



Ellis County Master Gardeners' E-Gardening Newsletter



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

October, 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.



FALL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

October 2nd / 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

On the grounds of the
Waxahachie Farmers Market

We will have many flowering
perennials in a variety of colors,
some Iris hybrids, Celeste fig trees,
and a few surprises.

Priced at \$3, \$5, \$6, \$15

 Find us on:
facebook®

Watch for our
Online Iris Sale!

Named varieties of
iris will be on sale.
The site will have
pictures and prices.
Order and pay
online then pick-up
at an assigned date
and time. Follow us
on Facebook for the
latest news about
this sale.

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WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH..... **October**

PLANTING



- ☼ Plant cool-season annuals such as pinks, snapdragons and ornamental cabbages and kale early in the month. Wait until temperatures have cooled to plant pansies and violas.
- ☼ Complete planting these fall vegetables early in the month: radishes, spinach and turnips.
- ☼ Last chance to sow wildflowers in order to have blooms next spring. Always purchase “fresh” seed.
- ☼ Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while selection is good. Chill tulip and Dutch hyacinth at 45 degrees for 60 days prior to planting. Daffodil and grape hyacinth require no special handling but should be stored in a cool location until planting (soil temperature below 55 degrees) Recommended daffodil varieties include Ice Follies, Fortune, Carlton, Cheerfulness and Tahiti.
- ☼ Fall is a great time to set out perennial herbs including thyme, oregano, rosemary, parsley, lemon balm, pineapple sage and Mexican mint marigold. Work a few inches of compost into soil prior to planting and mulch the plants after planting.

FERTILIZING AND PRUNING

- ☼ Remove annuals that have completed their life cycle. Leave seed pots to self-seed next year (cleome, cosmos, four o'clock).
- ☼ Continue to feed tropical plants in containers and hanging baskets with a water-soluble fertilizer. Cut back or repot overgrown houseplants and fertilize with same fertilizer.
- ☼ Spring and summer-flowering shrubs and vines (including climbing roses, wisteria, etc.) should not be pruned at this time because they have already established their buds for next year's bloom. Prune these plants immediately after they stop blooming next year.



GARDEN WATCH

- ☼ Watch for brown-patch fungus on St. Augustine lawns. Water only in the mornings and apply turf fungicide at first sign of fungus.
- ☼ Watch for cutworms and looper caterpillars on young leafy vegetables. Products containing Bt are safe to control these pests. Control aphids with a strong spray of water or insecticidal soap.
- ☼ **Attention, Christmas cactus owners!** To initiate flower buds, give the plants bright light each day followed by 12-14 hours of total darkness at night for 30 days starting mid month. And keep night time temperatures under 65 degrees.



[Listen to KBEC](#)

Sa tu rd ay morn i ngs a t 8:10 a .m .
on



Monarchs on the Move!

We are in the midst of the annual Monarch Butterfly migration as they move south to overwinter in Mexico before returning in the spring. Our pollinator gardens have seen Monarchs, other butterflies, bees and other pollinators throughout the seasons. Now, the last of the caterpillars are munching food plants while the adults are sipping nectar getting ready for winter.

Now is the time to plan and start your own pollinator garden so you can be ready for the first visitors in early spring. Stop by the Master Gardener Butterfly Garden on the walking trail near the Dog Park behind the Waxahachie Farmers' Market at 701 Howard Rd. Started by the Master Gardener Intern Class of 2009, this garden has plants for nectar as well as plants for hungry caterpillars. Many of these plants and others will be available at the Oct. 2nd Master Gardener Plant Sale to be held at the Farmers' Market.



Master Gardener Cheryl Sandoval has pointed out the following plants in our Butterfly Garden:

Gregg's Blue Mist – A favorite of Monarchs, Queens and Gulf Fritillaries as well as others. White mistflower is also a favorite.

Milkweed – A must-have to attract Monarchs into a garden. Queens and Viceroy's also feed off it.

Coneflowers – For Swallowtails, Checkerspot's, Painted Ladies, Red Admirals and Viceroy's.

Passion Vine – Attracts Gulf and Variegated Fritillaries.

Frostweed – For Pipevine Swallowtails, Monarchs and Hairstreak butterflies.

Turk's Cap – Pipevine Swallowtails and Gulf Fritillaries like this; it is a favorite of hummingbirds as well.

Lantana – Attracts Queens, Swallowtails, Monarchs, Gulf Fritillaries and Cloudless Sulphurs.

Zinnias – This annual is for Swallowtails, Monarchs and Queens.

Orange Cestrum – Attracts various butterflies and other pollinators.

Guara – Is another good general pollinator plant.

Salvia greggii – For Swallowtails, Sulphurs, Monarchs and Gulf Fritillaries. All colors are attractive.

May Night Salvia – Attracts Monarchs.

Abelia – This shrub is for Red Admirals and Swallowtails.

Skeleton Leaf Goldeneye – For Queens and Swallowtails

Mexican Petunias – For Swallowtails and Monarchs

Bee Balm (Monarda) – For Swallowtails

Fennel – Eaten by Eastern Black Swallowtails.

Cheryl and the Butterfly Garden crew plan to add Sweet William, Flame Acanthus and Zexmania this Fall.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

30 Master Gardener classes continue. Lawns and Turfgrass, Best Plants for North Texas, Propagation.

We are just days away from the Online Iris Sale! Named varieties of iris will be on sale. The site will have pictures and prices. Order and pay online then pick-up at an assigned date and time. Watch the ECMGA website where the order link will be once it is up or follow us on Facebook.

OCTOBER

2 Master Gardener Booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market.

Perennial Plant Sale! Get ready for a glorious Spring!

7 Master Gardener classes continue. Plant Pathology and Diagnostic Testing.

9 Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market. How is your Fall garden growing?

12 ECMG monthly meeting, First Methodist in Waxahachie, 9:30 a.m. - social, 10:00 a.m. - meeting. Program: Shelia Cloonen speaking about Trees. Visitors welcome.

14 Master Gardener classes continue. Irrigation and Water.

16 Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market.

21 Master Gardener classes continue. Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts and Berries

23 Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market.

28 Master Gardener students have their last class (Tree Physiology, Selection and Problems) and become interns. Tour of MG project gardens and office.

30 Master Gardeners' booth at Waxahachie Farmers' Market.

Last of the season! *See you next year!*

Don't forget
March 26th 2022



Wildflower of the Month



Cardinal Flower– Bluebell Family (Campanula)
Lobelia cardinalis L.

Region: 1 -10 (Ellis County is Region 4)
Size: 3-5 feet
Blooms: July through October

Cardinal flower is usually under four feet tall and is found in wetlands, near streams, roadside ditches and ponds. The fall-blooming flower is an important food source for migrating hummingbirds; its chief pollinators and for many butterflies. Scarlet, tubular flowers bloom along the top third of the leafy, unbranched stem. They open into five lobes, the upper two of which are longer and narrower than the lower three. Flowering spires may reach eighteen inches in length and individual flowers are more than an inch long. Alternate leaves are simple, egg-shaped to lanceolate, with toothed margins. Species of *Lobelia* contain alkaloids that are potentially lethal to people and the plants

What's that? Imagine my surprise when I looked up at the ceiling of my back porch and saw what seemed like hundreds of little white blotches on the woodwork and windows, even the fan blades. They seemed to appear overnight.

Quick, take pictures and use google lens to identify....

Army worm eggs! Yikes! I lost my Bermuda and St. Augustine grasses to Armyworms in 2018. Now, with a new lawn in a new neighborhood I wasn't about to let that happen again!

The critical tactic to beat the army of worms that come with these invasions is early detection. Being aware of their presence before they get too much traction is your best defense.



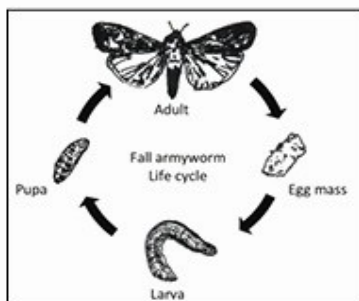
Yes, I had seen an annoyingly large number of little moths in my yard.

After realizing I had army worm eggs, I checked the grass around the porch and found a few worms in varying stages of growth.



I believe the pupa were either already here in the soil when this was just an open field or they were inadvertently brought in with the new sod being laid everywhere.

CONTROL: There are several active ingredients that control fall armyworms effectively, but formulations, sites for use and applicator requirements vary widely. Always consult the product label for specific instructions on application rates, methods and timing. For a complete list of products labeled for fall armyworm control consult the Agrilife Guide to Weed and Insect Pest Control in Turfgrass. The link below will take you to an online pdf.



This life-cycle can be repeated ever 32 to 46 days!

[Weed Insect and Disease Control in Turfgrass](#)