


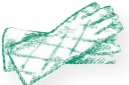





This newsletter is written by ECMG volunteers and is published digitally in February, March, April, June, August, October and December (Even months plus March). For questions or submissions please email: [ellisTXMGnews@gmail.com](mailto:ellisTXMGnews@gmail.com).

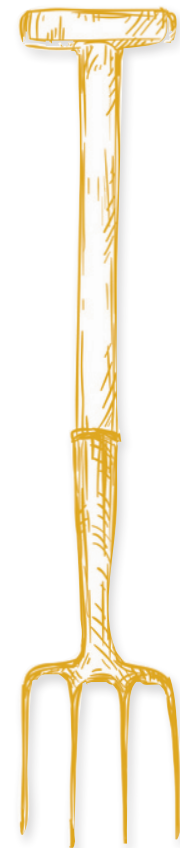
## FREE Information Session Master Gardener Intern Meet & Greet


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.

-  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**

  
**Thursday, August 8, 2024**  
 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH  
 WAXAHACHIE  
 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
**COME AND GO**



  
**Class Tuition: \$200 - Includes text book and 50+ hours of researched-based gardening education.**  
 Classes will be held on Thursdays August 29 through October 24 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.  
*Bring your own sack lunch. Snacks will be provided.*  
**Location: First Baptist Church**  
 450 E. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie

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# August

*Fri*  
*2nd*  
Big Top Boutique Show  
August 2-4  
Waxahachie Civic Center

*Sat*  
*3rd*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

*Sun*  
*4th*  
Big Top Boutique Show Last Day  
Waxahachie Civic Center

*Thurs*  
*8th*  
2024 Inter Class Meet & Greet  
5-6:30pm  
FBC Wax

*Sat*  
*10th*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

*Sat*  
*17th*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

*Sat*  
*24th*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets


*Sat*  
*31st*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

**Waxahachie Farmers Market:**  
Saturdays - 8am - 1pm  
701 Howard Rd, Waxahachie, TX


**Ennis Bluebonnet Market:**  
Saturdays - 8am  
April - October  
Minnie McDowal Park  
119 N Dallas St, Ennis, TX

**Midlothian Farmers Market:**  
Saturdays April 13- Nov. 2  
9am - 2pm  
Heritage Park  
234 N. 8th St., Midlothian, TX

# September

*Mon*  
*2nd*  
**LABOR DAY**  


*Sat*  
*7th*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

*Wed*  
*11th*  
**Patriot's Day**  


*Sat*  
*14th*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

*Saturday*  
*21st*  
Midlothian Pollinator Walk  
9-11am  
Mockingbird Park

Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

*Sun*  
*22nd*  
Heritage Farm Day  
2-5pm  
Cunningham Meadows Road

*Sat*  
*28th*  
Waxahachie, Midlothian and Ennis Farmers Markets

# Planting ECMG Seeds for Tomorrow

by Teresa Brown, ECMG & Anita Barnes, ECMG



Children harvest with Anita at Common Ground



Paying it forward is a simple way of saying you're planting a seed of kindness. Nowhere is this more true than Master Gardeners working with Common Ground Ministries, a non-profit, structured after-school and summer program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

With the guidance of Anita Barnes, about 30 children have been working a couple of garden plots for the last 18 months or so. Three times a week, children are bussed to East Waxahachie to tend to their plants. In the spring, the children planted cucumbers, potatoes, cantaloupe, carrots, and basil. Once a month, ECMG Jill Wadsworth has a cooking class and, when possible, she

incorporates garden produce. "The children love to taste the produce," Anita said. "We have strawberries growing in pots," adding that rosemary was included this spring to help discourage mosquitoes.

More gardeners are needed to help with the efforts. If any Master Gardeners are interested in sharing some of their knowledge with these gardeners of tomorrow, they are encouraged to reach out to Anita.



# Should You Consider a Fall Garden?

by Rob Franks, ECMG

Most gardeners get the “garden bug” in the Spring when they see vegetable seedlings show up in big box stores or their local garden centers. This is great if you want your veggies ripening up in late spring or early summer but once the Texas weather heats up your garden will probably not produce very well. Tomatoes, for example, do not set new fruit when the daily temperature gets over 85 degrees. Insect pests like squash bugs come out in the spring and their hundreds of offspring can destroy your squash and other vegetables in a few days. However some veggies and herbs do very well in summer heat if they get sufficient water: chilies, okra, basil, rosemary, and oregano.

But good news! Texas has a long growing season and here in North Texas the average first frost is November 15, so you can have a second garden. Squash actually does better in the Fall because squash bugs only have one cycle in spring and early summer. Many Fall veggies can withstand a light freeze and I have seen winters where there isn't a freeze until late January. The trick is knowing what vegetables to consider and when to plant them.

Got you thinking?

Below are some vegetable suggestions and a link to a Fall planting guide for those details that you will need.

<b>PLANT</b>	<b>SUGGESTED PLANT DATE</b>	<b>FROST TOLERANCE</b>
Bush snap beans	Sept 1	—
Broccoli	Sept 1	FT
Brussels Sprouts	Sept 1	FT
Cabbage	Sept 1	—
Carrots (seeds)	Nov 10	FT
Cauliflower	Sept 1	F
Cucumber	Sept 1	—
Garlic	Oct 1	FT
Squashes	Sept 10	—
Turnips	Nov 1	FT
Sweet Corn	Aug 20	—
Pumpkin	Aug 1	—

*“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.”*  
— H. Fred Dale

This link will take you to the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service publication “Fall Vegetable Gardening Guide for Texas” to get full details

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/fall-vegetable-gardening-guide-for-texas/>

## Mini Veggie Gardening with Containers

by Teresa Brown, ECMG

Apartment living, space limitations, or physical restrictions can hamper vegetable gardening, but that does not mean a garden cannot be enjoyed. Container gardening is an economical choice for anyone with garden limitations. Nearly any plant can be grown in a container, from flowers and vegetables to some tree varieties. Choosing the right container can make a bountiful difference, so let's dig into the vegetable container garden world.

**What to plant:** The first consideration is the plant. Always start with what you love, whether it is cabbage or carrots. Spend a few minutes and learn about the plant, its size, water and sun requirements. From that point, the focus is on the container size, soil, water, location and fertilizer.

**Container size:** The mature size of the plant is a factor. Obviously, the pot or container must accommodate a mature plant (container width) and its roots (container depth). As a general rule, a deeper container is better than a wider one because there is more room for the plant's roots. It's essential to provide the roots with room to grow. Without growth, the plant (and its produce) will suffer. If you're not sure, choose deeper.

- 6- to 9-inch pots are good for plants with shallow roots: chives, green onions, radishes, spinach, lettuces.
- 12- to 18-inch pots are good for medium-root-depth plants: beets, broccoli, short carrot varieties, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, kale, peas, swiss chard.
- 18-inch and larger pots are good for plants with deep roots: beans, corn, cucumber, potatoes, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini.

**Container types:** There are many types of containers, from terra-cotta, ceramic and cement to plastic, metal and wood. It can be overwhelming deciding which one is best. Sometimes aesthetics lead the decision, but other times the location is the decision-maker.

- Terra-cotta (clay) pots are traditionally used. As they age, minerals from water leeches out and creates an aged patina. These pots are porous, which is great for aeration, but that also means the soil will dry out quicker. This is great for plants that like it a bit drier, or it will require frequent watering. They are also breakable.
- Glazed ceramic pots are non-porous. The beautiful designs painted on them do not allow breathability, and they will hold moisture longer than the unglazed terra-cotta. They are perfect for plants that prefer moisture, but care must be taken to avoid overwatering.
- Plastic pots are an economical choice. Like glazed ceramic, they are non-porous and hold water and temperature at a more constant level than some of the other types. They do not break easily, but, again, the gardener must take care to not overwater the plant.
- Wood containers are attractive and age gracefully. The best woods for containers are redwood and cedar because they resist decay. If making a wood container, be mindful of how the wood was treated. Avoid using wood treated with arsenic-based preservatives.
- Metal containers are visually interesting, but they can absorb excessive heat if placed in the sun, which may require more water.



- Self-watering containers are helpful choices, but they can lead to a false sense of watering security, resulting in inconsistent watering (i.e., under- or overwatering). Monitor the soil dryness regularly.
- Recycled, unexpected containers are fun and charming. Wheelbarrows, watering cans, boots, tea pots, wash tubs, wire baskets – the ideas are endless for unusual containers. Before recycling a container, clean and disinfect it (use a 9:1 ratio of water to bleach) and be sure to create drainage holes.

No matter what type is chosen, the pot should have drainage holes at the bottom. Drainage is essential. Without holes, the water has no place to go and will create waterlogged soil. Unless the plant likes boggy conditions, it will suffer. If there are no holes, drill a couple into the bottom.

**Soil:** Take a few minutes to learn about your plant's soil requirements. Not all plants require the same dirt. For example, succulents have different needs than lettuce. Be aware that plain top soil as the main soil in pots can be heavy. The best general choice for most plants is a good potting mix. These soils are developed specifically for growing plants in pots. Read the label on the bag for specific use directions.

When filling the container, do not put rocks or gravel at the bottom to improve drainage. It is a myth that rocks promote drainage. If you have leftover potting mix, reclose and seal the bag. This will prevent it from drying out and becoming hydrophobic (more about that later).

**Water:** Potted plants need regular watering. Watering every day for several days and then not again for two weeks is a recipe for disaster. Learn how to check for water needs. The amount and frequency depend on the plant, the season, the container type and the exposure to the sun. Every day, insert a finger into the top inch of soil. If it's damp, no water is needed. If it is dry, water only until it drains from the drainage holes.



Drip irrigation is an excellent option, but watering from a hose or watering container works fine, too. Make sure to read about the plant to know how it prefers to be watered (from the top or the bottom and/or misted).

If the soil becomes completely dried, it becomes hydrophobic. This is a condition where the soil repels water instead of absorbing it. If the water runs straight through the soil without wetting it, there's a good chance it is hydrophobic.

### **There are three ways to rehydrate hydrophobic soil.**

1. Submerge the pot in water. You may have to hold the pot underwater because of air around the root ball (air bubbles will be seen escaping the soil when held underwater). Once the bubbles stop, remove the pot and allow it to drain naturally.
2. "Bottom water" the soil by placing it in a shallow pan filled with water. Over the course of an hour or two, the pot's soil will slowly absorb the water.
3. Trickle water from a hose into the soil. The slow trickle will allow the water to be absorbed gradually. (A small pot can be left in a sink with water trickling into it, or if the container is too large to move, place a trickling hose on the soil surface for several minutes.)

Especially during Texas' long, hot, dry summer days, most plant containers will need to be watered frequently, sometimes daily. Placing a saucer under the pot will capture excess water and allow the soil to absorb it. However, during the cooler months, do not leave the pot in standing water because it can cause waterlogging.

**Location:** Most vegetable plants will need a minimum of 6 to 8 hours of sunlight, while others may need shade or partial shade. Read about a plant's needs, so you can position it accordingly. Keep in mind that placing plants against walls may also affect exposure to heat. A south-facing wall will increase heat, which is great for heat-loving plants but awful for those preferring cool weather. Placing containers directly on the concrete in a sunny area can also increase heat. An easy solution is to raise the container with bricks, trivets or wood blocks. Be mindful about breeze strength and frequency in the location. Too much can be stressful; too little can stifle air circulation.

**Fertilizer:** Every watering removes nutrients from the soil, so it is important to replace them. This is easily accomplished with fertilizer. Always read and follow the fertilizer label directions. If the soil already has fertilizer in it, do not add more. **Over-fertilizing is not better.**

By making the right choices in the beginning, selecting the right containers for the desired plants, and with proper care, a lovely and fruitful garden is available to almost everyone.



Send in **YOUR** labeled photos to [ellisTXMGnews@gmail.com](mailto:ellisTXMGnews@gmail.com)



**Brussels sprouts in July!** submitted by Paul Thomas, ECMG

For the first time, I bought Brussels sprouts plants at a nearby big box store, late in the season.

The plants were infested with worms, and it got hot; I did what I could to spray, but they only produced tiny, less than half inch fruit.

Today I harvested what there was: two cups of sprouts, added to bell peppers, carrots and pork loin cubes. Barbara Thomas put them in a stir fry and... delicious!

**MORE BRAGS ON PAGE 14**



# SEDUMS

by Lea Sandoz, ECMG

Sedums, commonly referred to as stonecrops, are a diverse group of succulent plants belonging to the Crassulaceae family. Known for their remarkable resilience and aesthetic appeal, sedums have garnered interest in horticulture, traditional medicine, and historical practices. I hope to provide a comprehensive overview of sedums, detailing their unique characteristics, growing conditions, medicinal uses, historical significance, and physiological processes, including Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM).

As succulents, Sedums are characterized by their thick, fleshy leaves designed for water storage. This allows them to survive in arid environments where water is scarce. Their leaves often have a waxy or powdery coating that reduces water loss through evaporation. Sedums display a wide range of forms, from low-growing ground covers to erect, shrubby species. Their leaves can be rosetted, whorled, or alternate, contributing to their diverse appearance. The flowers of sedums are typically star-shaped and come in various colors, including red, yellow, pink, and white, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies. With 600 species found in the Northern Hemisphere, sedums vary from annuals, perennials, and creeping herbs to shrubs.

Unlike many other plants, sedums have evolved to thrive in nutrient-poor soils with minimal water. Their succulence and ability to perform CAM photosynthesis (discussed later) distinguish them from non-succulent plants.

## **Sedums are highly adaptable but thrive best under specific conditions:**

- Well-draining soils, such as sandy or gravelly types, are ideal for sedums. They can tolerate poor soil conditions, making them suitable for rock gardens and green roofs.
- Full sun to partial shade is preferred. While they can tolerate some shade, insufficient sunlight can result in leggy growth.
- Sedums require minimal watering. Overwatering can lead to root rot, as their succulent leaves store ample water for dry periods.
- Sedums are hardy in a range of temperatures. Some species are frost-tolerant, while others prefer warmer climates.

Sedums have been used in traditional medicine for various purposes:

- Anti-inflammatory Properties: Sedum telephium, known as orpine or live-forever, has been used to reduce inflammation and promote wound healing.
- Diuretic Effects: Certain sedum species have diuretic properties, aiding in the elimination of excess fluids and toxins from the body.
- Traditional Remedies: Sedum acre, or biting stonecrop, has been employed in folk medicine for treating skin conditions and digestive issues. However, caution is necessary as some sedum species can be toxic if ingested in large quantities.

Throughout history, sedums have played notable roles in various cultures:

- Roof Gardens: In Europe, sedums were traditionally used in green roofing due to their drought tolerance and shallow root systems. They provided insulation and reduced stormwater runoff.
- Symbolism: Sedums were often associated with prosperity and protection in different cultures. For example, in some regions, sedums were planted on roofs to ward off lightning.
- Culinary Uses: Some sedum species have been consumed for their nutritional benefits. For instance, young leaves of Sedum *reflexum* have been used in salads and soups in certain European countries.

CAUTION IS ALWAYS NECESSARY AS SOME SEDUM SPECIES CAN BE TOXIC IF INGESTED IN LARGE QUANTITIES.



### Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM)

One of the most fascinating aspects of sedums is their ability to perform Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM), a specialized form of photosynthesis that allows them to conserve water in arid conditions. CAM is a carbon fixation pathway that some plants use to minimize water loss. In CAM plants, including many sedums:

1. Nighttime: Stomata (pores on the leaf surface) open at night to take in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This CO<sub>2</sub> is converted into malic acid and stored in vacuoles within the cells.
2. Daytime: Stomata close during the day to reduce water loss. The stored malic acid is then converted back into CO<sub>2</sub> for photosynthesis, producing sugars and other carbohydrates. (L CAM plants include many succulents such as *Cactaceae* (cactus) , *Agavaceae* (agave), *Crassulaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae* (spurge family) , *Liliaceae* (lilies), *Vitaceae* (grapes), *Orchidaceae* (orchids), and bromeliads.

This adaptation is crucial for survival in environments where water is scarce because it allows the plant to photosynthesize efficiently while minimizing water loss through transpiration.

### Differences from Cacti

While both sedums and cacti can perform CAM photosynthesis, they differ in several respects: Cacti retains water within the plant structure, which is also a succulent characteristic. Cacti commonly have thorns. Hobby cactus growers often separate cacti from succulents by presence or absence of thorns rather than strictly by the botanical classification that are sometimes harder to see. Because plants may have adaptations to dry conditions that make them appear related, this adds to confusion. Sedum and cactus have succulent characteristics but come from two different families within the plant hierarchy.

- Cacti often lack leaves, with photosynthesis occurring in the stems. Sedums, on the other hand, primarily photosynthesize through their leaves.
- Cacti are predominantly found in hot, arid desert regions. Sedums can inhabit a variety of environments, including alpine and temperate regions.

Sedums are a remarkable and versatile plant family, distinguished by their succulence, morphological diversity, and ability to perform CAM photosynthesis. Their adaptability to harsh growing conditions, coupled with their historical and medicinal significance, makes them an invaluable addition to gardens and landscapes worldwide. Understanding the unique characteristics and requirements of sedums can enhance their cultivation and utilization in various applications.

## SOME VARIETIES

These images and descriptions showcase the diversity within the Sedum genus, illustrating their adaptability to different environments and their varying forms and uses in horticulture and traditional practices.

### **Sedum acre (Biting Stonecrop Wallpepper, Goldmoss sedum)**

**Attributes:** Sedum acre is a low-growing, mat-forming perennial with bright yellow, star-shaped flowers. The small, succulent leaves are tightly packed and can turn reddish in dry conditions.

**Habitat:** It thrives in rocky, sandy soils and is often found in grasslands, on walls, and roofs. It is specially adapted for growing on thin dry soils and can be found on shingle, beaches, drystone walls, dry banks, seashore rocks, roadside verges, wasteland and in sandy meadows near the sea.

**Special Note:** Known for its sharp, peppery taste, it has been used in traditional medicine for its astringent and diuretic properties.



### ***Sedum spurium* (Caucasian Stonecrop)**

**Attributes:** This species features creeping stems and fleshy, rounded leaves that can turn reddish in full sun. The flowers are typically pink or red. It is a spreading evergreen perennial.

**Habitat:** It is commonly used in rock gardens and as ground cover due to its spreading habit.

**Special Note:** *Sedum spurium* is appreciated for its colorful foliage and ability to thrive in poor, dry soils.



### ***Sedum telephium* (Orpine, Live-forever, frog's stomach, harping Johnny, witch's moneybags)**

**Attributes:** A taller, upright species with fleshy, ovate leaves and clusters of star-shaped flowers in pink, red, or white. It is native to Eurasia.

**Habitat:** It grows well in meadows, woodlands, and garden borders.

**Special Note:** Known for its medicinal uses, including anti-inflammatory properties and wound healing. The name *Telephium* was thought to be named after a surgical term for an ulcer that was particularly difficult to cure. This in turn was named after King Telephus who suffered from a spear wound that would not heal.



### ***Sedum album* (White Stonecrop)**

**Attributes:** A tufted perennial herb that forms mat-like stands. Much of the year the stems are short, semi prostrate and densely clad in leaves. At the flowering time in July and August, the stems lengthen and are erect, occasionally branched and often pinkish-brown. The leaves are alternate, fleshy and nearly cylindrical with a blunt, rounded tip. They are also sometimes tinged with pink, especially in drought-stressed plants. The starry flowers form a dense cyme. The calyx has five fleshy sepals fused at the base, the corolla consists of five regular white petals, there are ten stamens, a separate gynoecium and five pistils. The fruit is five united, many-seeded follicles.

**Habitat:** White stonecrop is a low-growing plant that cannot compete with more vigorous fast-growing species. It is specially adapted for growing on thin dry soils and can be found on walls, dry banks, seashore rocks and in rocky meadows.

**Special Note:** *Sedum album* is able to acclimate to its environment. It can switch between C3 carbon fixation and crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) depending on the availability of water. CAM saves water as the stomata on its leaves only open to allow CO<sub>2</sub> to diffuse into the leaves at night when the temperature (and therefore evapotranspiration) is lower.[7] Drought stressed plants are also more susceptible to photoinhibition which CAM may help to protect against.[1] This sedum is highly drought-tolerant and often used in green roofs and rock gardens.



**Sedum morganianum (Burro's Tail)**

**Attributes:** Known for its trailing stems densely covered with fleshy, blue-green leaves, it produces small, pink or red flowers.

**Habitat:** Native to Mexico, with trailing stems up to 24 inches long. Minimum temperature tolerance of 41-45 degrees, it is often grown in hanging baskets or containers to showcase its cascading habit.

**Special Note:** Requires protection from frost and thrives in well-drained soil with bright light. Removed or dropped leaves will readily propagate and produce roots, often rooting directly where they fall. These leaf propagations eventually form into new plants, especially if placed in a southern exposure (Northern Hemisphere).

**Sedum reflexum (Blue Spruce Stonecrop, Jenny's stonecrop, reflexed stonecrop)**

**Attributes:** Features blue-green, needle-like leaves resembling a spruce tree, and yellow star-shaped flowers. This sedum is prone to fasciation (cristate forms), which produces attractive cactus-like forms, with irregular curves. However it reverts easily, so all normal offshoots need to be removed quickly to maintain the cristate form.

**Habitat:** Commonly used in rock gardens, borders, and as ground cover.

**Special Note:** It is edible in small quantities and sometimes used as a garnish in salads. It is said to have a slightly astringent or sour taste.

**Sedum spectabile (Showy Stonecrop, iceplant, butterfly stonecrop)**

**Attributes:** Growing to 45 cm (18 in) tall and broad, it is an herbaceous perennial with alternate, simple, toothed leaves on erect, unbranched succulent stems and has a tuber root rhizome. The leaves are usually arranged opposite or in threes, simple and more or less wedge-shaped at the base, and frosted blue above; they are 2.5 to 10 cm long and 0.8 to 5 cm wide. The leaf margin is smooth or serrated towards the tip. Stipules are missing.

**Habitat:** Grows well in garden beds and borders, especially in well-drained soil.

**Special Note:** It attracts butterflies and other pollinators, making it a popular choice for pollinator gardens.

**References**

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# Garden Hacks

## Applying water—low and slow

### Olla (pronounced "Oya")

*Olla pots can cut down water usage by up to 70% compared to traditional watering methods.*

Soil moisture tension pulls water through the porous sides of the pot and keeps the soil around the pot wet. An olla pot stops releasing water once the soil is saturated, so the plants you group around the pot never get over-watered.

Monitor the water level in the olla pot and refill it as needed. The frequency can vary.

It's a good idea to add water when the pot is half-full instead of empty. This prevents salts in the water from clogging the pores. If the pores should clog, fill the pot with vinegar, let it sit for a few hours and **rinse it thoroughly**. *FYI: Plants don't like vinegar. Do not do this when the pot is in the ground.*

<https://www.familyhandyman.com/article/olla-pot/>



### diy Olla

A collaboration from  
Paul Thomas, ECMG  
Kim Rainey, ECMG

To make your own olla you will need:

- an unglazed, terracotta pot
- a plastic saucer which fits over the OPEN top of the pot
- silicone sealant
- a stone, a piece of tile, or a bathtub drain stopper
- a heavy stone or brick to hold the saucer in place on top of the pot

The pots **MUST** be unglazed terracotta or the water will not be able to cross through the walls. Plastic or glazed ceramic won't work. Use the plastic saucer to prevent evaporation. You could use a terracotta saucer, but there will be more evaporation. Be sure to get a water tight seal on the hole on the bottom of the pot.

terracotta pot



bury pots, add lid,  
weigh lid down

<https://www.midmodernmama.com/diy-ollas>

### diy recycle

Here's a hack to conserve water and deeply water your

young trees without buying expensive equipment.

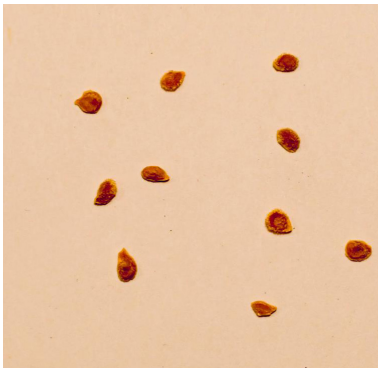
1. Get several buckets or plastic containers of 1-5 gallons.
2. Drill one tiny hole in each.
3. Put your collection of containers around the drip line of your tree.
4. Add water to the containers.
5. Refill, moving your containers around the drip line if necessary.

I rescued a drying-up, second summer persimmon this way and it has started putting on new growth.



# Can You Identify These Seeds?

by Donna Summerlin, ECMG



1



5



2



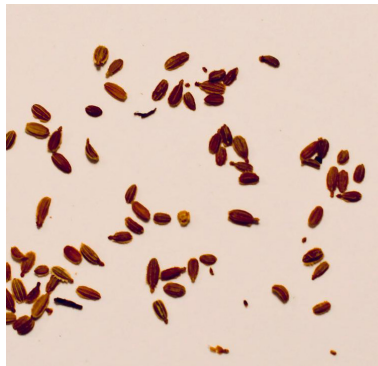
6



3



7



4



8

Identify the seeds above and match them with the names to the right. Number 3 has been done for you. **The answer key on the next page.**

- A: pumpkin
- C: gomphrena
- D: sunflower
- F: cilantro
- B: carrot
- D: watermelon
- E: tomato
- G: echinacea



One of the MG beds at the St. Thomas Ennis community garden.  
Submitted by Mary Ann Mezzapelle, ECMG



A bumper crop of Meyers Lemons!  
Submitted by Angie McKune, ECMG



### Seed Puzzle Answers

1E: tomato  
4B: carrot  
7F: cilantro

2A: pumpkin  
5G: echinacea  
8D: watermelon

3C: gomphrena  
6D: sunflower