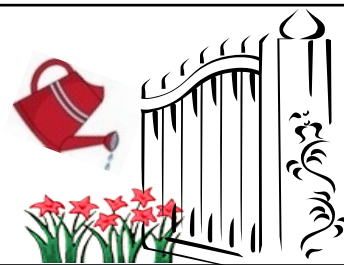




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XIII, Issue 1

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

January, 2020

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 Seery, Bree Shaw

The 2020 Master Gardener Calendars Are HERE!!

The Ellis County Master Gardeners are proud to present our 14th annual gardening calendar. Our theme this year is "*Native and Adapted Plants*."

As always, this beautiful and informative calendar includes month-by-month gardening information, soil preparation, fertilization, moon signs, average temperature and rainfall each month, holidays, as well as the sponsor's events.



Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10am on 1390 AM or 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!

Scotty Rigsby

Your **FREE** copy is now available at all of the calendar sponsor's locations. While you are there to pick up your calendar, please shop at their businesses. You might find just that special gift you are looking for. Also thank them for sponsoring this year's gardening calendar! Without them there wouldn't be a calendar.

The Ellis County Master Gardeners and Sponsors

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IT'S JANUARY...WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

PLANTING

- * Plant trees, shrubs and woody ornamentals from nursery containers. Plant slightly above ground line to allow root flair to be exposed.
- * Transplant small trees and shrubs while they are dormant. Water the plant well before digging.
- * Plant cold-tolerant herbs such as chives, cilantro, garlic and parsley. Onions from transplants can be planted late month.
- * Seed for warm-weather annuals can be planted in flats in a temperature-controlled environment. Tomatoes and peppers, especially those hard to find varieties in the spring, can be started from seed mid-month. All require bright light and warm temperatures (60-70°F). Use grow lights for best results.
- * Tulip and hyacinth bulbs, which have been chilled for eight weeks, should be planted immediately.
- * Plant blackberries, fruit and nut trees. Cultivar or variety selection is critical. Contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Ellis County at (972) 825-5175 or visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut> for recommended varieties.

FERTILIZING AND PRUNING

- * Prune trees, including live oaks and red oaks, to remove dead, broken and unwanted branches. Apply pruning paint to any cut/wound on your oak trees to prevent oak wilt.
- * Water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed. Apply a liquid root stimulator monthly.
- * Peach and plum trees should be pruned to stimulate lateral branches and keep their "bowl" shape. Thin out branches to open the center to allow more sunlight resulting in fruit production over the entire tree.
- * Apply blood meal or a slow-release fertilizer to pansies and other cool-season annuals.
- * Maintain free-form crape myrtles by removing "sprouts" growing from the base, but NEVER cut the tops out. It produces unsightly knots and delays blooming. Removing spent seed pods is okay.

GARDEN WATCH

- * Remove by hand broadleaf weeds, such as clover, dandelions, henbit and chickweed in lawns and beds. If necessary, spray turf with a broadleaf herbicide when temperatures are above 70 degrees. Be careful when using herbicides in flower beds to prevent the drift from harming desirable plants.
- * Don't Guess. Soil Test! The best way to determine your soil's fertility needs is to have it tested. Contact the local AgriLife Extension office at (972) 825-5175 for a Soil Sample information form or go to <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>.

Happy New Year 2020!

Ellis County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting—You are invited!

Second Tuesday of the month



Tom Graves, an Ellis County Master Gardener since 2017 and a vegetable specialist, will discuss growing tomatoes and peppers in Ellis County at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. He will also discuss some uses of these vegetables.

Social time begins at 9:30am with our meeting following at 10am. The guest speaker presents 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.



Ellis County Master Gardener Scholarship 2020

In 2003, Ellis County Master Gardener Association (ECMGA) decided to make scholarships available to graduating high school seniors residing in Ellis County. We wanted to provide opportunities to these students that chose college studies in horticulture and/or life sciences disciplines. Since then, we have awarded 43 graduating high school students with college scholarships totaling \$86,600.

One of the objectives of the ECMGA is to build partnerships with the Ellis County community to expand horticultural education and opportunities. In keeping with this objective, the ECMGA will again make scholarship funds available in 2020 to deserving high school seniors pursuing studies in horticulture/life sciences – related fields. To qualify, the applicant must be a 2020 graduating high school senior residing in Ellis County from an Ellis County High School, Ellis County Charter High School or Ellis County Home School Program. The applicant must have an elected academic major in a horticulture/life sciences – related field that includes, but is not limited to horticulture, agriculture, environmental science, forestry, botany, biology (e.g.: plant genetics, plant physiology), landscape design or entomology. Other horticulture/life sciences – related fields of studies are delineated in the scholarship application package available on the ECMGA website. Applicants must be able to provide proof of acceptance at an accredited institution of higher education. In addition, this year the ECMGA has decided to allow former ECMGA College Scholarship Awardees currently enrolled in horticulture programs/life sciences degree plans to also apply for an ECMGA 2020 College Scholarship to continue their college/university studies.

ECMGA college scholarships awarded to qualifying students in 2020 will be up to \$3,000. Students applying for the ECMGA College Scholarship are invited to visit <http://www.ecmga.com> to download the application package found under the “What’s Happening” tab. The completed application may be submitted by registered mail (return receipt requested) or in person to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office located at 701 South I-35, Suite 3, Waxahachie, TX 75165. If additional information is needed regarding the ECMGA Scholarship, please call (972) 825-5175 (Ellis County AgriLife Extension Office) or George Cole, Chairman, ECMGA 2020 College Scholarship Program at 972/937-2440 or <mailto:georgedciii@att.net>.

All scholarship applications must be received no later than 4:00 P.M. on March 16, 2020.



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

Contact James Kocian at
expo.ecmga@yahoo.com

Reserve the date: March 28, 2020!

**Save The Date!
Saturday, March 28 2020**



Featured Plant from our ECMG 2020 Calendar

Mexican Feather Grass is sold throughout Texas as an ornamental landscape plant. It has delicate thread-like leaf blades that wave gracefully in the slightest breeze. Growing to a height of 18 inches to 2 feet tall and about 2 feet wide, this native to West Texas produces a lot of seed and can be slightly invasive. It is very drought tolerant and can grown in full sun or part shade. Some other common names are: Silky Thread Grass, Mexican needle Grass and Pony Tails.



WHY GARDEN?

The National Garden Bureau's Top Ten Reasons

Garden for safe, healthy food. Growing concerns about pesticides in our food supply have led to an increased interest in organic gardening and availability of organic produce. Processed foods contain additives and preservatives that many consumers want to avoid. It's estimated that during WWII twenty million homeowners had Victory Gardens that produced close to 40% of the fresh vegetables consumed in the United States.

Garden for exercise. Studies show that an hour of moderate gardening can burn up to 300 calories for women and almost 400 calories for men. Mowing the grass is like taking a vigorous walk; bending and stretching to plant a garden compares to an exercise class; hauling plants and soil is similar to weightlifting.

Garden to add beauty. A house with a nice yard is a pleasure to look at and satisfying to live in. Your home can be made more inviting simply by adding a container of colorful flowers near the front door. Herbs in the kitchen add freshness to the room, as well as flavor to daily meals. Trees and shrubs not only provide color and shade, but shelter for birds and wildlife.

Garden to learn. Problems with insects or spots on leaves provide the opportunity to find out the cause and understand how to keep plants healthy. Moving to a new house may mean leaving favorite plants but also provides the opportunity to discover new plants and growing conditions. There are a variety of ways to increase gardening know-how such as seminars, Master Gardener programs, vo-tech courses and formal degree programs at a college or university.

Garden to make money. For some people gardening is a lifelong hobby. For others, the love of plants can lead to a rewarding job at a local garden center, a large global company or even owning their own business. A garden can be a source of flowers, vegetables, herbs and other crops that can be sold at local farmers' markets and roadside stands. Real estate agents estimate that attractive landscaping increases a home's value by as much as 15%.

Garden to meet people. Whether it's with someone who lives down the street or halfway around the world on the Internet, gardeners love to talk about plants. Surplus tomatoes, a bouquet of flowers or an extra plant are gifts to be shared with friends and neighbors. Meeting other gardeners through garden clubs, plant organizations and gardening websites is an easy way to share information, ask questions and get involved.

Garden to be creative. Gardening provides an outlet for creative and artistic expression. A garden's design can reflect a personal sense of style such as a romantic cottage garden or a peaceful Japanese garden as well as provide a showcase for art and sculpture. With the wide variety of seeds and plants available in garden centers it's easy to experiment with new plants or change a garden's color scheme every year.

Garden to win. For people with a competitive streak, gardening is a friendly way to show off their skills. Garden clubs regularly have shows that highlight the best flowers grown by local gardeners. County and state fairs provide an opportunity to show everyone the giant pumpkin, beautiful beans or luscious tomatoes harvested from the garden.

Garden for emotional needs and spiritual connections. Gardens play an important part in our well being. A garden might serve as a tranquil retreat or private escape from the demands of everyday life. The beauty of flowers can lift spirits while pulling weeds can be a great release for stress and excess energy. A harvest of colorful flowers or tasty vegetables provides a sense of achievement and feelings of success while neighbors and visitors often express their appreciation for those efforts.

Garden for lasting memories. Yards that once grew gardens have been replaced with hot tubs and driveways. Gardening is a fun activity that can be shared with children and grandchildren even if the garden is a single container or small spot in the yard. And a garden provides a beautiful way to remember a special person or time of life.

Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events



Join the Indian Trail Master Naturalists at their monthly meeting on Monday, January 27, 2020. Texas has a rich history of human occupation that extends back more than 13,000 years. Archaeological sites are abundant throughout the State, and chances are that highway projects will occasionally encounter and potentially impact them. Archaeologists at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) follow Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas to identify, evaluate and develop preservation solutions for sites that may be impacted by highway projects.

The program for the evening is entitled **"TxDOT's Role in Historic Preservation"**. Kevin Hanselka will present on the role of TxDOT in historic preservation, including some interesting recent projects as examples. He will also introduce several research initiatives designed to contribute to the greater field of Texas archaeology, including his own work exploring the potential for archaeological mesquite wood charcoal to aid in reconstructing ancient rainfall patterns. Kevin is an archaeologist, consulting archaeobotanist and independent researcher with more than 20 years experience in both academia and CRM. 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.



Featured Recipe of the Month

Slow Simmered Black Eye Peas and Greens

From 'Budget Bytes' on Pinterest

*Slow Simmered Black-Eyed Peas and Greens is a great cold weather comfort food that is as healthy as it is delicious!
Vegan comfort food at its best!*

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. black eyed peas (dry)
2 Tbsp olive oil
1 onion
3 cloves garlic
1/2 bunch celery
1 tsp oregano
1/2 Tbsp smoked paprika
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
Freshly cracked pepper
1 bay leaf
6 cups vegetable broth
12 oz. fresh greens*



Prep Time: 8 hrs
Cook Time: 2 hrs
Total Time: 10 hrs
Servings: 2 cups each

INSTRUCTIONS

- The night before, place the black-eyed peas in a large bowl or container and fill with cool water (there should be at least three times as much water as peas). Allow the peas to soak overnight in the refrigerator.
- When you're ready to begin cooking, add the olive oil to a large pot. Dice the onion, mince the garlic and slice the celery. Add the onion, garlic and celery to the pot and sauté over medium heat until the onions are transparent.
- Drain the soaked peas in a colander and rinse them with cool water. Add the rinsed peas to the pot with the vegetables. Also add the oregano, smoked paprika, cayenne pepper, some freshly cracked pepper (about 20 cranks of a pepper mill), bay leaf and vegetable broth. Stir to combine.
- Add a lid to the pot, turn the heat up to high and bring the pot to a boil. Once it reaches a boil, turn the heat down to low and allow it to simmer for 1 hour.
- After one hour of simmering, the black-eyed peas should be tender. Add the greens to the pot and stir them in until wilted. Smash some of the peas against the side of the pot as you stir to help thicken the liquid.
- Turn the heat up to medium to bring the pot back up to a simmer and allow the peas and greens to simmer for 30 minutes more, without a lid. After simmering for 30 minutes, the greens should be tender and the peas should have broken down further and thickened the liquid even more. Taste the peas and add salt to your liking (I added about 3/4 tsp, but the amount needed will depend on the salt content of your vegetable broth). Serve with crusty bread or over rice.

NOTES

*I used bagged pre-chopped mustard greens, but you can use other hearty greens like collard greens or kale. If using greens in a bunch, remove the stems and chop the leaves into 1 to 2-inch pieces.

WILDFLOWER BACKROADS

Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)

By: Susanne Capehart-ECMG Intern 2019

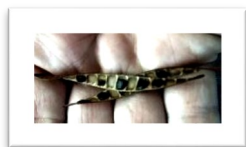


This small, cheery, yellow flower greets us from the beginning of summer till the early part of autumn. Partridge Pea is a great addition to any wildflower garden. The flower provides food for butterflies, caterpillars, ants and bees. The seeds, which are found in pods, provide food for a variety of birds and small mammals. So, why are insects attracted to this spectacular flower? The leaves are an alternate of eight to fourteen leaflets pairs that fold when touched providing protection for butterfly eggs and caterpillars. Plus this showy flower has nectar in several locations. However, the location of the nectar is found in the small orange glands (called nectaries) found at the base of each leaf. So the nectar is NOT found in the eye-catching flower! The bright yellow, irregular shaped petals (usually five petals: three small petals on top, one curly petal to the left and one large petal on bottom) with the deep red centers are used as an attractant for bees by offering them pollen. The Common Sulfur Butterfly lays its eggs on the leaves. Caterpillars, butterflies and ants use the nectar as a food source. Even though this wildflower is considered an annual it easily reseeds

itself. Pea partridge flowers are easy to grow, and will provide hours of endless nature entertainment.

How to Harvest Pea Partridge Seeds

1. Partridge pea plants produce pods that contain seeds inside of them.
2. Take note of where you see the partridge pea plants. Then, toward the end of their season (usually late September) look for the pods. They will have turned a brown color
3. The pods are easy to pull apart (sometime opening on their own with just a touch). The seeds are a small, black lima shaped bean.
4. Sow the seeds in late fall in an area that receives in full sun. Rake the area before seeding to ensure a good seed to soil contact.
5. Then in late Spring early Summer Pea Partridge plants should emerge.
6. Once the Partridge Pea is established this happy wildflower will keep greeting you year after year.



<https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ERPT-009-using-plants-to-attract-wildlife.pdf>

<https://the-natural-web.org/2017/09/05/partridge-pea-puzzles/>

<http://nadiasyard.com/our-native-plants/partridge-pea-chamaecrista-fasciculata/>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=chfaf

https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_chfa2.pdf

COOL WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

By Carolyn Foster, ECMG

While we are enjoying cooler weather, we have time to get some things done with our gardenscape plans and other chores. It's an opportunity to update our garden matrix; doing this by seasons lets you know where dormant items are located, plan what annuals you'll need for this season and what you can expect to come up this spring.

You can decide what works and what needs to be removed or minimized. Continue to remove any perennials that have died back or frozen. You can also start to plan what needs to be moved while dormant. Trim back anything that needs it. Any mulch that is in advanced stages of decay can be worked into the soil. This will augment the soils micronutrients.

Watering is still necessary if we haven't had enough rain. Also, remember sun and shade requirements for new additions. Any fruit trees that are not native to our area may need extra care to prevent disease. Read the label for the spraying time and mixture ratios.

Now is a great time for bed preparation: remove weeds; add amendments; make seed choices and remember to read the package for depth planting. If planted too deep, some seeds will not germinate. Some seeds can be started in the greenhouse or indoors and transplanted, when the time is right, or you can purchase sets. Protect seedlings and sets from freezes. Frost blankets, newspaper, mulch and cold frames are some good options.

Companion planting now is a great way to get some cool season vegetables, herbs and flowers into the garden. Pansies, delphiniums, larkspur, poppies and salvias are great. Evergreen shrubs with berries also provide bird food. Rosemary, thyme, lavender, oregano and sage are good for cooking and oil infusions. These are perennials. Some herbs are annuals or biennials: parsley, dill, fennel and cilantro can be planted now. Most of these require sun but will tolerate some shade. Plant spinach, arugula, cabbage, kale, chard and lettuce in two-week intervals for continued harvest.

You still have time to get bulbs in the ground. Daffodils, hyacinths, irises and gladiolus are all-time favorites. Most bulbs are planted two to three times the width of the bulb but read the packings for depth instructions as well as fertilization.

Now is also a great time for tool maintenance: clean off debris and dirt; sharpen and/or replace blades; oil any moving parts; store any item not in use currently. Then relax and enjoy this slower time...spring will be here before you know it!

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY

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

- ≈ Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.
- ≈ Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.
- ≈ Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias and impatiens should be sown in early January. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.
- ≈ Apply a light application of fertilizer to established pansy plantings. Use one-half pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of bed area. Repeat the application every four to six weeks, depending on rainfall. Dried blood meal is also an excellent source of fertilizer for pansies.
- ≈ Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.
- ≈ Select and order gladiolus corms for February/March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.
- ≈ Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.
- ≈ The life of the plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60° to 65° F.
- ≈ Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.
- ≈ When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially when dealing with bare-root plants. The medium to small sizes (four to six feet) are usually faster to become established and more effective in the landscape than the large sizes.
- ≈ Hold off on pruning bush roses until February or early March. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying and weak canes. Leave four to eight healthy canes and remove approximately one-half of the top growth and height of the plant.
- ≈ Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in those bare spots in your rose garden.
- ≈ When pruning shrubs, first prune out any dead or damaged branches; then thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only. Last, shape the rest of the plant but do not cut everything back to the same height.
- ≈ Water foliage plants as well as other containerized plants only when needed and not by the calendar.
- ≈ Climbing roses should be trained but not pruned. Weave long canes through openings in trellises or arbors and tie them with jute twine or plastic/wire plant ties. Securing canes now prevents damage from winter winds and contributes toward a more refined look to the garden when roses are blooming. Wait until after the spring flowering period to prune climbing or once-blooming shrub roses.



ONIONS ~ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: When is the time to plant onions and what varieties are recommended?

A: Mid-January to mid-February is the time to plant onion transplants in our area. The recommended "bulb" varieties are: Yellow Texas Supersweet 1015 Y, Red Granex Burgundy, White Crystal Wax, White Granex .

Most local gardeners thin their crops and use these onions for green table onions. Onions are heavy feeders. Apply 4 or 5 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet to the soil before planting. Onions should be planted about 1 inch deep. They should be "side dressed" 3 weeks after planting and again when bulb enlargement begins with 2 to 3 tablespoons of a fertilizer per 10 foot of row. Recent information suggests fertilizer containing Sulphur will make onions hotter.

Q: What is a "shallot"?

A: A shallot is a member of the onion family. The plant lives for many years. It is grown for its mild garlic-like roots, made up of segments called cloves. The plants will grow to about 18 inches tall and often have white or violet flowers in the summer.

Q: Should I break over the tops of my onion plants to get larger bulbs?

A: Breaking over the tops of onion plants will not increase the bulb size; it may actually prevent bulb enlargement. Onion bulbs increase in size as sugars manufactured in the tops are translocated to the bulb. If the tops are broken, this process stops, preventing further enlargement of the bulb.

Q: Last year my onion plants were stunted. When I looked at the roots, they looked purple or pink. What was the problem?

A: This is "pink root" of onions. It is a soil-born fungus that is most often found in sandy, clay, wet soils. The only control for the disease is crop rotation. When buying transplants this year, look closely for pink roots on the young plants. If a large percentage of the bunch has it, don't buy them. Most onion transplants are certified to be free of pink root. You can also look for varieties that are resistant to pink root, such as Grano PRR and Granex PRR.



Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

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

Register online at 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 spring



Monday, March 30 ~ Decorating your Front Entrance with a Beautiful Spring Garden in Containers Instructor will assist you in putting your container or containers together; will instruct, demonstrate and answer questions. Come and have fun creating a fresh spring “curb appeal” to your home. Soil and plants will be provided. (If desired, you may bring plants you prefer to use.) Must bring your own pots.

Instructor: Mattie Thompson

Thursday, April 2 ~ 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.

Instructor: Gayle Johnston

Monday, April 6 ~ Turf Grass/Lawn Maintenance Is your lawn overgrown with weeds, brown spots that should be green, or do you just want to know how to better take care of it? If so, this class is for you. You will be provided with information on grass diseases, weed control and how to maintain your lawn for the growing season.

Instructor: Mike Peters

Thursday, April 9 ~ Vegetable Gardening in the Garden and in Containers Come learn many ways to grow vegetables. This class will teach you how to grow vegetables in raised beds, square foot gardens and containers. Our Ellis county soils require special techniques for successful spring and fall gardens. Gain a wealth of knowledge to grow your own vegetables for your family. We're here to help!

Instructor: Joan Brammer

Monday, April 13 ~ Hobby Greenhouse Management Greenhouse growing is easy and fun! This class will cover the basics to get you started. Learn about site preparation, types of greenhouses, materials, growing, temperature control, common pests and solutions.

Instructor: Walt Friis

Thursday, April 16 ~ How to Cut your Water Bill in Half If you have a home irrigation system, chances are you could be wasting over 50% of your water usage due to an inefficient system. Learn the basics of designing and efficient irrigation system. Gain the knowledge to install a system yourself or have the tools to ask the smart questions of an irrigation contractor. Information will be provided to help you maintain an existing system as well as test procedures to determine if any adjustments are required to keep your system in top condition. No matter if you intend to install a new system, maintain an existing system or just want to know more about one of the most ignored systems in the home, this class is for you.

Instructor: Jim Derstler

Monday, April 20 ~ Plant Propagation Want to learn how to propagate plants from some of your favorites or some of your friends' plants? This class will give you information on growing from seeds as well as different methods of propagation such as layering, cuttings and plant division. You will have both classroom and hands-on activities.

Instructor: Walt Friis

Thursday, April 23 ~ Growing Texas Tough Plants The purpose of this class is to help the person who has a black thumb to begin to have a green thumb by teaching you that there are some beautiful plants that are hard to kill. With a little bit of knowledge those plants can become a beautiful addition to your Ellis County landscape. Many of them require less of our most valuable resource, water, and some are also more resistant to pests and diseases.

Instructor: Susan Knapp

Monday, April 27 ~ Texas Trees-Tree Planting and Care For relaxation, food, protection and monetary value trees add so much to our landscape. This class will teach you what 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, April 30 ~ Culinary Herbs, from the Garden to the Kitchen Herbs are some of the easiest plants to grow. They will grow almost anywhere, don't need a lot of fertilizer and generally prefer minimal watering and they will reward you with an abundance of flavor year-round. What more could the casual gardener want! We will discuss which herbs grow best in Texas, which love our hot summers and those that prefer the cooler fall, winter and spring seasons. Learn how to prepare for a garden and how to preserve your bounty. You will learn to make herbal blends, compound butters, party dips, herbal vinegars and more. There will be lots to smell and sample and hopefully some “pass-alongs”.

Instructor: Arlene Hamilton

Monday, May 4 ~ Small Gardens: Plant 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 and also include a demonstration of making your own herb pocket garden.

Instructors: Ruth Spurr and Jane Sloan

Thursday, May 7 ~ The Rose: Our National Flower A symbol of love and beauty, playing an important role in myth, history and poetry. Come learn how to choose, plant and care for roses in your landscape.

Instructor: Alice Thompson

All classes cost \$14.00 and are taught from 6:00-7:30pm at Waxahachie High School, Career & Technology Department, 3001 US Hwy 287 Bypass, Waxahachie, TX 75167.