3.7 tons of sulfur-dioxide from the air each year.
- ⊗ The same acre can remove nearly 12.9 tons of dust from the air each year. 440 yards of forested green space can remove 80% of the airborne particle smog. One acre absorbs the carbon dioxide from approximately 50 cars, as well as the polluting ozone from 8 cars.
- ⊗ The ultimate solar machine builds healthy soils and helps prevent erosion.
- ⊗ The ultimate solar machine is a clean water machine --- it purifies water for free.
- ⊗ It is completely biodegradable. In the process, one large machine can be converted to the energy equivalent of 2 to 12 barrels of oil.
- ⊗ The ultimate solar machine can heat your home or cool it. It is the equivalent of 9 air conditioners running all day. Green belts as narrow as 165-300 feet can reduce summer temperatures by 40° compared with the city center. Pavement and rooftops reflect 30% of solar heat into the air. These machines absorb all but 5%, converting it into usable wood.
- ⊗ Many ultimate solar machines (fruit and nut trees) will even feed you. On a large scale, they require less fertilizer and keep the soil healthier than any other crop.
- ⊗ The ultimate solar machine replaces its own worn out parts and has a lifetime guarantee. The ultimate solar machine may last for 2000 to 4000 years.

It is of course a tree!



Have you hugged your trees lately!!



Eclectic Gardening continued from page 9

fruit. It is also possible to coat the bottom crust with a layer of egg wash or simply sprinkle flour on the crust. I can say from experience this has not worked for me, but I do not follow directions very well. Give it a try and let us know how it worked for your pies.

For me the bag is the answer. What did we do before the invention of the plastic freezer bags? I use them for fruit and vegetables. Be sure and label with date and name of the content. Otherwise, cucumber pie could be your next great pie recipe.

Happy harvesting.



1001 Hints and Tips for Your Garden Readers Digest

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/freezing/freezing-vegetables-zm0z13aszsor>

<https://www.bayeradvanced.com/articles/freezing-your-harvest>

Thank You All!

Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and visitors for making the 2018 Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo a great success!

Gold



Bronze



Green

AmeriGrafix, Boyce Feed & Grain, CNB of Texas, Gerdau, Holcim, Living Earth Technologies, Renewal by Andersen Roland's, Nursery & Landscape, Tex-Scapes Greenery, Texas Tree Farm, Waxahachie Civic Center

Exhibitors

360 Painting of South DFW
Adam Rope State Farm
Angie & Teresa's Garden Store
Artisan Outdoor Lighting
Barris Pottery & Ceramics
Beldon Dallas
Best Bug Bait
Bertha's Best
Blue Moon Soaps
Bluebonnet Worm Farm
Boyce Feed & Grain
C & J Farms
Central Kubota
Chautauqua Preservation Soc
Concrete and More
Costco Wholesale
Creative Quilters Guild, Ellis Co.
Custom Fence & Pergola

DFW Custom Decks
Earth Tones Greenery
Ellis County Engineering
Ellis County SPCA
Ennis Garden Club
Flamingo Food & Beverage
Garden Charms
Garden Variety Organics
Gardenscapes by Diane
Girl Scouts NETX
Goss, Karl & Jim
Greenery, The
H. Summit Enterprises
Habitat for Humanity, Ellis Co.
H-E-B
Hollyberry Herb Farm
Homestead EQ./Maint-BCS
Hot Produx

Imagine That
Indian Trail Master Naturalists
Jams, Jellies and More
JL Glass Designs
KA-Ranch
Koke Gardens
Landmark Equipment
Lazy River Pool Co.
LeafFilter North Texas
Living Earth Technology Co.
Native Solar
Ovilla Garden Club
Peachy Page Farm
Perline Company Inc.
Prairielands Groundwater GCD
Rain Drop Studio
Real Time Pain Relief
Renewal by Andersen

Rigsby's Garden Center
RiverMist Pools & Spas
Rolen's Honey Bee's
Silverado Lawn & Landscape
Skinkle Tools
Synthetic Turf of North Texas
Texas Rustic Works
Texas Toffee
Texas Tree Farms
Tex-Scapes Greenery
Tommy's Bird Houses
Tommy's Hot Dog
Travis Equipment
Waxahachie Equipment Co.
Wimbish Tree Farm

We couldn't do it without your support!