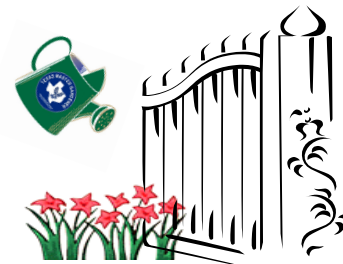




Ellis County Master Gardeners' E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XIII, Issue 3

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

July-August, 2021

Welcome to the Ellis County Master Gardeners' **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: Marj McClung, Kim Rainey and Bree Shaw.

EXPO 2022

The pandemic Corona virus zapped Expo 2020. The 2021 Expo at Chautauqua was a lovely open air event but we had fewer plants in our sale due to freezemageddon. However, we are gardeners, ever hopeful, and the Ellis County Master Gardeners are already planning to be back in the Waxahachie Civic Center March 26, 2022. Save the date and watch space for more details as plans develop.



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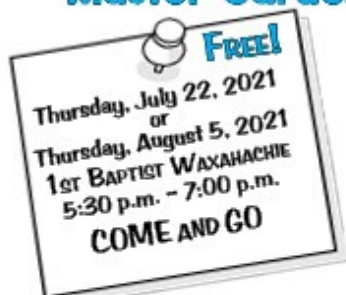
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Master Gardener Intern Meet & Greet and Information Session



- Open to residents (18 or older) of Ellis County or nearby areas.
- Selection is based on the volunteer needs of our organization and the qualifications of the applicants.
- All applications will be kept in strict confidence and privacy is respected.
- Requirements – Interest in helping people; Ability and desire to learn; Willingness to provide unbiased, research-based information; Be a team player.
- CLASS SIZE WILL BE LIMITED TO 25
- GARDENING EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE NOT REQUIRED

Classes will be hold on Thursdays / September 9 through October 28 / 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 pm.

Tuition: \$225 - Includes text book and 60+ hours of researched-based gardening education.

First Baptist Church - Waxahachie -450 E. Hwy. 287

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 22** Prospective new Master Gardeners **Meet & Greet**, First Baptist Church, Waxahachie, 5:30 - 7. Learn more about Master Gardener training coming up in September.
- 24** Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. Get the 2021 **"Texas Superstars"** plant guide.
- 31** Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. Now is the time to start your pumpkin patch.



August

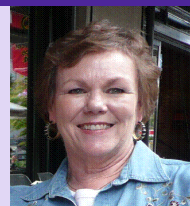
- 5** Prospective new Master Gardeners **Meet & Greet**, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church, 450 E. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie.
- 7** Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. Come by with your plant questions.
- 9** Cut off date for Applications for the 2021 Master Gardener Intern Classes
- 10** **ECMG monthly meeting**, First Methodist in Waxahachie, 9:30 a.m. - social, 10:00 a.m. - meeting. Program: Gardening for Life - Janet Madison and the Intern Class of 2020. **Visitors welcome.**
- 14** Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. See the **Butterfly Garden** nearby.



- 21** Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. Get tips on irrigation.
- 28** Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. Need help planning your Fall garden?

Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Eryngo - Carrot Family (Apiaceae)

Eryngium leavenworthii T. & G.

Region: 1-5, 7-9 (Ellis Co. is Region 4)

Size: 4 feet

Blooms: July-October, Annual

This is not a thistle, but wear a pair of gloves if you want to handle it. In August, the eryngo plant turns from gray-green to purple. If cut when the color first changes, then hung upside down

in the shade to dry, the color will last for months. The flower head is most unusual, with a two-inch-tall purple cylinder sandwiched between a collar of deeply lobed, spiny bracts and a crown of small, erect, spiny leaves. Stems are leafy and branch widely in the upper portion. The deeply incised leaf blades are stalkless and clasp the stem. The pointed tips have stiff spines. Eryngo grows on clay, limestone or gravelly soils of plains, prairies and grassland.



Find us on:
facebook®

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

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

Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10 a.m.
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

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH..... 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 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.

FERTILIZING AND PRUNING

- ☼ Caladiums require plenty of water if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at a 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 brush 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 when 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 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 pyrethrins and Spinosad can be sprinkled on or drenched into the mound.
- ☼ Continue to follow the “Homeowners Fruit and Nut Spray Schedule” to protect against pecan weevils and hickory shuckworms, and to control peach tree borers on peach and plumb 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.

**What is a Master Gardener and
do I want to become one?**

Ellis County Master Gardeners Class of 2021

Perhaps it was the isolation of the pandemic that drove us out into our gardens to give us something positive to do in times of uncertainty. Perhaps it was the solace we found in tending our plants. Perhaps it was the burning urge to talk to SOMEONE about the horrors of SQUASH BUGS, the trauma of APHIDS and the heartbreak of the days hell froze over along with everything else! For these and other reasons, there has been considerable interest in the Master Gardener organization and the classes to certify as a Master Gardener.

Two informational meetings will be held!

In response, the 2021 Intern Class committee, led by ECMGA President, Susan Knapp, has put together a roster of well-qualified instructors to teach Entomology, Plant Pathology & Diagnostic Testing, Annuals & Perennials and other topics in a series of day-long classes to be held on Thursdays in September and October. In addition to the classes will be opportunities to meet and interact with experienced Master Gardeners and talk plants! Also...some days there will be cookies!

Also...some days there will be cookies!

Two informational meetings will be held to answer questions prospective Master Gardeners might have. **One is July 22nd and the second is August 5th.** Both will be at the First Baptist Church, 450 East Hwy. 287, Waxahachie from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details.

We Ellis County Master Gardeners are excited about meeting and working with Interns, sharing knowledge with them and having more people to give plants to. (Mother of Thousands is one aptly named plant!)

[*Back to age 1 for more details.*](#)

Tiger Lily

July brought bright colors to my garden. Two of my older Tiger Lilies had multiple blooms and one of the younger bulbs had its first flower. The flowers in orange with black and crimson spots were such fun to see each day as the recurved petals bent back and touched behind the stem seeming to shoot out the pistil and stamens like fireworks.

The Tiger Lily (*Lilium lancifolium* also *Lilium tigrinum*) is from East Asia and has adapted nicely. These plants are known for recurved petals, multiple flowers per stem on mature plants and drought tolerance. In Fall or early Spring, plant the bulbs in well-draining, slightly acidic soil and add mulch since they like cool but not wet roots. The plants grow 3 to 5 feet in full sun to partial shade. Hybrid Tiger Lilies come in pink, white and yellow.

The plants can carry the mosaic virus which doesn't harm them but can spread to other lilies. It is best to plant these away from other lilies in the garden.

Propagation is through bulb division, but the plant also produces bulbils in the axils above leaves. These little bulbils should be planted as soon as they loosen and fall from the stem. They take about 5 years to produce a bulb large enough to bloom.

The bulbs and flowers are edible but the pollen is slightly toxic to humans and pets. The entire plant is highly toxic to cats.

This flower is similar to the Carolina Lily in its flower. The Carolina Lily has leaves in whorls, while the Tiger Lily has lance-like leaves. The Carolina Lily has seed pods.



Leopard Lily

Soon after the last bloom of the Tiger Lilies, my Leopard Lily shows her spots. The small (1 ½" – 2") flowers are also orange with darker orange to crimson spots. Each flower lasts a day but there will be a succession of flowers through the rest of the Summer.



The Leopard Lily (better known as the Blackberry Lily) is not a lily but is actually in the Iris family. About 2005, the classification changed from *Belamcanda chinensis* to *Iris domestica*. The fan of sword-like leaves always looked like an iris and DNA proved that this cheerful plant belongs there. There are Leopard Lily plants with yellow petals and some with more purple petals, but they are variations of one species.

A native of Asia, this plant has been here for a while. Thomas Jefferson planted it at Monticello. It is mildly toxic for people and animals.

Plant Leopard Lily in well drained soil in full sun. It is drought resistant but does well with watering as long as it doesn't have wet feet. Propagation is of division of rhizomes or by planting seeds. The black seeds in a cluster once the seed pod dries away looks like a plump blackberry and gives the plant its common name. This plant is short-lived so do plant the seeds.