



E-Gardening Newsletter

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September Calendar of Events

September 3 – Master Gardener Booth at Waxahachie Farmers’ Market – Get ideas on replacements for plants that were lost in the drought.

September 8 – New Master Gardener Class begins! Our new Interns will meet every Thursday for horticultural instruction.

September 10 – Master Gardener Booth at Waxahachie Farmers’ Market – Carrots! Beets! Radishes! Get those root vegetables in the ground!

September 13 – Master Gardener Yearly Planning Meeting. All MGs are needed to get 2023 organized.

September 17 --Master Gardener Booth at Waxahachie Farmers’ Market – Pop Up Horticulture Day Featuring: Wildflowers! Fall is a great time to sow wildflower seeds for a glorious spring. Join us for literature and discussion on what and how to plant for a springtime vista.

September 24 – Master Gardener Booth at Waxahachie Farmers’ Market – Show us a picture of your plants now that we’ve had rain!

September 25 – Farm Heritage Day – **See page 3 for more details.** Free! 2:00 pm to 5:00 p.m. at Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm, 130 Cunningham Meadows Road. Join us on a hayride, see farm animals and learn about Healthy Habits on the Farm. See you at the Herb Display!
<https://ruralheritagefarm.org/farm-heritage-day/>

Watch this space for information on our Fall Bulb Sale featuring *Crinum asiaticum*, big white spider lilies that would love to flower in your garden next summer!



PLANTING

- Plant these fall vegetables now: beets, carrots, “greens” (mustard, collard, turnip), kale, lettuce, radishes and spinach.
- Lawn establishment using warm-season grasses such as Bermudagrass, St. Augustine, zoysia and buffalo grass should be completed early in the month.
- Overseed established Bermudagrass lawns with perennial ryegrass this month, if desired.
- Plant these fall-blooming annuals from bedding plants before buds have opened: marigolds, petunias, asters, pinks, snapdragons and mums. Wait until cooler weather to plant pansies, violas and ornamental cabbages and kale.
- Complete sowing bluebonnets to ensure spring flowers. For season-long color, purchase a wildflower mix that contains annuals and perennials, as well as cool-season and warm-season plants such as bluebonnets, black-eyed Susan, Indian blanket, Indian paintbrush, Mexican hat, plains coreopsis, purple coneflower and evening primrose. Sow seeds in areas that are free of grasses and lightly tilled. Lightly rake area to get good seed-soil contact before watering.

FERTILIZING AND PRUNING

- Apply high-nitrogen fertilizer (4-1-2 ratio) on lawns and shrubs to prepare plants for fall and winter. Container plants will benefit from using high-nitrogen, water-soluble fertilizers.
- Tidy up summer perennials by removing dead and faded flower stems and seed stalks. Continue through fall.
- Root-prune trees and shrubs to be transplanted this winter. Cutting the roots around the plant with a spade will stimulate new root growth in what will become the soil ball when the plant is moved.

GARDEN WATCH

- Allow bluebonnets and other reseeding annual wildflowers to die and the seeds to dry before mowing the stubble. Delay mowing until the end of the growing season if other wildflowers are growing in the area.
- Check tomatoes for signs of early blight (yellow blotches on lower leaves). Apply a labeled fungicide if needed. Keep soil adequately moist to prevent blossom-end-rot (browned tissue on the bloom end of fruit).
- Look for squash bugs in early morning. Destroy eggs found on underside of leaves by hand. Vegetable pests can often be controlled by mechanical, biological, or organic means rather than by synthetic pesticides.
- Watch for bagworms on junipers and other narrow-leafed evergreens. Apply Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) or general insecticide at first sign of larval feeding. Remember that once the bag has formed, your only option is to manually pull them off.
- Make initial application of Image® or SledgeHammer® to control nutsedge in established warm-season lawns.

A Master Gardener told me to put well-composted manure on strawberries, but it didn't work for me. I'm going back to using whipped cream.





Sunday, September 25, 2022, 2:00-5:00 PM

Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm Inc

130 Cunningham Meadows Road, Waxahachie, TX 75167

Bring your family & kids & grandkids to enjoy a Fun Sunday Afternoon in the Country!

For more information:
www.ruralheritagefarm.org
 972-937-0681
ruralheritagefarm@gmail.com
Facebook: Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm

Hay Rides, Outdoor Games, Farming Living History Activities (Feel free to bring a folding chair.)

Free Admission & Free Snacks (while they last)



Wildflower of the Month

Blue Star – Dogbane Family (Apocynaceae)

Amsonia spp.

- Region:** 1 through 10 (Ellis Co is in Region 4)
Size: 1 – 4 feet
Blooms: April – November, Perennial



Melinda Kocian



Amsonia is stiffly upright, with dark green, shiny foliage setting off the inflorescence. Blue, pale blue, or white star-shaped flowers, are loosely clustered at the top of each stem, often barely surpassing the alternate leaves. Normally blue star grows in a moist environment, often in marshes, ditches, bogs or floodplains. It is recommended for use in the garden where it thrives with a little extra water, but *A. ciliata*, a western species of this lovely plant, lives in drought-prone habitats, growing on limestone and chalky hills in Regions 4, 5, 7 and 8.

Spring Blooming Bulbs to Plant in Autumn

by Marj McClung,
Master Gardener



Oxblood (Schoolhouse) lilies, Red Spider lilies and Rain lilies are or will soon be popping up, but this article isn't about them. Put these bulbs on your "Plant in Spring" list. Fall is the time to plant spring blooming bulbs and September is the time to find sources, buy bulbs and corms, plan your spring garden, and prepare your soil for a show that starts five to six months from now.

Late September through November is the time to plant most bulbs for spring in our area. Dutch hyacinths and tulips need weeks of chilling and are planted in late November or December. Plant most bulbs and corms two to three times the height of the bulb. With Crinum Lilies, you can see at the top of the bulb where foliage starts. Plant so that foliage starts at ground level.

Spring bulbs can be planted in areas that get springtime sun, including under deciduous trees. By the time our blistering Texas summer sun is out, the listed plants except for the Crinums will have lost their foliage and gone dormant. Most Crinums are tough enough to thrive in heat and are drought tolerant although they like supplemental watering.

Loosen up your soil with compost in areas with good drainage. Plant in clusters for a good show while blooming. Put bulbs in beds where you can put annuals in between bulbs since they will go dormant and disappear after spring. Seeding annuals over the bulbs will prevent a bare flower bed. You can also plant some of the smaller bulbs out in the lawn, but the plants need their foliage to store nutrients in the bulbs to produce blossoms in the next year. You can't mow them down until the foliage dies.

The following bulbs and corms are old fashioned varieties that naturalize to come back each spring.

Amaryllis, St. Joseph lily (*Hippeastrum x johnsonii*) This fragrant flower is red with white stripes and was the first hybrid amaryllis ever produced (1790).

Byzantine gladiolus (*Gladiolus communis* spp. *Byzantinus*) Not a bulb, but a corm, this plant has a stalk of magenta flowers with sword shaped leaves.

Crinum lilies (*Crinum* spp.) Large bulbs make a large (3' to 7') mound of strappy leaves. They send up a stalk with several blooms at various times from late spring to early fall. Try these varieties:

Crinum x "Mrs. James Hendry" White flowers with pink tips,

Crinum bulbispermum Varieties have white, pink or striped flowers. This Crinum was mentioned in Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species",

Milk and wine (*Crinum x gowenii*) White flower with pink stripes,

Crinum asiaticum White, narrow petals for a "spider flower" look

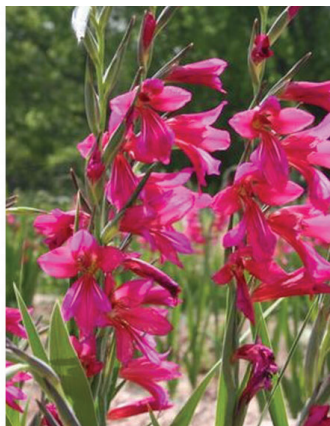
Dutch hyacinths. Chill in a 45-degree refrigerator (i.e. vegetable bin, not freezer) for at least 45 days before planting in December. Grow as annuals although some may naturalize if left in the flower bed. Naturalized, they will have fewer blooms until well acclimated (after several years).

Grape hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*), (*Muscari neglectum*) These small (4-6") plants are sized and shaped like Bluebonnets with blue to purple flowers. These look good planted in a lawn.

See a sampling of varieties on the next 2 pages:.



Amaryllis ~ St. Joseph



Byzantine Gladiolus



Crinum ~ Milk & Wine



Dutch Hyacinth



Grape Hyacinth



Narcissus/Daffodil



Oxalis

Narcissus, jonquils, daffodils (*Narcissus* spp.) Not all varieties of this best-loved spring flower do well in our area. Try the following:

Campernelle jonquils (*Narcissus x odorus*) Has large yellow flowers,

Grand Primo narcissus (*Narcissus tazetta* x "Grand Primo") A cluster of white flowers with pale yellow inside the cups,

Narcissus tazetta Italicus White with lemon yellow cups,

Narcissus tazetta x "Erlicheer" A double form of Grand Primo,

Narcissus tazetta x "GoldenDawn" A cluster of yellow flowers with golden cups,

Narcissus tazetta x "Ice Follies" A medium sized flower in white with a pale-yellow cup,

Narcissus tazetta x "Carlton" Single yellow flowers with a darker yellow cup,

Paperwhites (*N. tazetta papyraceus*) White clusters of small flowers,

Chinese sacred lilies (*Narcissus tazetta orientalis*) White flower with a yellow cup

continued on page 6



Philippine Lily



Roman Hyacinth



Snowflake



Starflower



Star of Bethlehem



Tulip

Oxalis (*Oxalis crassipes*) Also known as wood sorrel, this plant grows in small clumps of green shamrock shaped leaves and pink or white blossoms.

Oxalis, purple-leafed (*Oxalis triangularis*) White blossoms really show up against the dark color of the leaves. In shade and well-watered, this variety does well in containers and may not go dormant in summer.

Philippine lilies, Formosa lilies (*Lilium philippinense* or *Lilium formosanum*), White flowers with a pale maroon stripe resemble Easter lilies with a trumpet shape.

Roman hyacinth (*Hyacinthus orientalis albulus*) These plants make a blue or white fragrant spike with fewer flowers than Dutch hyacinths. They are small (8") plants.

Starflower (*Ipheon uniflorum*) White to blue six petaled flowers grace this small (6") plant. This is another plant that looks good in a lawn.

Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*) This is a small (10") plant that sends up a stalk of white flowers with greenish/pale yellow centers. It has grass-like foliage.

Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) These are the bell-shaped white flowers with green dots at the tips. The plants are about 10" tall.

Tulip (*Tulipa* spp.) Most tulips don't get enough hours of cold temperatures to do well in Texas and are grown as annuals. Buy and store in a 45-degree refrigerator for 45- 60 days. Wait until our first freeze to plant.

References:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletter/horticulture/2012/oct/spring-flowering-bulbs.html>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/flowers/BULBS.html>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/syllabi/308/Slides/PLTL4.pdf>

The Bulb Hunter, Chris Wiesinger & William C. Welch, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX, 2013


Lone Star Gardening, Neil Sperry, Neil Sperry's Gardening Magazine, McKinney, TX, 2014


Heirloom Gardening in the South, Yesterday's Plants for Today's Gardens, William C. Welch & Greg Grant, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, TX, 2011

The Root Less Traveled


by Kim Rainey, Master Gardener


Here are some “quick wins” for the fall garden. These seeds are fast germinators, they mature quickly and, some chilly nights will actually enhance their flavor. There’s no need to start any of these indoors.


 **Turnips** (Sep) *Just Right Hybrid, Purple Top White Globe, Royal Crown, Royal Globe, Tokyo Cross, White Lady*
Turnips can be used either for greens or for roots. A variety developed for root production can be harvested for greens. However, a variety developed for greens may not produce a good root. Turnip seeds germinate within days, and tender greens are ready to pick within a month. Young, smaller turnips can also be harvested in about 30 days and full sized in about 40-50 days. Turnips are tolerant of moderate frost as mature plants in fall.

 **Carrots** (Sep) *Imperator 58, Nantes Half Long, Red Core Chantenay*
Direct sow seeds no later than 10 weeks before the first frost. Carrots grow best in sandy loam soil. Always plant seeds directly into your garden; never start in pots. The seeds can take up to three weeks to germinate. Thin out seedlings to allow room for the roots to develop. These vegetables may be bitter, tough, misshapen, and undersized if they don't get enough water. You can harvest carrots any time they reach a usable size.

 **Kohlrabi** (Sep) *Early Purple Vienna, Early White Vienna, Grand Duke, Kolibri, Purple Danube, Winner*
Kohlrabi” Means “Cabbage Turnip. Kohlrabi is fast-growing and a cousin of cabbage and broccoli. This is a great plant to direct sow in fall up to one month before the first frost. Harvest as needed. It's winter hardy and will store in-ground until you're ready to harvest.

 **Beets** (Sep 15) *Detroit Dark Red, Ruby Queen*
For a fall harvest, plant beets 10-12 weeks before the first frost. Seeds germinate in about 5-days. Beets can also be started indoors for a jump on the growing season. Beets can be grown all winter in many South Texas areas, however soil temperature must be at least 40F for beet seeds to sprout. Beets can be planted in partial shade and grow best in deep, well drained soils. Beets have deep roots that can reach depths of 36 to 48 inches.

 **Garlic** (cloves) (Oct) *California Early, California White, Elephant Garlic*
In Texas, garlic is a perennial plant. Garlic can be planted in the late fall. It is extremely frost hardy, and if planted in October, may have tops showing above the soil and be well rooted by November. By late May or early summer, you should have all the garlic bulbs you'll need for the rest of the year. Garlic should be direct sown, not started indoors

 **Onions** (seed) (Oct) *Super Sweet, Early Grano*
Plant super sweet, short-to-intermediate daylength onion types in Texas zones III (USDA Zones 8 and 9). Seeds can be sown directly into the garden, covered with one-fourth inch of soil and should sprout within 7- 10 days. Fertilization of onion plants is vital to success. Texas A&M research findings indicate that onion growth and yield can be greatly enhanced by banding phosphorus 2-3 inches below seed at planting time. Make a trench 3 inches deep, distributing one-half cup of super phosphate per 10 row feet, cover the phosphate with soil, sow seed and cover lightly with one-half inch or less of soil. Once established, onion plants should receive additional amounts of fertilizer (21-0-0 - Ammonium sulfate or Ammonium nitrate) as a side-dress application every month.

<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/garlic/>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2013/09/EHT-056.pdf>

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/asset-external/easy-gardening-turnip-and-mustard-greens>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2013/09/EHT-050.pdf>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/vegetabletravelers/kohlrabi.html>

How to Help Monarchs

by Marj McClung, Master Gardener

Monarch butterflies have been in a steady decline for years and recently the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the monarch as endangered. Habitat loss, climate change, pesticides and disease are some of the factors contributing to fewer butterflies each year.

To support the spring and late summer/fall migrations, we can provide food to both baby monarchs (caterpillars) and to adults.

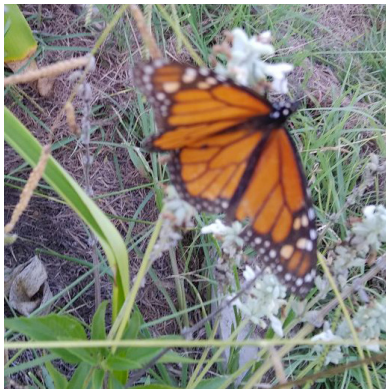
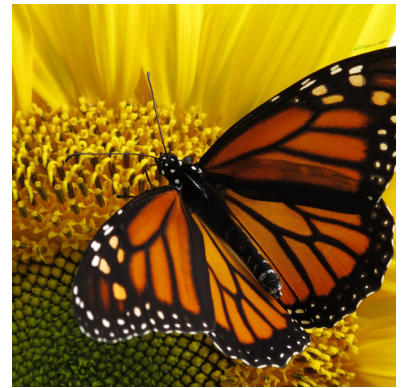
Butterflies don't live long enough to migrate far, so multiple generations make the trip from summer homes in the United States and Canada to overwintering in Mexican forests and back in the spring.

Monarchs seek milkweed to lay eggs. As land becomes streets and houses, it is important to plant milkweed in gardens to raise generations of future butterflies. Plant as much milkweed as you can since caterpillars are HUNGRY! The most common milkweeds for our

area are Green Milkweed (*Asclepius viridis*) and Antelope Horns Milkweed (*Asclepius asperula*) but other types also grow here. Fall is an excellent time to plant seed for milkweed and other wildflowers.

Molly Keck, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist for Bexar County, recommends cutting milkweed down in October to discourage monarchs from laying eggs that will not hatch, grow and fly before food dries up or a freeze comes.

There are many flowering plants that provide nectar for adult monarchs and other butterflies. Monarchs are especially attracted to Gregg's Mist Flower (*Eupatorium greggi*), Sunflowers, and salvias such as Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*).



Butterflies and their food plants are hurt by herbicide and pesticide use. Always use herbicides or pesticides after trying less deadly methods first. Then, if you need to use them, read and carefully follow label instructions. Take care that herbicides or pesticides are limited to problem areas and not broadcast into the whole neighborhood.

Traveling monarchs also appreciate a source of moisture. Hanging a butterfly feeder with old fruit or fruit peels will provide nutrients and moisture. A saucer with stones and water will enable butterflies to drink from firm footing.



www.monarchwatch.org (<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>)

AgriLife Today (<https://agriflifelife.tamu.edu/2022/08/01/monarch-butterflies-facing-battle-royal-for-survival/>)

Feeding Butterflies

Plants for Pollinators Pop-Up at Farmers' Market



This month's Pop-Up booth was colorful as well as informative. Rannette and Tanya Cates, Arleen Hamilton, Edith Smith and Marj McClung answered questions about nectar and caterpillar food plants.

Light House for Learning – Autumn 2022



Monday, October 3, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Growing Fruit Trees Fruit trees are a source of food beyond the traditional garden. If maintained, fruit trees can provide beauty and fruit for many years. Learn how to select varieties that will grow in the soil and climate of Ellis County, how and when to plant them, and how to treat the most common problems that you may encounter. **Instructor: Maureen Nitkowski**

Monday, October 17, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Pocket Prairies Only 15% of native prairies remain. Learn how to prepare for, plant and maintain a piece of Blackland Prairie to help pollinators and bring the beauty of wildflowers into your own backyard. **Instructor: Rob Franks**

Monday, October 17, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 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 Clonen**

Monday, October 24, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Gardening For a Lifetime Gardening poses problems for younger people, who never seem to have enough time to devote and older people who find it physically harder to do the work. Learn how planning, design, and innovative tools can help you with a garden that will meet your schedule and physical abilities for the present and for your lifetime. **Instructor: Janet Madison**

Thursday, November 3, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Using Herbs in Texas Landscapes Learn how herbs can meet a variety of needs and play an important role in our Texas landscapes. This class will cover how to plan for and start herbs in the garden or in containers. **Instructor: Alice Thompson**

GARDEN GUILT

Part Three

Gardening is not supposed to be depressing. I felt like a garden slacker;
I could only see the jobs I hadn't finished, and it wasn't fun anymore.

Until I Found the Cure in Three Easy Steps!

By Dottie Love, Master Gardener

STEP ONE: Clean it up!

Jump up and spray the patio down. Instant gratification!

Gather your trash can collection, cardboard recycling pile, fertilizer bags, empty black pots, and garden ornaments you're sure you'll use someday, and take them away. Or stack them behind a tree. A big tree.

Hide the mop. Twirl all the hoses into pretty spirals (it makes people think you have patience).

Arrange empty pots so they look quaint. Don't ask me how, I can never accomplish that. So behind the tree they go.

Where do all your shovels 'n' stuff live? They need to be invisible but accessible. Is there still room behind that tree?

STEP TWO: The Green Things

Mow if necessary.

Edge. You may think of edging as just trimming the grass between the lawn and the driveway, or weed eating around stones or bricks. What I mean when I say "edge" is: create a definite division, a demarcation between ground and plant. Don't let either blur the boundaries.

I guarantee your garden's look will improve instantly with this structure of defined shapes. Now, you may want to have a cute little ground cover curling over the hardscape or lawn. That's fine! It gives the impression of spontaneity and a relaxed feel. What I like to do is lift the tendrils and sweep or hose the dirt from under them.

STEP THREE: Bedtime

Now, weed. There are two approaches: permanent removal, and they-gotta-be-gone-today. If you begin by simply pulling weeds, you'll cut your hands on Bermuda grass or get pricked by a thistle. If you plunge into a mass of Johnson grass, you'll get stung by a wasp. Been there, done that. And, oh—if you notice the dirt suddenly warmer—your hand's in a fire ant nest. Instead, cut the weeds with shears or even scissors. Yeah, I just said that. Do pull up the spurge and purslane though; they're fun.

I know: all those weeds will be back in no time. Remind yourself that you're in Garden Panic Mode: this is the "feel-better-quick" solution. Once Garden Guilt no longer defines you, you can calmly evaluate weed control options and begin to implement them. And, before you know it you'll reach Serene Supreme Steward Mode, where weeds wilt at your glance, you never lose your pruning shears, your rakes aren't rusty and fall over all the time, your hose never leaks, and you never, ever, step on a slug barefoot.

**Gardening is the slowest
of the performing arts.**

garden historian Mac Griswold

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