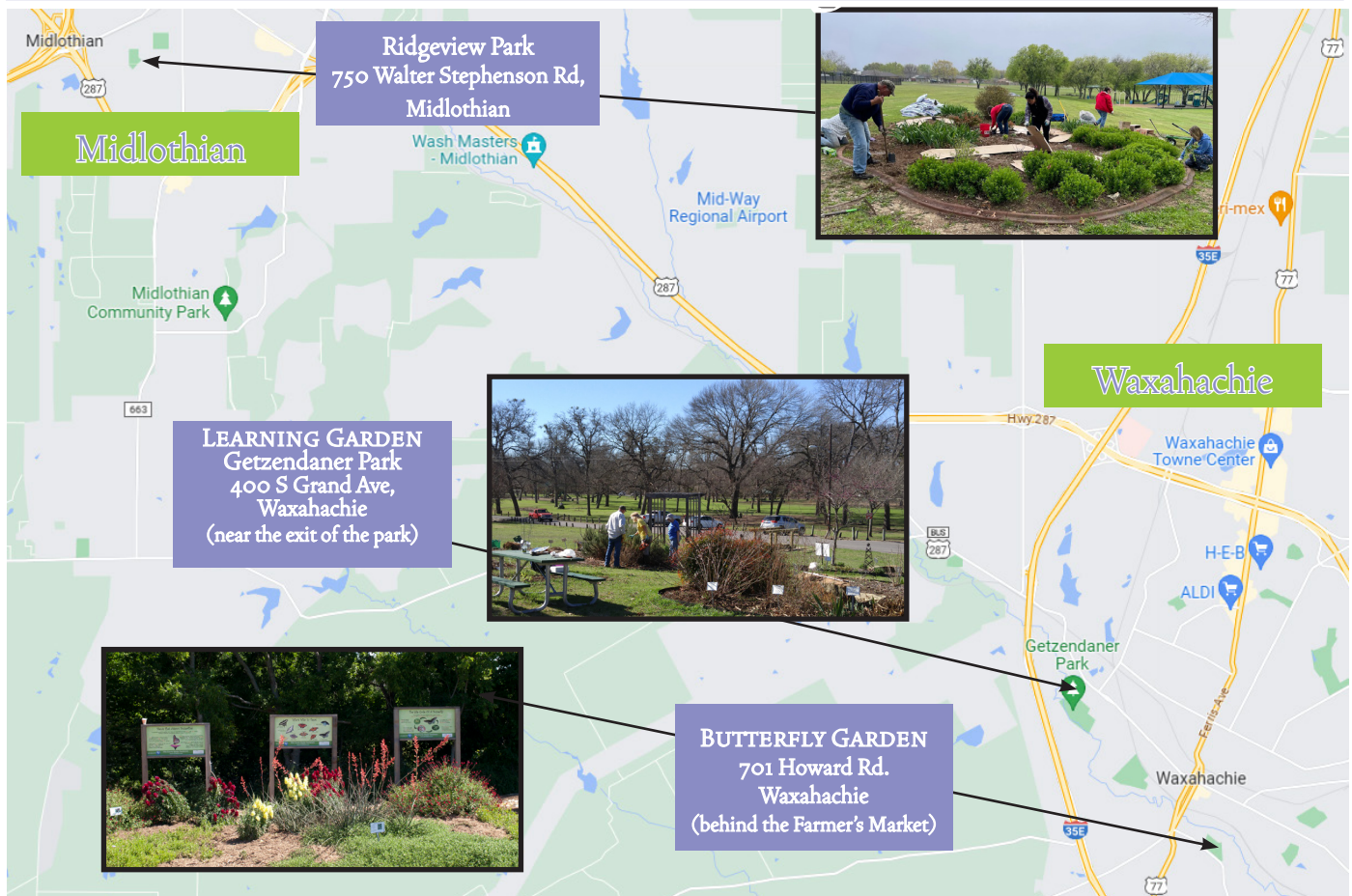


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Have you visited our demonstration gardens?



To contact us: 701 Interstate Highway 35E, Waxahachie, TX 75165-4702
ellis-tx@tamu.edu 972-825-5175 <https://txmg.org/ellis>



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, liriopse, 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 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.

Hats off to our Parade Committee!

They pulled it together with very short notice and most of them even agreed to be walkers. Thank you, Alice Thompson, for being brave enough to climb in the back of that very tall truck and keep the walkers supplied with water, trinkets, candy and seeds. Thank you also to everyone who donated candy, seeds, and decorations. The wildflower seeds were a big hit with the parade goers. We had a small surplus of candy and seeds left over. We will donate the candy to the 2023 Intern Class and the seeds went to the quilt show.



The community judges awarded prizes to the following floats (yes only floats).

Grand Prize: Waxahachie Prep
1st Place: Citizens National Bank
2nd Place: Options Plumbing
3rd Place: Ellis County Dispatch



We have been invited to join the Christmas parade, too. I didn't even realize we had a Christmas Parade in Waxahachie. The only requirement is that your entry be fully-lighted because the Christmas Parade is at night!

Master Gardener Intern Meet & Greet and Information Session



The Ellis County Master Gardeners invite all who are interested to join us for an informational meeting about joining the Ellis County Master Gardener Association. Find out who we are, what our mission is and all about and how you can be part of it.

Applications for the ECMGA training will be available during this event.

Thursday, August 3, 2023

**1ST BAPTIST CHURCH
WAXAHACHIE**

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

COME AND GO



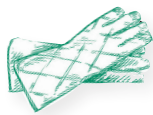
Open to residents (18 or older) of Ellis County or nearby areas.



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

THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR THIS SESSION

Tuition: \$200 - Includes text book and 50+ hours
of researched-based gardening education

Classes will be held on Thursdays
September 7 through November 16
8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Snacks will be provided.

Location: First Baptist Church
450 E. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie



Because I am dealing with this in my own lawn, I thought I would update and reprint this article from July 2020. Kim Rainey, ECMG

SUMMER LAWN PESTS

THREE COMMON LAWN INSECTS TO BE AWARE OF DURING SUMMER MONTHS ARE BERMUDAGRASS MITES, GRUBS AND CHINCH BUGS.

Bermudagrass mites will thrive in hot temperatures and be very active during the summer. They are not visible to the naked eye. When severe infestation occurs, they will cause turfgrass to thin out and will create a tufted “witch’s broom” appearance. There are several insecticide options for severe cases, but one effective tactic is to scalp the infested area and remove the grass clippings, physically displacing many of the mites. Learn more about bermudagrass mites here: <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2017/06/13/tiniest-turfgrass-pest/>



Damage from turf-feeding grubs is most visible during summer and early fall. Grub damage appears as irregularly shaped patches resembling drought stress. When grub infestations are severe, turfgrass can often be pulled up and rolled back as if it were new sod. Another sign is that animals (skunks, armadillos, possums) will start to dig up areas of your lawn. Timing is important for treating grubs. Waiting too long can drastically reduce the effectiveness of lawn insecticides. Learn more about turf-feeding grubs here:



<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/asset-external/white-grubs-in-texas-turfgrass/>

Chinch bugs are common summer pests in southern lawns. They cause the most damage to St. Augustine grass but can also affect other types of turfgrass. Chinch bug damage shows up as irregular-shaped patches that spread outward. If your yard has bermudagrass mixed in, you may notice tufts of bermudagrass still standing in the middle of dead or thinning St. Augustine. Chinch bugs are visible without magnification, but still somewhat small and sometimes hard to spot without help.



To download a publication on Chinch Bugs, click here:

<https://agrillifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/chinchbugs/01t4x000004OUicAAG>

The Humble Hyacinth Bean

by Kim Rainey, ECMG

I remember the first time I saw a hyacinth bean in full bloom. I was visiting my mom in McKinney. She lived in a nice neighborhood and there, draped over an iron fence, was this beautiful mass of dark green leaves and purple flowers. The flowers were reminiscent of Sweet Peas. I was intrigued. A quick photo and Google Lens search told me it was a Hyacinth Bean. Each time I returned to visit Mom, I would pay special attention to the corner house with the beautiful purple vine.

Apparently, I wasn't the only one who admired it. When winter came, the homeowner hung baggies of purple pods on the fence where the vine had been. It seemed like an invitation to grow your own, so I stopped and helped myself to a bag. I couldn't wait until spring to start my seeds.

In my first year, I filled several quart pots with soil and planted about 5 seeds each as soon as the danger of frost was past. I waited and waited. They finally peeked their heads up about mid-June. Hyacinth beans like it **HOT**. Good to know!

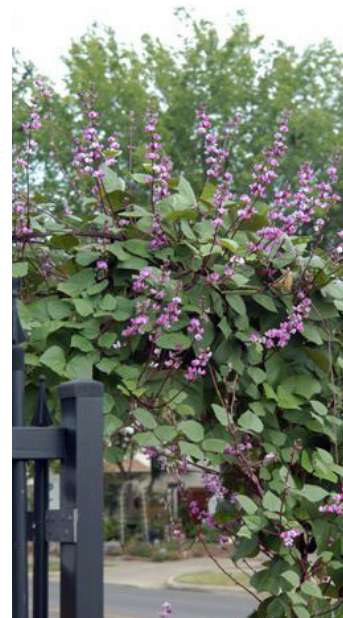
I planted them on the dog run fence in my backyard and on my mailbox on the street. Both locations were sunny. The fence gave enough support for a nice-sized plant. I had to add support to the mailbox location. These vines like sun, need support, and are not water hogs, but they do

need a drink several times a week when it's hot in order to stay lush.

The next year, my son planted vines around a Yaupon holly tree in our front yard. That location did well too. It was fun to see the purple flowers up in the tree where you didn't expect them.

I think one of my favorite things about these vines is the way they just die back when it gets cold. They won't make it to Thanksgiving. Therefore, you don't have to worry about them taking over your house or porch. First sign of winter, and they are out of here, leaving you lots of purple pods with seeds for next year. Also, I have never seen them volunteer to come up where they were last planted. Either the pods are too tasty to animals, or the seeds can't take freezing temperatures in winter. The experts say it can happen, maybe farther south.

So, what's not to love? A beautiful vine that thrives in the heat, has pretty flowers in the summer, attractive seed pods in the fall, and striking seeds, yet not demanding. You don't even have to dead head them!





September 24, 2023, 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!*

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

*Free Admission & Free Snacks
(while they last)*

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

