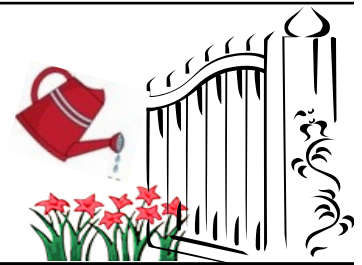




# Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue 9

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

August, 2019

**W**elcome 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](http://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 August?

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.

**Saturday, August 3: Taste of Market** featuring a Salsa Fiesta! Market chefs Cheryl and Arlene are kicking off the month with salsa samples. They always come up with some unusual offerings at their sample table. So stop in the classroom at the front of market, enjoy a sample, pick up some recipes, some helpful information and as always, a flavorful herbal water. It's cool inside!

**Saturday, August 10: Kid's Day** ~ The Ellis County Master Gardeners will be on hand to provide a hands-on craft for kids of all ages. There will be a table full of flowers, leaves, stems and greens of all sorts to encourage learning about the many uses of plants. Kids are invited to make a pressed flower bookmark using preserved plant materials to take home and enjoy while reading a favorite summer book. Look for us in the classroom. It's air conditioned.

**Saturday, August 17: Great Iris Give-Away**~ The Ellis County Master Gardeners have had a busy summer digging, dividing, washing and sorting iris rhizomes from all over the county for the enjoyment of market shoppers. Stop by the master gardener's white pop-up booth to pick up a free bag with instructions and help celebrate the official City of Waxahachie Flower.

**Saturday, August 24: The "Dog Days" of Summer** with a focus on pet care and treats. Leashed dogs are always welcomed at the market so bring your four-legged friend with you and look for some treats. The Yellow Farmhouse folks will fire up the coals and grill up some hot dogs for the two-legged visitors also. There are lots of cool summer melons, fruits and veggies ready to purchase and take home for your weekend cookout or trip to the lake.

**Saturday, August 31: Pepper-Palooza**~ Chile peppers are at their peak in August so look for a wide variety for sale at the market. Also, look for some sampling for those brave enough to give it a try. Expect to find an assortment of flavors and heat ranges. Pick up your favorites along with the tomatoes, fruits and assorted veggies needed to make your own pepper sampling. Get ready for some great heat!

## Ellis County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting—You are invited! Second Tuesday of the month



Daniel Cunningham will be speaking at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. The program, "Edibles in the Garden", will focus on the edible value of common landscape plants. Daniel Cunningham, Horticulturist of Texas A&M AgriLife's Water University program, reaches professionals and the public with the most current sustainability information about landscape water use, including design, plant selection and water-conserving landscape management practices. His primary focus is a holistic approach to landscaping and food production systems, and is known in the public arena for leading courses on foraging and engaging in the practice as a source of his own food.

Social time begins at 9:30am and our program begins at 10am with the guest speaker starting at 11am. 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.



## Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10am on 1390 AM and 99.1 FM.

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!

Scott Rigsby

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## What's Happening in August



### PLANTING

- \* Plant these fall vegetables early in the month: beans, cucumbers and squash. Follow up late in the month with transplants of broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower. Acclimate transplants to full sun before planting. Water immediately after planting.
- \* Plant bluebonnet and other spring wildflowers starting this month. Select a sunny, well-drained area with minimal vegetation. If planting into existing vegetation, mow area as short as possible; then lightly disturb with a disk or rake. Drag seeded area to ensure good seed-soil contact.
- \* Plant fall-flowering bulbs such as spider lily, naked lady lily, rain lily, oxblood lily and fall crocus. Place in the ground twice as deep as the diameter of the bulb.
- \* Dig and divide daffodils, daylilies, iris, liriope, oxalis and other spring-flower perennials.

### FERTILIZING AND PRUNING

- \* Caladiums require plenty of water if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at the rate of 1/3 to 1/2 pound per 100 square feet of bed area and water thoroughly.
- \* Plants with yellowed leaves and dark green veins may be suffering from iron deficiency. Apply an iron/sulfur product.
- \* Prune bush roses by removing dead canes and weak, spindly growth. Cut back tall, vigorous bushes to about 30 inches. Then apply a complete fertilizer and water in for beautiful fall blooms.
- \* Pinch flowers from coleus, basil, mint, caladiums and other plants where flower buds and flowers stop production of new foliage.

### GARDEN WATCH

- \* By now you know the real winners and losers in your landscape. Replace the "losers" with a Texas Superstar®. These plants have been tested and proven to be outstanding performers under our growing conditions. Visit [www.TexasSuperstar.com](http://www.TexasSuperstar.com) for a list of these amazing stars.
- \* Control fire ants in your lawn with mound treatments, as opposed to baits, since ants are foraging less now. Organic insecticides such as pyrethrin's and Spinosad can be sprinkled on or drenched into the mound.
- \* Continue to follow the "Homeowners Fruit and Nut Spray Schedule" to protect pecan trees against pecan weevils and hickory shuckworms, and to control peach tree borers on peach and plum trees.
- \* Order spring-flowering bulbs for planting in November and December. Remember 'biggest is best' in regard to bulb size. Be aware of "bargain" bulbs as they may be small or of inferior quality.



### Herb of the Month – Chile Peppers

By Arlene Hamilton



You are probably as tired of talking about the weather as I am. So, let's talk about a wonderful little plant that loves the long hot summers of the Southwest and inspires a passion around the world. Chile Peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) are favored in our gardens, on our plates and even in our medicine cabinets.

Like beans, corn and avocados, Chile peppers are a New World plant. Found in South America by Christopher Columbus as he searched for a route to India, home of the black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), the most expensive spice in the world at that time. Columbus returned to Europe with the holds of his ships filled with plants, seeds and peppers. Within a very short time Chile peppers had spread throughout the world as their flavor and heat contributed to bland tasting diets. Even the poorest could easily cultivate this inexpensive flavor enhancer.

There are hundreds of varieties of Chile peppers in many shapes, sizes, colors and flavors, from sweet to searingly pungent, hot and sweet at the same time, green and vegetal, earthy and fruity. Some favorites for the Texas garden are habanero, Anaheim, Hungarian banana, cayenne, Tabasco, Thai and of course jalapeño. The tiny piquin has been brought to my garden by the birds that frequent the tender perennial plant in the fall then deposit the seeds throughout the area. It is a very fiery hot pepper that makes a wonderful condiment when the ripe peppers are added to a bottle of vinegar, aged and then enjoyed splashed over salads, eggs and vegetables.

September and October are peak times for harvesting chilies from your garden or shopping the local farmers' market. My very favorite Chile is the Hatch, grown in Hatch, New Mexico. We first came across this large, mild to hot pepper as we crossed southeastern Colorado several years ago. The markets, roadside stands and parking lots lining highway 50 boasted large tumble roasters grilling up bushels of Hatch chilies. You could catch the aroma long before you saw the grill. I have already made one pilgrimage to Central Market for the first batch and will surely return for more before their short season is over.

Once you get past the pain of cleaning and seeding chilies you are rewarded with not only the wonderful flavor but also the healthful benefits of chilies. They contain large amounts of vitamins C and A. By weight, fresh peppers have about three times as much vitamin C as oranges and as much vitamin A as carrots. The capsaicin oil that causes your fingers to burn while cleaning them is being studied as a medicine. Capsaicin is the active ingredient of creams for painful skin and nerve conditions including shingles and neuralgia. It is being tested in cream form for diabetic neuropathy, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Pepper plants should be planted in the early summer after the soil has become warm. They grow best in loamy soil with organic matter and a little greensand added. Good drainage is important. Water frequently and feed once or twice during the season. My favorite way to preserve peppers is to blacken the skin on the grill, remove the black and seeds then layer flat between sheets of waxed paper. Place these in zip topped freezer bags and freeze. These packets lie flat taking up very little room. A few pieces make the base for Chile Rellenos casserole, chopped in salsas and chili or added to all foods needing a bit of a kick.

## Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian  
Ellis County Master Gardener*



**Scrambled Eggs** ~ Fumitory Family (Fumariaceae)  
*Corydalis* spp.

**Region:** 1 through 10 (Ellis Co. is Region 4)  
**Size:** 2 feet  
**Blooms:** Feb. – Sept., Annual/Biennial

Scrambled eggs takes its name from its color and the fact that the blossoms at the top of each stem are so irregularly placed that they look stirred. The upper petal has a spur, so the flower seems not to be attached. Alternate leaves are three to six inches long, divided into five to seven segments and then divided twice more. It grows in sandy or rocky areas, prairies, fields or woods and along streams or roadsides, especially in disturbed areas. *Corydalis* species found in Texas are difficult to distinguish. They may carry as many as ten alkaloids and at least one known alkaloid in *Corydalis* is still used in medicine. Plants are poisonous to sheep and are suspected of being poisonous to horses.

## Featured Recipe of the Month

### Zucchini Garlic Bites

*Author: Grow a Good Life (Pinterest)*



*This tasty recipe combines shredded zucchini with garlic, Parmesan cheese, fresh herbs, and is served with a marinara dipping sauce for an Italian inspired twist.*



Prep Time 12 mins  
Cook Time 18 mins  
Total Time 30 mins

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly coat a baking sheet with olive oil or non-stick spray. Set aside.

Use a box grater to grate the zucchini into a clean towel. Roll up the towel and twist to wring out the moisture. Grate the garlic using the small holes on the box grater.

In a medium bowl, combine all of the ingredients and mix well.

Shape a tablespoon of the mixture into your hands, pat into small balls and place on the baking sheet.

Bake for 15-18 minutes in the preheated oven until golden.

Serve warm with marinara sauce.

*Recipe makes about 16 bites.*

### Ingredients

- \* 1 cup zucchini grated and drained well
- \* 1 egg
- \* 1/3 cup breadcrumbs
- \* 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese grated fine
- \* 1 clove garlic grated fine
- \* 2 tablespoons fresh chives chopped
- \* 1 tablespoon fresh parsley chopped
- \* 1 teaspoon fresh basil chopped
- \* 1 teaspoon fresh oregano chopped
- \* pinch of salt and pepper
- \* tomato sauce for dipping



## Texas Superstar - One Phabulous Phlox

By Gayle Haynes



Perennial phlox are mostly forms of *Phlox paniculata*, which is commonly native from Pennsylvania and Illinois southward. They bloom in mid to late summer with immense terminal heads of white, pink and purple flowers. There are native forms quite common to northeast Texas. These hardy perennials have been popular in Texas and Southern gardens for many generations. They are easily grown but can be subject to powdery mildew. The most common color is a pink-purple form.

Then in the early 1990's Greg Grant, a premier plantsman in the south, observed a row of summer phlox growing in St. Augustine grass, half under a live oak and half in the sun, in southeast San Antonio. Grant obtained plants from the homeowner and included them in a Texas Superstar trial of summer phlox. He named it after John Fanick, a well-known nurseryman in San Antonio. 'John Fanick' is a pale pink with a darker eye and

is particularly attractive when combined with the common pink-purple type. Experience has shown it to be the most vigorous of all the summer phlox, and it is also highly fragrant. Grant says that 'John Fanick' is one of the best butterfly-attracting plants available and Swallowtails are partial to it. It even attracts hummingbirds. It survives in heat, humidity and drought. It is an ideal cottage garden plant or can be used in xeriscaping. Use 'John Fanick' phlox in drifts in a perennial border for summer color. Include it in a butterfly garden to attract many types of butterflies and in a cut-flower garden. As a cut flower it maintains its wonderful fragrance and a long vase life. It looks fabulous planted with tall, blue-blooming salvias in back and Laura Bush petunias, or white, pink or purple verbena in front.

During this same time period, Dr. Jerry Parsons, Extension horticulture specialist in San Antonio, found another phlox with magenta pink blossoms in an old San Antonio garden. It was included in the Texas Superstar trial as well. Results of these two trials across the state indicated that these were the top performing summer phlox. This other summer phlox is named 'Victoria.'

Summer phlox benefit from fairly frequent division. Fall or winter is the ideal time to dig the clumps about every two years and reset the individual plants. They thrive in sunny, well-drained locations but will tolerate up to about half shade. Since the flowers come at a really hot time of year, they last better with some afternoon shade. Bloom height is two to three feet with two feet spread.

Plant where it will have good air circulation. Blooming starts in early summer and lasts into the fall if old flower heads are removed as they fade. A summer mulch, which helps keep the root zone cool, is beneficial. To encourage re-blooming and keep the plants tidy, shear after the first bloom cycle. In winter cut them to the ground after the first severe frost and apply a little lawn fertilizer in the spring. They spread underground to form larger and larger clumps. To propagate, divide clumps in the spring or take tip cuttings in spring and early summer. Neither variety comes true from seed. Water on the leaves can promote powdery mildew; if possible, irrigate with a soaker hose or drip irrigation.

References: Texas Superstar; Jennifer Paul, Texas A&M University System Agriculture Program; Mary Wilhite of Blue Moon Gardens [www.bluemoongardens.com](http://www.bluemoongardens.com); Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service



### Tomato Reminder!

Your determinate tomatoes are probably spent, and now is the time to replant. Your indeterminates are probably slowing down, so...as difficult as it is, it is time to prune them back to about half their size. Fertilize, mulch, and keep them watered. Don't give up—you will be rewarded with a second healthy tomato crop.



**Interested in becoming a  
2020 Expo Sponsor Or  
Expo Exhibitor?**

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

**Reserve the date: March 30, 2020!**



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>

## Multiplying Millipedes

By Mike Merchant

Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist, Texas A&M



At first glance, millipedes are most remarkable for their ability to walk without tripping over their own feet. The name *millipede* literally means “thousand feet” and though most don’t have that many legs, that’s still a lot of feet to keep track of. What’s even more remarkable about millipedes, once you get to know them, is their ability to reach astronomical numbers when weather conditions are prime. (Pictured left: *Millipedes clinging to a clay pot, probably for moisture. Most millipedes are very sensitive to dry air.*) That’s what’s happening right now, at least in parts of north and east Texas. For the past month Extension offices have been getting dozens of calls about (sometimes) biblical numbers of millipedes. One person today described finding millipedes throughout his home, “too many to count, entering through the house windows and doors” like the hundred or so he found in his son’s second story windowsill.

Sometimes mistaken for caterpillars, such infestations begin outdoors with dozens or hundreds of millipedes swarming flowerpots and crawling up the sides of buildings.

Millipedes aren’t all bad. Their role in nature is to serve as “decomposers”, feeders on dead plants and decaying wood. Without critters like millipedes you wouldn’t be able to get new grass to grow through the layers of dead grass and leaves, and compost piles would take longer to produce compost. But this doesn’t stop them from sometimes becoming a royal nuisance.

Several years ago a brand new, local high school was invaded by millipedes. They stormed hallways and classrooms by the tens of thousands. With no landscaping or mulch nearby, the only food source we could determine were buried heavy-duty cardboard boxes used by construction crews on the soil to support the floating slab foundation of the buildings. Structural engineers figured the cardboard would decay innocently under the slab, but entomologists will tell you that burying paper under a building is asking for trouble in the form of termites and millipedes.

Millipede mass migrations commonly occur in the fall but can also happen in the spring. Above average rainfall is likely to blame for this year’s invasions. But such invasions don’t occur overnight, as it takes millipedes several months to develop. It may be that waterlogged soils are forcing millipedes out of the soil in search of drier spots. Unfortunately for the millipedes that enter homes, indoor environments are too dry for their thin “skin”. Though millipedes are relatively long-lived outdoors in the soil (up to 5-7 years), once indoors, millipedes desiccate and die within a matter of hours.

For this reason, it’s usually unnecessary to spray insecticides indoors for millipedes. Instead use the vacuum indoors and focus your control actions outdoors. Make sure mulch is kept away from building foundations and that weep holes and other entry points are screened or sealed. In severe cases it may be helpful to apply a pyrethroid insecticide (in the form of granules or sprays) around the perimeter of the home and around windows and doorways. Most of the time, however, millipede infestations go as quickly as they came and insecticides are not needed.

Millipede jaws are soft, restricting most species to feeding on soft, dead plant material. Only a few, like the greenhouse millipede, can damage soft plant tissues such as found on emerging garden plant. Millipedes do not bite, but some species can emit noxious defensive secretions that can stain and even blister skin. (Pictured right: *This child was playing with a millipede, rolling it in her hands. She soon had these itchy red stains. Photo courtesy Kim Benton*)

You have to respect millipedes. With only weak jaws, thin skins and little more to their credit than lots of legs and incredible powers of reproduction, they manage to survive and thrive even in our urban landscapes.

*Top picture: Oxidus gracilis, or the greenhouse millipede, is a common species in Texas. This one appears to have over 30 pairs of legs. Photo: M. Merchant.*



## Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events



Join the Indian Trail Master Naturalists at their monthly meeting on Monday, August 26, 2019. The program for the evening is entitled “**Native Bees for Your Landscape**”. Less well known than European Honeybees, Texas’ native bees are nevertheless vital components of a healthy environment, and can provide a new dimension of enjoyment in your home garden or on your acreage. Carol Clark’s program will cover basic information on the current challenges all bee species are facing, why they are important to all of us, facts about gentle solitary native bees and their lifestyles, and photo examples of the many beautiful forms and colors of native bees. The program will include tips on what to plant and provide to attract native bees to your home landscape and basic identification hints. Carol Clark will discuss simple homemade native bee nest sites, with real examples and slides, and how to participate in nationwide citizen science tracking efforts.

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. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email [ellis-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:ellis-tx@tamu.edu). Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: [Information@itmnc.com](mailto:Information@itmnc.com)



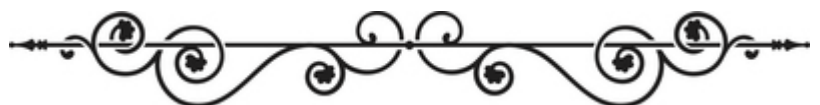
## Farmer's Market~Ellis County Master Gardeners' Grill Fest ~ June 22, 2019



## Annual Iris Giveaway- August 17



The Ellis County Master Gardeners will be having their annual "Iris Giveaway" at the Waxahachie Farmer's Market on Saturday August 17, 2019. As part of Iris Giveaway, note that there will be a select group of Iris bulbs donated to ECMGA from a previous grower, that will be for sale. The majority of these bulbs will be for sale at our October Fall Plant Sale. (Reference page 8 for pictures of a few examples of the select iris for sale)



## Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

For reservations, contact Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631 or [mcobb@wisd.org](mailto:mcobb@wisd.org)

Register online at [https://www.wisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=1080753&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1369108](https://www.wisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1080753&type=d&pREC_ID=1369108)

Join Ellis County Master Gardeners and Ellis County Extension Agency in a variety of classes to prepare your gardens and yards for fall.



**Monday, September 23 ~ Building a Pocket Garden:** A vertical garden is a method to grow plants in a container that can hang on a wall. Found in nature and ancient civilizations, living walls have been thriving for centuries on walls all over the world. In this class we will demonstrate several ways you can make your own vertical garden. A handout will be provided to help you complete your home project. The class will include a demonstration on making your own herb pocket garden. *Instructors: Jane Sloan and Ruth Spurr*

**Thursday, September 26 ~ Perennials for All Seasons:** Perennials are valued mostly because they return to the garden each year. However, the gardener needs to know which ones will bloom the longest, when they bloom and how they add to the landscape in other ways before choosing new additions to their gardens. *Instructor: Maureen Nitkowski*

**Monday, September 30 ~ Texas Superstars:** Learn a brief history of how plants have been named Texas Superstars and how they were found. Highlights of these superstars include annuals, perennials, fruits, trees and many more. *Instructors: Susan Ellis and Gayle Johnston*

**Thursday, October 3 ~ Earth-kind® Composting: It's Easier Than You Think:** Compost is a gardener's gold. We will discuss reasons and ways to compost. There are many methods to compost household and yard waste. Come and discover Earth-Kind® ways you can incorporate composting into your home maintenance routine and harvest your own gardener's gold. *Instructor: Ginger Cole*

**Monday, October 14 ~ Texas Pecans: Tree Planting and Care:** Who in the south doesn't love pecans in just about everything. If you would like to grow your own, this class will teach you what pecan trees will grow best in our area, how to plant both bare root or container grown trees, proper care after planting and how to control any possible pests. *Instructor: Sheila Cloonen*

**Thursday, October 17 ~ Kokodama and Hydroponics:** As gardeners, we are always looking for new ways to display plants and you will see the uniqueness of Kokodama, which means clay (koke) ball (dama). The inspiration for this concept lies in Japanese bonsai technology for processing moss. With its natural appearance and materials, the Kokodama is a counterpart to the usual plastic hanging pot. **Hydroponics** - the process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but without soil. Let's explore how you can grow insect-free lettuce & herbs in your garage all winter with easy to acquire materials. *Instructor: Susan Gilliland*

**Thursday, October 24 ~ Gardening Alternatives:** Come hear about raised bed gardening, square foot gardening and container gardening in Ellis County. Our soils require special techniques for successful fall and spring vegetable gardens. We're here to help! *Instructors: Joan Brammer and Susan Hall*

**Monday, October 28 ~ Decorating your Front Entrance with a Beautiful Fall Garden in Containers:** Instructors will demonstrate putting your container or containers together and answer questions. Come and have fun creating a fresh fall "curb appeal" to your home. Must bring your pots and plants. Soil will be provided. *Instructors: Jesika Lopez and Mattie Thompson*

All classes cost \$14.00 and are taught from 6:00-7:30 pm at Waxahachie High School, Career & Technology Department, 3001 US Hwy 287 Bypass, Waxahachie, TX 75167. Students and teachers will enter the building on the west side of the campus in the Billy Bates Career and Technology Center. There is both a separate parking and a separate entrance there.



## Ellis County Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale

October 5, 2019

Come out to Coleman Junior High School Parking Lot, October 5, 2019, and pick up perennial plants, trees and shrubs to enhance your home. Additional information will be forthcoming.





**GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR AUGUST**

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

**PLANTING**

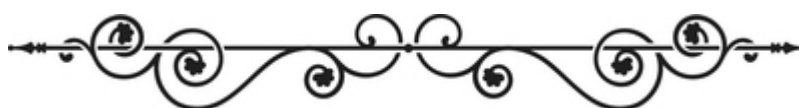
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**Iris Giveaway**

Preview of a few of the select cultivated bulbs for sale during the event



Mescalero Chief Tall Bearded Iris



Gladys Austin Tall Bearded Iris



Polish Princess Tall Bearded



One Way Ticket Tall Bearded Iris

*Liger Tall Bearded Iris, Dance with Me Tall Bearded Iris, Gladys Austin Tall Bearded Iris, Horned Tangerine Tall Bearded Iris, Trillin Tall Bearded Iris, Polish Princess Tall Bearded Iris, One Way Ticket Tall Bearded Iris, Mescalero Chief, Sweet and Spacey, Avalanche Daffodils, Dutch Iris Purple Sensation & Professor, Blan, Summer Snowflake-White Bell Flowers, Red Spider Lilies, Erlicher Daffodil, Oxblood Lilies*



## Thank You All!

Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and visitors for making the 2019 Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo a great success!

### Herb of the Month – Chile Peppers

You are probably as tired of talking about the weather as I am. So, let's talk about a wonderful little plant that loves the long hot summers of the Southwest and inspires a passion around the world. Chile Peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) are favored in our gardens, on our plates and even in our medicine cabinets. Like beans, corn and avocados,

Chile peppers are World plant, found South America by topher Columbus he searched for a route to India, home of the black pepper (Piper nigrum), the most expensive spice in that time. Columbus returned to Europe with the holds of his ships filled with plants, seeds and pers. Within a

pep-very short time Chile pep-pers had spread throughout the world as their flavor and heat contributed to bland tasting diets. Even the poorest could easily cultivate this inexpensive flavor enhancer.

There are hundreds of varieties of Chile peppers in many shapes, sizes, colors and flavors, from sweet to searingly pungent,

hot and sweet at the same time, green and vegetal, earthy, and fruity.

Some favorites for the Texas garden are habanero, Anaheim, Hungarian banana, cayenne, Tabasco, Thai, and of course jalapeño. The tiny piquin has been brought to my garden by the birds frequent the tender perennial plant the fall then deposit the seeds throughout the area. It is a very

hot pepper that derful condiment ripe peppers are bottle of vinegar, and then enjoyed splashed over sal-eggs and vegeta-

tember and October peak times for harvesting from your garden or shopping the local market.

My Chile the

### Platinum Sponsors



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### Gold Sponsors

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### Bronze Sponsors

the world at vesting chilies farmers' market. favorite is



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Hatch, grown in Hatch, New Mexico. We first came across this large, mild to hot pepper as we crossed

southeastern Colorado several years ago. The markets, roadside stands and parking lots lining highway 50 boasted

large tumble roasters grilling up bushels of Hatch

## Exhibitors

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