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By Camille Goodwin
MG 2008

Gardening is the work of a lifetime: you never finish.

Oscar de la Renta

I want to grow my own food but I can't find bacon seeds.

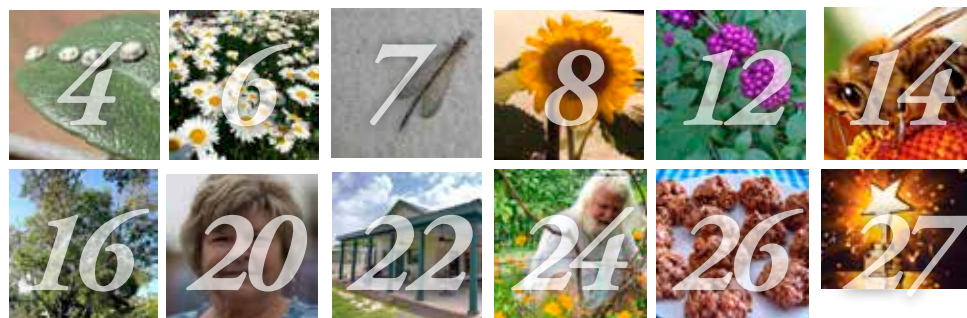
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I was talking with Linda Steber by email recently and I was telling her my yard is a crispy mess. It's been so hot and dry, even with our irrigation system, my lawn and all my plants look more tired than usual at the end of this summer. We've been treating sod webworms like crazy (as if there's a way to get them out of an acre of yard) as well as scale that will not end and basketgrass is making me say words that I usually don't utter.

Without rain, the armadillos are digging deep, ankle-breaking holes in the lawn and trenches throughout my flower beds, digging out my bulbs! Every day is déjà vu all over again with those armored annoyances! No matter how many pounds of Prostrate Spurge I pull out of the gardens each day, more is waving at me the next morning. Drought and heat don't seem to bother it. To add to the calamity,

your garden with the eye-catching Shasta Daisy (page 6), the exotic Passionflower (or vine) on page 10, and everyone's favorite the Sunflower (page 8). Each of these articles discuss the culture and offer many cultivars you can choose from to use in your landscape. Read about the cute folklore associated with the Passionflower and the numerous uses for the Sunflower. Now is the time of the season to think about dividing daylilies, see how to do it (page 21). We are entering the time of the year to plant new pollinator attractor plants, trees and vegetables. Donna Ward fills us in with lots of tips to get us started (page 12). Reading through this issue's stories, I learned about the unusual Osage Orange. Its history is extremely interesting, see page 17.

Two of my favorite articles this month are on the correct naming of insects according to the Entomological Society of America (page 14) and the correct usage of the terms



for the first time, one of my palm trees has dropped hundreds of seeds and I have baby palms popping up! I don't need or want them. I can pull the leaf off, but it's almost impossible to get the seed pod out of the ground. Will it grow back if I don't get the seed out? I'll soon find out. I've never had palms freely make more palm trees. Currently, it's hard to believe a Master Gardner lives at this particular landscape's address!

Did you hear that our newsletter won First Place at the State Master Gardener Conference for our Division? Your Newsletter team is still working hard. This issue is full of great educational pieces. I was happy to see the article on page 4 about controlling scale insects. Another, more interesting insect featured is the antlion (page 7) whose life cycle can take 2-3 years to complete. Learn about Drift Roses (page 5), add some freshness to

Cultivar versus Variety (page 15). This is the type of information that makes my brain click into gear. Since travel is still difficult with the COVID-19 problem, you will doubly enjoy John Jons' visit to the University Rose Garden in Tasmania, Australia last year (page 13). Many of us don't have a good impression of Hackberry trees, but they really deserve more respect. See the Tree Stories article from the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy (page 16).

In our continuing series featuring how our MGs come by their Green Genes, enjoy learning about Barbra, Ed and Pam (page 18). If you missed Coast Monthly Magazine's story on our Discovery House and our new kitchen, we share it on page 22. Enjoy two great recipes on page 26 and checkout volunteer opportunities and updated calendars on page 28. Hoping to be able to get together with everyone soon, stay safe!

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Cover:
Photo courtesy of MG Elayne Kouzounis



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Thanks for your interest!

ask a master gardener...

Scale Problems? How to get rid of them

Q&A – How can I get rid of scale on my plants



By Pam Hunter
MG 2018

Scale insects are small, about 1/8 inch long, oval, and flat. These pests can do serious damage to your garden, so if you find them lurking about, it is helpful to know how to get rid of them.

Check for adult scale insects. They are usually off-white, tan, or brown but can also be other colors. Most of them have a smooth, flat covering but some may look cottony or fluffy (Photo 1). The adults do not move.

Identify crawlers. The young scale, called crawlers, have legs and will move very slowly, or are blown by the wind to a spot on a plant that they like. Crawlers are often not the same color as the adults of the species. Cottony cushion scale, for example, are off-white (Photo 2) but the

crawlers are orange. After the crawlers get to their spot, they will attach to the leaf or stem and eventually lose their legs.

Familiarize yourself with what scale does when they get on a plant. When they attach to the plant, they pierce it with their mouths and suck the plant juices out. Scale can become a problem for gardeners all over the world. They survive the winters on plant leaves and stems only to reproduce again when the weather warms and make a meal out of any nearby garden plant.

Spot signs of scale damage. The first symptoms are yellow, falling leaves. Eventually twigs and entire limbs die and the tree bark cracks and oozes sap. The most serious problem they cause is honeydew (Photo 3), which is a clear, sticky secretion they leave behind as they feed. Sooty mold, a fungus, will often grow on the honeydew causing unsightly dark spots on the leaves and interfering with the plant's ability to absorb sunlight.

Scale insects are most prevalent outdoors where they infest all species of trees, shrubs, perennial plants, and annual plants. When the plants are small enough and infestation is not too severe, get rid of the scale in the following manner: Scrub the scale off with your nail or old toothbrush. Spray the plant with an insecticidal spray every four days or so. When the scale infestation is severe, use sharp hand pruners or loppers to trim off branches and leaves which hold high concentrations of these insects. Make the pruning about 1/4 inch above a leaf or at the base of the branch. Use a garden hose to spray off the pruners or loppers before using them on another plant to remove any scale insects which may be left on them.

Spray the plants with horticultural oil. This is also commonly called summer oil or dormant oil, to kill any remaining scale insects. Spray the oil on the tops and bottoms of the leaves as well as stems. There are various horticultural oil formulas on the market that are all equally good. They are commonly mixed at a rate of 2 to 4 teaspoons per gallon of water, but this varies.

Keep the seasons in mind. Spray the plants in early spring to kill any scale insects that have survived the winter before new growth starts. During the summer, spray the plants for scale in June, July and August but only if they return after the early spring treatment. Horticultural oils work by smothering the scale insects that are on the plant when it is sprayed. The treatment may have to be repeated after a week or two.

A horticultural oil precaution. Avoid using the oil on hot and humid days. When the relative humidity is 90% or higher, horticultural oil should not be sprayed on plants because it will not evaporate quickly enough. If the temperature is over 95 °F, the plant leaves could be damaged. Alternatively, if the temperature is below 40 °F, the oil will not cover uniformly, making it much less effective.



Adult White Scale



Cottony Maple Scale



Sooty Mold from Honeydew



Soft Brown Scale

ask a master gardener...

Disease resistant, winter hardy...

Q&A – What are Drift® Roses and how can they be used in my landscape



By Pat Forke
MG 2010

The scientific name is *Rosa 'Meijocosa'*, the common name is Drift® Rose Series and these are an evergreen plant. These plants were developed by Conard-Pyle who is a leading horticultural innovator based in Pennsylvania that has been in business since 1855. They have given us the Knock Out® and Drift® Roses.

Both families of roses are repeat-bloomers that are tough, disease resistant, winter hardy and virtually maintenance-free. Drift® Roses are a cross between miniature and ground cover roses. The Drift®

Roses are two to three feet wide and approximately 18" high. They are ideally suited for mass plantings, ground coverings, borders, in small empty spaces and in containers. If you have an area that has a slope and want to eliminate possible erosion issues, Drift® Roses can be your solution.

Like other roses, Drift® Roses need full sun and need to be pruned back in the spring. Deadheading, although not necessary, encourages re-blooming and helps maintain a tidy appearance. To see how these roses might work in your garden, click here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7Tgyjp5yJw>.

After choosing your location, plant the Drift® Rose in a hole that is twice as wide and as deep as the container. Fill in with soil and water thoroughly. The base of the plant should be level with the soil. Water thoroughly. These

roses do not like to be in standing water.

Drift® Roses are particularly attractive with glossy green foliage and colors such as apricot, coral, peach, pink, red and yellow. The current available varieties include: Apricot Drift®, Coral Drift®, Peach Drift®, Pink Drift®, Red Drift®, Sweet Drift®, and Popcorn Drift®. To see all six, click here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P84RqnUZOJw&feature=relmfu>. These roses do have thorns.

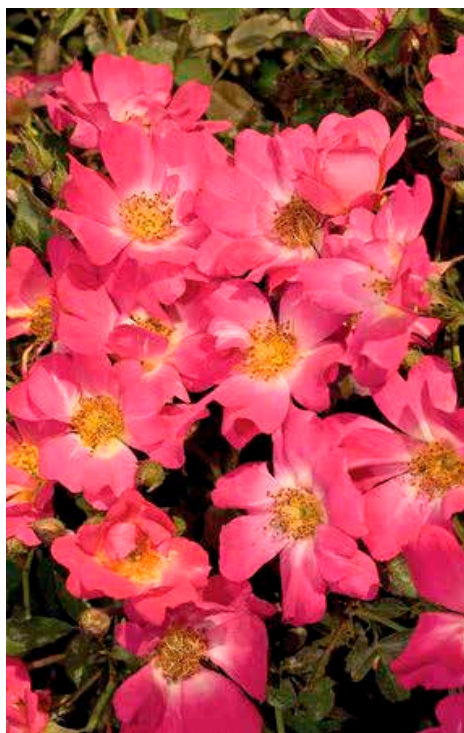
In preparing your roses for winter, discontinue any fertilizing as the weather cools. Do not prune until the spring. Add mulch for winter protection of roots. Be sure to keep your roses watered properly throughout the year. Click here for a visual on preparing for winter temperatures, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ziET2LYJ9M>.

Pruning is best done in the spring, never in the fall and never in the winter. Check your roses in the spring and when you see new shoots, it is time to prune. The Drift® Roses will do best when trimmed back to about 6." Click here to view a video on pruning, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fCD3L8AAWc>.

Drift® Roses are versatile, maintenance free, hardy and would certainly be a welcome addition to any landscape.



Peach Drift Rose



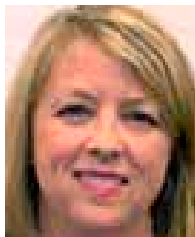
Pink Drift Rose



Red Drift Rose

Plant of the Month

Shasta Daisy - *Chrysanthemum x superbum*



By Lisa Davis
MG 2018

Introduction: As a child, did you ever play the game, **He loves me, he loves me not** or **She loves me, she loves me not** (originally **effeuiller la marguerite** in French)? A person playing the game alternately speaks the phrases “he (or she) loves me” and “he (or she) loves me not” while picking one petal off a daisy for each phrase. When the last petal is picked, the phrase they speak represents the truth as to whether or not the object of their affection loves them or not.

Shasta Daisies are growing near the Shop at the Discovery Garden. They make a good ground cover or border plant. Their attractive, dark green, serrated foliage remains green all year. Shasta Daisies are native to Europe but have naturalized throughout all regions of the United States. Shasta Daisies are one of the best perennial cut flowers as they can last ten days. They are easy to plant, establish, and care for and thus, have been a longtime favorite in Southern gardens for years.

Common Names: Shasta Daisy

Location: The Shop at The Discovery Garden

USDA Hardiness Zones: 4a-10b

Plant Characteristics

Type: Perennial

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 1-3 feet

Spread: 1-3 feet

Bloom Information:

Bloom Color: white petals with yellow center

Bloom Size: 3 inches

Bloom Time: Blooms profusely in the cooler weather of spring and fall.

Culture:

Exposure: Sun to partial shade

Soil: Rich, moist, well-drained soil

Drought Tolerance: Very large and double flowering forms do not do well in our heat and humidity. Look for cultivars that bloom early and are compact in growth habit such as ‘Silver Princess’ (only 12 inches tall and a good choice for containers) or ‘Country Girl’ (an heirloom pink that is sometimes sold at the Master Gardener plant sales). Other varieties to consider are ‘Brightside’ (large, pure white flowers), ‘Victorian Secret’ (neat, compact and good through extreme heat), ‘Becky’ (unusually large and showy flowers on rigid stems that do not need staking), ‘May Queen’ (longest-flowering daisy of all), and ‘Banana Cream’ (lemon yellow flowers that turn to white).

Tolerates Deer & Rabbits: Yes

Maintenance: Cut spent flower stems as close to the foliage mounds as possible to promote flowering.

Benefits:

Wildlife Use: Attractive to bees, butterflies and other insects.

Garden Uses: Shasta Daisies are a good choice for cottage gardens, perennial borders, cutting gardens or for naturalizing meadows.

Consider planting annual ‘Laura Bush’ Petunias or perennial Garden Sage behind Shasta Daisies. Bulbs such as Liatris (a Texas native), Gladiolus or Crocosmia can be paired in front of or beside the Shasta Daisies as well as Oakleaf Hydrangea, a deciduous perennial. Campanula, another perennial, is best grown in front of the Shasta Daisy or next to them.

Propagation: Propagate by division in the fall every 2-3 years or by seed.



Brightside Shasta Daisy



Silver Princess



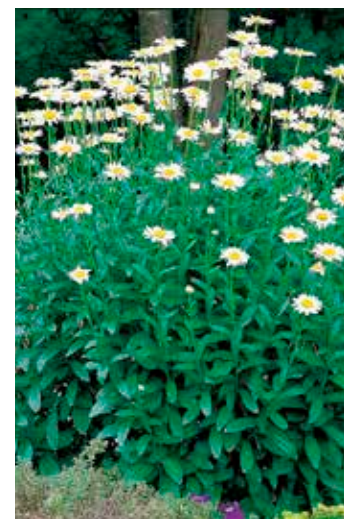
Victorian Princess



Banana Cream



Country Girl



Becky

Antlion

A Beauty and a Beast



By Hedy Wolpa
MG 2018

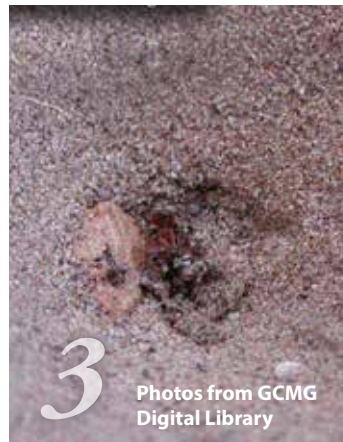
Most people will recognize the Antlion in its rather unattractive larval stage, and then be surprised to learn that its adult form is a lovely, delicate, winged beauty. The Antlion belongs to the insect order Neuroptera, which includes many net-winged insects that undergo complete metamorphosis in their lifespan. This order represents some of nature's most primitive insects, many with a nerve-like web of veins across the wings. The Antlion's family name is Myrmeleonidae, originating from the Greek myrmex (ant) and leon (lion).

The four stages of an Antlion's transformation are egg, larvae, pupa, and adult, and this entire process can take 2 to 3 years to complete! In the larval stage, the Antlion resembles a ferocious predator, with long sickle-shaped mandibles lined with hollow projections (Photo 1). The Antlion larvae can move only backward on its short stubby legs as it prepares its lair to catch prey. It moves in circles, flinging its head and covering itself in sand, with only its mandibles exposed. Patient observers can see the larvae in and around a funnel shaped pit that is about 1 to 2 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep (Photo 2). There it waits for its next meal, typically ants that may slip into the pit where they are snatched and quickly killed (Photo 3).

The Antlion's rough body with forward-facing bristles helps it secure traction in the sand, enabling it to hold on to its prey. It first injects a poison to paralyze its prey, then additional digestive enzymes are injected to breakdown the internal tissues. The larva then sucks out the vital juices and the dead insect is tossed out of the pit, which is then repaired, and the Antlion resumes its wait for its next meal. There are usually several pits located close to each other in soft sandy soil near rocky ledges and at the bases of trees.

The Antlion is also called a "doodlebug" because of its random backward and circular movements as it laboriously builds its pit. The larvae go through several instars over 2 to 3 years, digging many pits until reaching their full maturity and then pupating into a spherical cocoon made of silk and sand. After about 4 weeks, adult Antlions emerge from the pupal case. They will live for a few weeks, reproduce and die.

Adult Antlions resemble damselflies, but their antennae are prominently clubbed at the tips (Photo 4). Their lovely slender bodies support two pair of translucent, spotted or clear, net-veined wings that they fold tent-like over their abdomens. Only 1 to 2 inches in length they fly infrequently, and are mostly seen in the evening, on tree trunks, posts, and walls. Since they are active mostly at night, some species help pollinate night blooming plants. They are not strong flyers and are usually hunting for a mate when they aren't feeding. The female adult lays her eggs in sandy soil, tapping the soil with her abdomen before releasing an egg from her ovipositor. While the larvae are predatory insects, the winged adults feed on nectar and pollen, but they may also prey on other soft-bodied insects.



Guess what?... Antlion larvae are actually beneficial predatory insects, despite this grim glimpse into their sandy-soiled habitat. They mostly eat ants, including red imported fire ants, but also consume other small insects and spiders. Their interesting predatory and nesting habits make the Antlion larvae one of the most interesting insects in our region. They are found in limited areas across the Galveston-Houston region, but are more common in areas of Texas with sandy soils, such as the Hill Country and Piney Woods.

As with all of our beneficial insects, it's important to provide a supportive environment in your garden for Antlions. The adults will seek out pollen and nectar to fuel migration and reproduction, so a variety of native flowering plants that bloom throughout the year is important. And don't scrape out all of the debris, dead leaves, and twigs from your garden or yard too quickly, as these provide cover for Antlions in both the adult and larval stages. Avoid using broad-spectrum insecticides when possible.

Whether you come across the beautiful, winged adult Antlion or its ferocious, ungainly larvae, you're sure to get a glimpse of Mother Nature doing some of her best work.

Cheerfully Chasing the Sun



By Elayne Kouzounis
MG 1998

What is it about the sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) that so delights us and has made them so fabulously fashionable? Is it the bright opened flowers with their ever-cheerful faces turned up to the sun? Or is it the sunflower's sheer stature? Maybe it is simply that the sunflower is so beautiful, yet so useful, and that it captures the very essence of summer—clear blue skies and the warmth of the life-giving sun.

Across the world the sunflower has been adopted as a symbol of light, hope, and innocence. It is truly a flower for all people—young and old, artist and artisan. Although everyone knows what a sunflower is, the image they invariably call to mind is the bright yellow of the common sunflower. There are countless varieties and the number is growing every year. Plant breeders have developed a host of new varieties in every size and color imaginable.

Although most sunflowers are the yellow you would expect, the blooms also come in shades of golden orange, sizzling red, and mellow brown. Among the enormous variety of sunflowers, the annuals make up the largest group. There are more than one hundred varieties, although the majority of annual sunflowers are tall with single heads. There are perennials as well as annuals, and summer as well as autumn flowering varieties. Perennials come into bloom in mid-summer and early autumn—a time when many herbaceous plants are dying off and the garden is starting to look somewhat drab. There are more than 40 varieties

of perennial sunflowers, so there is bound to be a variety to suit you. Like annuals, perennial sunflowers come in single and double forms. Not all sunflowers are immensely tall. There are dwarfs as well as giants, and double as well as single varieties.

Sunflowers are more than just an ornamental plant. Behind its beauty there lies a strong streak of practicality. Every part of it can be put to use, as the native peoples of the Americas discovered many thousands of years ago. They domesticated the sunflower, cultivating it for oil, food, medicine, and dye. With the arrival of European settlers, traders, and adventurers, sunflowers soon found their way to Western Europe, and from there to Russia. It was in Russia that their potential was realized. Thousands of acres were planted, and many new strains and varieties were developed.

Sunflowers are big business. When the seeds are crushed, they yield a very pure oil which is excellent for cooking and makes delicious margarine. This oil is also used in the chemical and plastics industries. Sunflower seeds are a key ingredient in bird and pet food mixes, as well as being eaten by humans in salads, in casseroles, or simply as a snack. The massive demand for their seed, oil, and associated products resulted in many millions of acres being planted across the globe, making sunflowers the world's fifth largest oil-seed crop. Even the pith (the soft, spongy tissue in the center of certain plant stems) has been pressed into service in the past for the manufacture of lifebelts (being an amazing ten times lighter than cork), while the spent plant is not wasted, but made into silage (green fodder preserved in a silo).



Photos by MG Elayne Kouzounis

The wonder of sunflower seeds is not just that they are delicious. The glorious thing is that they are packed bursting with vitamins, minerals, and fiber, and are high in linoleic acid—a polyunsaturated fatty acid which actually lowers the level of cholesterol in the blood and reduces the risk of heart disease. So we all can enjoy the delicious flavors, and feel virtuous eating the seeds.

In the garden, sunflowers provide an astonishing range of heights and dazzling colors meaning there is a sunflower to suit any situation, whether it be to provide height at the back of a border, to line a path, or frame an entrance. At the other end of the scale, the smaller, bushier varieties make fantastic edging plants and look spectacular in containers.

Sunflowers can be grown as informal hedges, as screens to hide unsightly objects, such as an oil tank or compost heap, and they make the most fantastic focal points. Their height, color, and enormous flowers irresistibly draw the eye, distracting from any unsightly areas of the garden.

Sunflowers are guaranteed to give children the gardening bug. Their bright open faces and immense stature brings almost instant results, making sunflowers the perfect first-time plant. Our grandchildren enjoy the sunflowers that are huge and enjoy watching them grow and follow the sun's pattern.

Sunflowers are immensely valuable to gardeners as they make excellent companion crops for a variety of vegetables. They also attract a host of

beneficial insects to help keep pests at bay. When my sunflowers are in bloom, the big black bees will be buzzing around them most of the day. Sunflowers are a joy for the flower arranger and an inspiration for anyone interested in crafts. They can be made to look grand and opulent, or delightfully simple and informal. They will brighten up the gloomiest corner, bringing sunshine into the house. Even when their season is over, their magic can still go on working. When dried or used as the inspiration to decorate a room, the warmth and energy of summer can be captured to cheer up even the dullest gray winter's day.

With all these qualities, it is no wonder that Kansas has adopted the sunflower as its state flower, and that there is a growing movement throughout the nation to get it recognized as the national flower. It is a magnificent plant which deserves a space in everyone's garden, as well as everyone's larder.

Do observe how the sunflower, even on gloomy days, pursues its circular course, following the sun with the unchanging love and attraction natural to it. Our sun illuminates our path through this world.

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows. It's what the sunflowers do."

Quote by Helen Keller



Passionflower

The Fairy Flower

(Editor's Note: this is a reprint of Jan's article in the *Galveston Monthly*)



By Jan Brick
MG 2001

Folklore supports the notion that certain plants attract fairies, whose sole purpose and motivation is the care of the garden. Though they may be perceived as mischievous, engaging in occasional pranks and games, fairies are born with a dedication to their chosen plant, flower or tree. It is said, when a seed sprouts, a Flower Fairy is born... each fairy lives in its plant caring for and nurturing it. Also according to ancient lore, every Flower

Fairy is charged with keeping its plant strong and healthy, assuring it has sufficient sunshine, nutrients and moisture to thrive; including sweeping away dead leaves and spent blooms while polishing the foliage and stems daily. These tiny nature sprites bring their own distinctive personality, which conveys the aesthetic mood and character of each plant.

“Trooping” fairies refers to groups that travel together forming settlements, associations or hamlets for their kin as opposed to “solitary” fairies that prefer a singular life. Imagine a community of these tiny creatures coming upon an expanse of Passionflowers with astonishingly fragrant blooms resembling “miniature ballerinas, dressed in frilly tutus and crowns of antenna on their tiny heads.” This must be utopia, paradise, heaven, a Shangri-La waiting to be colonized, an enchanted and magical land where fairies may dwell.

Passiflora (passionflowers or passion vines) is a genus of over five hundred species of flowering plants mostly tendril-bearing vines although there are shrubs and trees as well. Passionflowers produce spectacular and dramatic showy blooms. In sizes from one-half

inch to six inches with vibrant colors and a heady fragrance, they flourish naturally from South America through Mexico.

Most Passionflowers are perennial in zones 6-10 and will thrive if planted in a bright spot with at least four hours of sun each day; however, they are also delicate so a partially protected location out of the wind is preferred. A well-draining soil rich in organic matter is favored with the use of organic mulch for the roots. Keep the plants well-watered in summer months to promote robust and vigorous flower and fruit production.

Several Passionflower species are grown for their fruit as well as their exotic beauty. Most species have round or elongated fruit from two to eight inches long and two inches across depending on the cultivar. *P. pinnatistipula* has a round fruit while the banana passion flower, *P. mollissima* and *P. mixta*, have elongated tubular fruit and sport bright red and rose colored petals. Maracuja is cultivated exclusively for the fruit juice and the pink or yellow fruit. Sweet granadilla, *P. ligularis*, is another fruit bearer that is widely cultivated; *P. edulis* generates a guava-like fruit used in commercial passion fruit production. Maypop, *P. incarnata*, is a common species in the United States that is grown for its yellow fruit about the size of a chicken egg and sweet in flavor.

Maypop has a traditional and long history of use in Native American culture, the leaves as a sedating tea and in dried powder form as a dietary supplement. There is however insufficient clinical evidence that Passionflower has any positive medicinal power, but they are approved as a food ingredient. Some possible side effects may include drowsiness, nausea, dizziness, heart rhythms or asthma.



Aphrodite Purple Nightie



Blue Bouquet Caerulea



Victoria

The Drama of the Passionflower

Their vibrant flamboyant hues and heady fragrance make the Passionflower plant a welcome addition to any garden.

“Aphrodite Purple Nightie”... Pink and purple, full sun

“Blue Bouquet Caerulea”... Blue, purple and ivory, low-maintenance, fast growing, scented blooms, fruit producer

“Blue Velvet”... award winning, purple-blue three inch flowers with halos of blue, white and purple filaments, will produce edible egg-sized orange fruit

“Blue Crown”... “A striking crown of deep sapphire blue filaments against white petals,” attracts bees and butterflies, fragrant, fast growing, perennial in the ground, blooms from July until hard frost, easily container-grown as an annual or if moved indoors in winter months

“Victoria”... three to five-inch deep pink blooms with dark green foliage and stamens, edible carrot-colored fruit, container-grown if moved inside in winter months

“Clear Sky”... five-inch blue and white blooms, fragrant, cold hardy in sunny locations, easily container-grown

“Ruby Glow”... five-inch maroon-cranberry nutmeg scented blooms, lavender and deep purple filaments and contrasting white band, lush leathery green leaves, yellow fruit, protect base with mulch for return in spring, hearty vine

“Pure Vida Red”... four-inch star-shaped red flowers with purple filaments and white throat, may grow to eight feet, prefers some shade in hot climates, can be container-grown

“Scarlet Flame”... five-inch scented scarlet blooms with bronze leaves, fast grower, full sun, perennial evergreen, easily grown in patio containers

“Constance Elliot”... evergreen climber, star-shaped pure white blooms on purple branches, fragrant



Ruby Glow



Pure Vida Red



Constance Elliot

Passionflower Advice

- Cultivate along walls, fences, and trellises, may grow up to twenty feet in a year
- Can be grown out of doors in containers and taken inside during winter months
- Prune the vines in spring to control growth and promote lush foliage and increased bloom production
- If the blooms have been fertilized by bees, wasps, or hummingbirds, a fruit will develop at the site
- Treat spider mites, scale and other insects with applications of insecticide
- Fertilize with balanced fertilizer monthly
- Avoid fungal infections by watering beneath the plant rather than from above or by spraying with a fungicide in the spring
- Protect from snails with applications of snail bait

Trowels & Tribulations In a Suburban Garden

(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of Donna's column for *La Ventana del Lago*, the City of El Lago's neighborhood newspaper.)



By Donna Ward
MG 1996

Ah - Autumn. Well, almost. At least it's on the horizon. As usual, summer was hot, humid, full of mosquitos, and we spent our time maintaining what little garden survived the onslaught of summer. But September is a time to be thinking about renewing and repairing our landscapes.

Nurseries are stocking up on fall-planted specimens. I have what I call my BBB garden. It's planted to benefit birds, bees, and butterflies. Of course, now is not the time to plant Thai basil,

but it was a magnet for bees all summer long, and it made its way into quite a few spicy chicken dishes. Pick up a package of seeds now for spring planting. The Savannah holly (Photo 1) and its red berries not only gave us holiday decor, but the berries caught the attention of cardinals, chickadees, and titmice. A few years ago, in a few short minutes, a migrating flock of cedar waxwings devoured practically every little red jewel. It's hard to beat the American beautybush (Photo 2) for color. Its clusters of royal purple berries are relished by mockingbirds. This shrub can grow large, but when new growth starts to appear in early spring, I cut it down to about 6 inches and it grows to a nice manageable size loaded with beautiful berries in mid July or early August.

The Texas wax myrtle berries are (Photo 3) not showy by any means, but birds find them quite palatable in spite of their drab grayish color. Butterflies gravitate toward the lantanas. Did you know butterflies prefer 'flat' blossoms since it gives them a secure landing pad? Besides the lantana, they visit daisies, cone flowers, zinnias, pentas, and, of course, the butterfly bush. Can't forget the milkweed (preferably native varieties) where monarchs lay their eggs since the leaves feed their larvae. There's also a shallow birdbath in the garden and I can tell in the morning that it is also

used by night visiting critters. O.K., enough of the fun stuff. It's time for making plans to upgrade your landscape over the next couple of months.

New trees and shrubs planted in fall use those months and the winter months to become established in their new home. At this time there's no demand to produce new growth, no demand to bloom, just time to get settled in. You won't see it happening, but our soil stays warm enough during winter for a healthy root system to grow and become established. Then, when spring arrives, they're ready to perform. But before you go shopping, take into consideration the ultimate size of your chosen tree or shrub; whether it prefers sun, shade, partial shade; high and dry or low and moist; exposed to direct sun or understory. You have time to do your research before you need to knock the dirt off of the spading fork you stashed in the garage last spring.

Is your mouth watering for fresh veggies that haven't been trucked across the country? You're in luck. September is perfect for planting seeds of beets, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce, spinach, radish, peas (both English and snap) pumpkin, cucumber, collards, and transplants of broccoli and cabbage. If you have ever eaten cabbage picked from your own garden, you'd be hard pressed to know it's the same vegetable sold from your local grocer's produce department.

I don't want to be accused of being a 'name dropper' but here are a few veggie varieties that have done well in our garden. BEANS-Early Contender, Golden Wax. CUCUMBER-Straight Eight. LETTUCE-Buttercrunch, Oakleaf. OKRA-Zeebest. RADISH-French Breakfast, Early Scarlet Globe. TOMATO-Celebrity, Sweet One Million. Can't forget PEPPERS- Cubanelle, Jalapeno, Mucho Natcho Jalapeno, Big Bertha Bell, Mexibell. All seeds were bought locally, so head to your favorite nursery.



American Beautyberry



Savannah Holly Berries



Wax Myrtle Berries

A Visit to the University Rose Garden - Hobart, Tasmania, Australia



By John Jons
MG 2003

While visiting the city of Hobart in Tasmania, Australia last year, I could not help but notice that many of the streets facing homeowner gardens had roses. These roses appeared to have many and unusually large blooms. Upon closer inspection I also noted that the roses were very healthy (no fungal or insect damage).

On the way back to my hotel in downtown Hobart, the tour bus passed a rose garden. After arriving at the hotel and checking in, I left the hotel in search of the rose garden. I discovered that it was located only about one block away from my hotel. The rose garden is called the "University Rose Garden." It is situated in the Queens Domain (a park area) and maintained by the City of Hobart. This public rose garden is also an Australian National Rose Society's garden.

The University Rose Garden is bordered on two sides by a very busy public highway and sidewalks with a great deal of foot traffic. The rose beds are neatly laid out within a very well-manicured lawn that contains some raised rose beds and several stone walkways that lead to a large fountain which is the rose garden's center focal point.

I estimated that there were about 3,000 roses in the rose beds. Many of the rose varieties were unknown to me. I suspect that they were Australian bred roses. Some of the rose varieties were roses that I have grown

in the Houston/Galveston area for example, Double Delight, Mister Lincoln, Pascali, . . . What I found particularly interesting was that a large number of the roses in the rose garden beds were hybrid teas. I observed minimal to no fungal damage. Besides each of the rose bushes having a large number of blooms, the blooms were very large - 4 to 8 inches diameter. For example, a classic widely (US) grown hybrid tea rose like Mister Lincoln, an all America Rose Selection winner, hybrid tea, dark red, 35 petals, released in 1965, that produces around 4" diameter red blooms (in the Houston/Galveston area) was producing blooms around 8" in diameter (See the Figure 1). It illustrated the concept of genotype (the genetic makeup of a plant) vs. phenotype (how the environmental factors may influence the genes).

Roses were brought to Hobart by the first European settlers and are very popular with both home gardeners and the public parks. It also appears that Hobart has the ideal climate and soil conditions that can produce large and healthy rose plants. I also suspect that many of the rose varieties planted in this garden were selected based upon the results of the Australian National Rose Trials (Figures 1 & 2). So it should not be surprising that they are performing so well.

To see pictures of the entire rose garden, go to YouTube "A Visit to the University Rose Garden, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia."

<https://youtu.be/kYzUGXwfSpU>



Is it Honey Bee or HoneyBee? Bed Bug or Bedbug? House Fly or Housefly?

(This is a reprint from Richard Levine's blog. He is Communications Program Manager at the Entomological Society of America and editor of the *Entomology Today Blog*.)



By Richard Levine

Writing insect names using American English can be difficult. Some species have different names depending on where you are, or with whom you are speaking (think “ladybug” or “ladybird” or “lady beetle”). More often than not, an insect may not even have an official common name because out of the million or so insects that have been discovered and described, only a couple of thousand have been designated with common names by the Entomological Society of America (ESA).

To make matters worse, even the ones that DO have official common names — ones that we see nearly every day — may have different spellings depending on whether they appear in scientific publications or other print media, such as newspapers or magazines.

For example, according to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, “honeybee” and “housefly” and “bedbug” are spelled as one word. However, according to the [ESA Common Names of Insects Database](#), they are spelled as two words — “honey bee” and “house fly” and “bed bug.”

Newspapers such as the New York Times or the Washington Post tend to use the dictionary spellings, while scientific journals such as the Journal of Medical Entomology or Annals of the Entomological Society of America will of course use the spellings that are officially sanctioned by the entomological community as they appear in the [ESA database](#).

The reason for the discrepancy is that entomologists use two words if a common name accurately describes the order to which a particular insect belongs. For example, all true flies belong to the order Diptera, so true fly names will be spelled using two words by entomologists — house fly, horse fly, pigeon fly, or stable fly, for example. However, despite their names, dragonflies and butterflies are NOT true flies — their orders are Odonata and Lepidoptera, respectively — so they are spelled as one word. The same goes for “bed bug” or “stink bug,” both of which are true bugs in the order Hemiptera, which is why they are spelled as two words in the entomological community. However, insects that are not in the order Hemiptera, like billbugs or sowbugs, are spelled as one word.

Likewise, honey bees and bumble bees are true bees in the order Hymenoptera, so entomologists spell them as two words, even though the dictionaries and newspapers spell them as one.

In his book *Anatomy of the Honey Bee* from 1956, Robert E. Snodgrass wrote:

Regardless of dictionaries, we have in entomology a rule for insect common names that can be followed. It says: If the insect is what the name implies, write the two words separately; otherwise run them together. Thus we have such names as house fly, blow fly, and robber fly contrasted with dragonfly, caddicefly, and butterfly, because the latter are not flies, just as an aphision is not a lion and a silverfish is not a fish. The honey bee is an insect and is preeminently a bee; “honeybee” is equivalent to “Johnsmith.”

So there you have it. If you're ever in doubt, check the [ESA Common Names of Insects Database](#).



Cultivar versus Variety



By Cindy Haynes,
Dept. of Horticulture,
Iowa State University
Extension and
Outreach

As a horticulturist, it is important that I use the right terms the right way (at least most of the time). Variety and cultivar are two terms often abused by gardeners and horticulturists. What's the difference, you ask? Quite a lot.

Both are part of the scientific name. Both appear after the specific epithet (second term in a scientific name). Both refer to some unique characteristic of a plant. However, this is where many of the similarities end.

Varieties often occur in nature and most varieties are true to type. That means the seedlings grown from a variety will also have the same unique characteristic of the parent plant. For example, there is a white flowering redbud that was found in nature. Its scientific name is *Cercis canadensis* var. *alba*. The varietal term "alba" means white. If you were to germinate seed from this variety, most, if not all would also be white flowering.

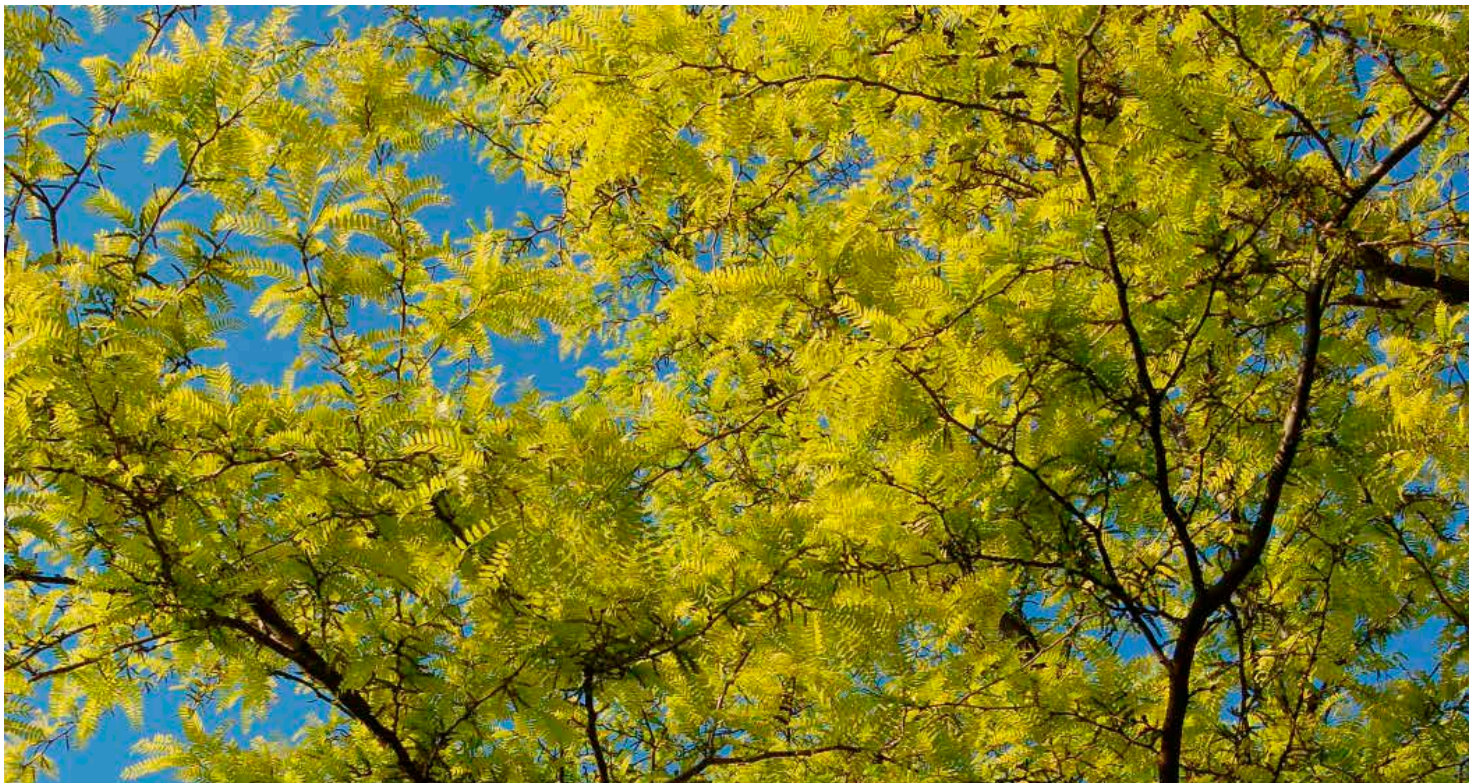
Cultivars are not necessarily true to type. In fact cultivar means "cultivated variety." Therefore, a cultivar was selected and cultivated by humans. Some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could

be hybrids of two plants. To propagate true-to-type clones, many cultivars must be propagated vegetatively through cuttings, grafting, and even tissue culture. Propagation by seed usually produces something different than the parent plant.

Varieties and cultivars also have different naming conventions. A variety is always written in lower case and italicized. It also often has the abbreviation "var." for variety preceding it. The first letter of a cultivar is capitalized, and the term is never italicized. Cultivars are also surrounded by single quotation marks (never double quotation marks) or preceded by the abbreviation "cv." For an example of a cultivar of redbud, consider *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (or *Cercis canadensis* cv. Forest Pansy) which has attractive dark purple spring foliage and pinkish-purple flowers.

Can a plant have both a variety and a cultivar? Sure. One good example is Sunburst Honeylocust. Its scientific name is *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst.' The term "*inermis*" means without thorns and "Sunburst" refers to the bright golden spring leaf color.

In today's world of horticulture, cultivars are planted and used more than varieties. Yet we often still refer to a type of plant species as a variety instead of what is actually a cultivar. Let's kick off the New Year by being more accurate and start using the term cultivar.



This Sunburst Honeylocust has both a variety and a cultivar. The scientific name is *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst'

Tree Stories: Hackberry



By Dr. Margaret
Canavan MG 2003

I'm going out on a limb here, so to speak. This month's tree is often unfairly called a "trash tree:" the common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). When Ike blew down our huge Oak, the tree that volunteered to provide shade was a Hackberry on my neighbor's side of the fence that had ignored the saltwater inundation. So before you dismiss this tree, bear with me to learn of its many fine qualities.

Hackberry is a native to most of North America.

It is similar in many respects to its relative, the American elm. Both these bottomland trees tolerate diverse soil conditions, but Hackberry tolerates a greater range of environmental conditions and can persist despite drought, pollution and wind.

This large tree typically reaches 30-50 feet tall, with a broad canopy, and thus needs plenty of space. It is adaptable to a wide range of light and moisture levels, easy to transplant, and grows rapidly. When allowed to grow naturally it develops an attractive vase-shaped form, with rough papery leaves and delightful light gray warty bark. The purple pea-sized fruit produced in fall allegedly tastes like a date (although I have never tasted one) and it is mostly pit. This deciduous tree gives us shade in summer and sun in winter.

Hackberries give sustenance to numerous wild critters. Butterfly enthusiasts know it takes caterpillars to create butterflies, and Hackberries provide many species with excellent food. Butterflies you may see include Tawny Emperor, Hackberry Emperor, American Snout, Question Mark, and Mourning Cloak.

Folks who enjoy bird watching probably know that among those that appreciate the fruits are cedar waxwings, mockingbirds, American robins, bluebirds, and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. The fruit persists well into winter and is popular with small mammals as well. The tree provides good cover and nesting habitat. Birds love the caterpillars of the above-mentioned butterflies.

As they have with most native plants, humans have found multiple uses for the Hackberry. Native Americans valued it for medicinal, food, and ceremonial purposes. Bark was made into tea to treat numerous diseases and conditions, fruits were used for food and flavoring, and wood was the traditional fuel source for altar fires at peyote ceremonies.

Hackberries are often planted to control wind erosion, and the deep root system makes it useful for preventing soil erosion on disturbed sites. It is used ornamentally as a street tree because of its ability to withstand drought and tolerate urban environments. Hackberry is also a bonsai species. Hackberry wood is most commonly used as firewood but is sometimes used to produce inexpensive furniture, with wood quality similar to that of elm and white ash.

So what's not to like about the Hackberry? Sure, it often pops up where not expected or wanted. But it is drought- and heat tolerant and easy to grow, grows rapidly and feeds butterflies, birds and other animals. You might have one growing right now in a corner of your yard or along a fenceline. If there is room for it, let it be and it will provide you with shade and wildlife visitors.



Photo by M/G Dr. Margaret Canavan

Hurricane Ike caused the loss of 40,000 trees on Galveston Island. The Galveston Island Tree Conservancy was formed to address that loss and to date has replaced almost 14,000 through grant-funded plantings and giveaways, with more planned. "Tree Stories" is an ongoing series of articles intended to bring attention to outstanding Island trees, tree care, and tree issues. If you have or know of a special tree on Galveston Island that should be highlighted, please email treesforgalveston@yahoo.com.

Margaret Canavan is a Galveston resident, a Galveston County Master Gardener, and a member of the Conservancy Board.

A Tree with Historical Uses The Osage Orange / Bois d'Arc



By Willie David
MG 2010



By Alice Rodgers
MG 2013

My friend, Jesse, came by the house recently and handed me a large orb resembling a yellowish-green, knobby hard orange, asking me if I knew what it was – he had gotten it from under a tree while visiting in northeast Texas. Not knowing, I fired up the old diesel for a trip to see Dr. Johnson. From his grin after I handed it to him, I knew he knew and we talked. He, of course, suggested I write an article about it. With the help of my neighbor, MG Alice Rodgers, a journey of learning about the Osage Orange began.

It is native to a small area of eastern Texas, southeastern Oklahoma and southwestern Arkansas which native range overlapped the range of the Osage Indian tribes, which gives one of its many names. French trappers were the first to encounter the tree which they named bois d'arc, translated as bow wood, because the native

Osage tribes prized the strong, heavy, and exceedingly hard wood to make their bows and war clubs that were superior weapons for fighting and hunting. The tree got to be known also as bowdark, bodarc, hedge apple, and bowwood. The Osage Orange is a member of the Mulberry or Moraceae family. Its scientific name, *Maclura pomifera*, is in honor of William Maclure known as the “father of American geology.”

During the 1850s as the settlers moved into the Great Plains, the most widespread historical use of the bois d'arc was hedge row plantings for thorny, impenetrable living fences or solid barrier pens for farms and ranches in retaining livestock while keeping predators away. Also, it was grown as a hedged windbreaker. After the Civil War, the northern steel mills were in need of new markets since rifle barrels were no longer in production and the answer came in 1874 when the invention of barbed wire came about. Thereafter, the Osage Orange was used less but retained its importance by providing fence posts and the prairie winds still needed calming with wind breaks. The hardness of the wood made it popular also for use in the spokes of hubs of wagon wheels. The Osage Orange has a fascinating history and has made an important contribution to settling the American West.

A perennial, small to medium-sized tree, the Osage Orange commonly grows 20 to 40 feet and is often wider than it is tall. With a typically short trunk it divides into several prominent limbs with many upward arching, crooked, interweaving, thorny branches forming a dense rounded or irregular crown. Lower branches will droop toward the ground creating dense shade. Occasionally it's been known to grow as tall as 50 to 60 feet, attaining its largest size in the Red River Valley area. The bark is thin, gray, sometimes tinged with yellow; on old trees it is divided into strips or flakes. It contains tannin and was once used for tanning leather (Pic 1). Each twig or branch is armed with 1/2 inch stout spines and produces a sticky, milky sap when broken (Pic 2). Being a dioecious species, male and female flowers are borne on separate trees;

only female trees will produce fruit. The inedible, yellow-green fruit, commonly called “horse apples,” ripen in September or October. When broken open it exudes a bitter, milky sticky sap, as do the branches, and may cause irritation to the skin. The seeds are initially cream colored, but turn brown with age and exposure to air (Pic 3). The deciduous leaves are alternate, ovate in shape and pointed at the tip, simple, entire margin, ranging from 2 to 4 inches long, dark green with lighter green underneath, and turn translucent or golden yellow in the fall (Pic 4).

Song birds and upland game birds find food and shelter in its low hanging branches. Whitetail deer and goats browse the leaves. Squirrels tear the fruit apart to get at the seeds which they use for food.

Maybe you'd like to grow an Osage Orange. It can be propagated by cuttings or seeds, requires full sun, and tolerates many different soil types. Thornless male tree varieties are available nowadays being the Wichita, Park, Pawhuska, or White Shield.



Green Genes

3 MGs share a heritage of gardening



By Karolyn Gephart
MG 2017

When childhood is filled with images of planting for food, flowers in beds planned each year for color and cutting and people around you who love to grow things and find beauty in nature, is it any wonder that the child grows up loving the same things? That childhood describes so many Master Gardeners who come from families who loved gardening.

Barbra Markey grew up in Baton Rouge and brought her love for gardening to League City where she now lives with her family. Her

heritage is a mix of city folks and country folks.

“My father’s family were ‘city folks’ and lived on a large lot in town. My grandmother had trees with figs, cherries, bay leaves, grapefruit, lemons, and Japanese plums for jam. Sometimes, we even had dew berries. People would come to buy anything fresh my grandmother was selling. The family made and sold Cherry Bounce, a liqueur, which is served over homemade ice cream. In South Louisiana, people still make and use Cherry Bounce,” Barbra said.

Her grandmother grew wild roses, four o’clocks (Barbra still has seeds from her bushes), shrimp plants, lilies and carnations to just name a few. Barbra can’t remember a time when there wasn’t something blooming and cut flowers were always placed in a drinking glass on the kitchen table.

Her mom was from ‘country folks’ and lived on land outside of town. “Their garden was prolific; my grandparents always grew corn, pole green beans, watermelon, okra, speckled butter beans, field peas, beets, carrots, cantaloupe and tomatoes. There was always enough to share with their children, grandchildren, and neighbors in the community who needed help. No one ever went hungry. They raised chickens and sold eggs. Milk cows provide the opportunity to sell butter as well,” Barbara remembers.

Her parents worked but there was always a small garden and her mom grew daisies, bachelor buttons, periwinkles – all simply fresh flowers for her house. Now when someone enters Barbra’s house, they also see simple flowers in her kitchen. The bouquet might come from the grocery store but their presence is noticed and enjoyed.

Barbra became a Master Gardener in 2013. As a former teacher, she is good with statistics and helps Dr. William Johnson with numbers from events. She is also part of the cooking team.

Her Green Gene lives on and is alive and well; both her children grow plants in pots and she too loves container gardening.

“Both sets of grandparents, as well as my own parents, influenced me

in different ways. One side was always growing food to eat, the other side grew trees to bear fruit and things to make and sell. Everywhere I went, I saw an abundance of green plants, green trees, and people using what the earth provided to grow and produce, I just don’t know another way,” Barbra said.



Ed Klein, also from the Class of 2013, became a Master Gardener out of the desire to grow things that his property in Seabrook would not accommodate. Although born in Missouri, he was 6 months old when his family moved to California.

The family enjoyed the California planting conditions.

“Both my parents grew vegetables, had fruit trees, and grew delicious boysenberries. They lived on farms during the Great Depression and had to fend for themselves. So our family of eight enjoyed fresh oranges and lemons and great boysenberry pie,” Ed said.

When Ed lived in Southern California, he had 1.75 acres and dedicated part of that land to having a 26 fruit and citrus tree orchard and raised beds.

“The lemons, guavas, plums, figs, and apricots, amongst others, were bountiful. I would have expanded that orchard but then got transferred to Texas. I missed gardening but just didn’t have the land to grow things on my small lot in Seabrook. Joining the MG organization seemed a good thing to do. Sure wished I would have had that knowledge when I was younger,” Ed said.

Several MGs were mentors for Ed.

“John Jons got me involved in the Master Gardener Program. I visited the garden with him prior to joining and picked some kumquats. When I made kumquat cookies and kumquat bread for the MGs, I guess

that sold them on being a member of the team. I started working with Henry Harrison on making vegetable beds. He was a great mentor and a perfectionist. Then Ira Gervais asked me to join the kitchen team. I guess he liked the cookies I made,” Ed said.

The kitchen team had great camaraderie and worked together well. When Ira was elected MG President, Ed was asked to take over the kitchen as head chef, a job he enjoyed. Later he worked as assistant treasurer then transitioned to treasurer for two years. He has since gone back to being assistant treasurer, working with current treasurer Debra Brizendine.

While MG activities can develop into many hours per week, Klein does not limit himself to just this area of involvement. Having had a career with the Boeing Company for 40 years, he worked various positions with his final one being manager of Cargo Integration for the Space Shuttle Program. He is one of a select few to have worked on all 135 Space Shuttle missions. So retirement was not going to be boring or leisurely for Ed.

“After retirement, I got involved in several volunteer efforts. I was fortunate to have a good career and wanted to give back to the community. I got involved in the AARP Tax-Aide program doing income taxes for seniors and low-income clients. After nine years, I am now the District Manager for the Houston-Galveston area. I am also President of our HOA for the last 9 years and was elected two years ago a Seabrook City Councilman. So when you don’t see me at the garden, you know I’m involved somewhere else,” Ed said.

He and his wife Adel have been married 35 years and have two sons, one a UPS manager in California and the other a robotics engineer in New Hampshire. Both he and his wife are avid travelers and have been to 77 countries so far.

When it comes to travelling, Ed reports the pandemic is “really cramping their style.” He also enjoys fishing, snorkeling, cycling, and photography. Living in Seabrook works well with his style of landscaping.

“My gardening preferences have always been tropical landscape design emphasizing color. I incorporated those ideas as much as possible with limitations due to environment,” Ed said.

Master Gardener **Pam Hunter** was acquainted with tropical landscaping as she was born in Honolulu. She moved to Texas at age 6.

When Pam Hunter’s mother encouraged her to make her own bed at 9 years old, it wasn’t a bedroom chore. It was a garden. “I planted zinnia seeds and was so proud when they came up and actually bloomed! This is when the “bug” began. I followed in her footsteps after buying my first house.

I put in flower beds and planted like crazy. One year I got runner-up



for Yard of the Month. The following year I succeeded in winning first place,” Pam said.

She was following in her mom’s footsteps to win.

“We had no idea she had a green thumb. My parents bought their house in 1970 and by 1980 she had turned their yard into a flower paradise. She was a paraplegic and worked from her wheelchair in her beds. She was a very determined woman and eventually won Yard of the Month for Galveston County one year. It made the front-page news,” Pam said.

She lives in Hitchcock now with her husband Darrell. The two have three children and eight grandchildren. Before retiring, Pam worked as an Executive Administrative Assistant in the oil and gas business for 25 years.

In 2018 she decided to become a Master Gardener.

“Propagation class was fascinating to me. I can proudly say I still have

Green Genes *(continued)*

3 MGs share a heritage of gardening



the plants we propagated in class. I had no idea what options this class would give me,” Pam said.

What she learned has been put to good use at the Discovery Garden’s Pergola.

“I love being at the Pergola. It’s the centerpiece of the Discovery Garden and a wonderful place to sit, rest and converse. I’ve learned a lot by sitting with other MGs at the Pergola. I also enjoy working the educational seminars and with the Interns,” Pam said

She works with fellow 2018 classmate Lynn Shook.

“In addition to the Pergola gardens we have the Entry Way beds as well. We grow annuals, bi-annuals, perennials, bulbs and roses. We experiment with different seeds and plants too,” Pam said. “Lynn and I get out to the Discovery Garden at sunrise and plan what we’re going to do that day and then tackle our tasks. Lynn is one of the reasons the Pergola has been as successful as it is. Her knowledge and experience are immeasurable. I’d be lost without her. Not to mention the other MGs and Interns who always show up when needed.”

Those early sunrises give Pam a chance to do what she loves, photography. She shares what she captures in photos with others. “Photography, it goes hand in hand with flowers in my opinion. I also love raising butterflies and plant shopping,” Pam said. “Sometimes I tend to get a little overzealous and plant more than I need. That’s when I start giving them away or donating them. Either way it’s a good feeling to give.”



How to Divide *Daylilies*

(Sources: Daylilies - *The Perfect Perennial* by Lewis and Nancy Hill *Houston Garden Book* by John Kriegel)



By Patricia Martin
MG 1998

Daylilies should be divided for several reasons. One is to start new plants for your gardening friends. Another is to keep the plants healthy. When a clump becomes too large, the flowers become smaller and less numerous.

Daylilies don't need to be divided every year. Most varieties need to be divided every three to five years. The best time to do this for our area is in the fall when the weather begins to cool off - in October or early November.

The easiest way to divide the plants is to dig up the whole clump with a fork, and thus avoid damaging the roots. Cut back the foliage to four or five inches above the soil line. Rinse off the soil so you can see the many fans before separating them. The next step is to cut the fans apart with a clean, sharp knife. Try to cut the clump like you would a pie. It is easier to get a decent amount of leaves and roots on each division by cutting a large clump with a knife in pie-shaped sections. Other gardeners feel they have better success getting the necessary sprouts and roots on each division if they pry the fans apart with a screwdriver or use their hands. Whichever method is used, care should be taken to cause the least harm possible to the new divisions. Remove any decayed or damaged roots. Many gardeners trim the roots to a moderate 8" to 12" in length prior to replanting.

After splitting up a clump, plant the new divisions in a sunny, well-drained location. Daylilies require a minimum of six hours of sun a day. Any good garden soil is fine for daylilies. They grow best in well-drained soil with the addition of organic compost to increase water retention. Humus or peat moss as well as sand may be added to our heavy clay soil. Plant the clumps one-inch deep and 18-24 inches apart. Plants set too deep into the soil won't bloom well. Make a mound in the center of the hole. Set the plants in place with the roots spread down the sides of the mound. Work the soil around and between the roots as you cover the plant. Firm the soil and water well to be sure there are no air pockets. Don't fertilize until four to six weeks after planting; also, do not fertilize during the hot summer months. Use low nitrogen fertilizer in early spring and fall. In March or October established daylilies respond to cottonseed meal or super phosphate to increase blooms and improve plant health. Even after daylilies have become established, water whenever there is not enough rain. This is most important during the budding and blooming seasons.

Daylilies should last a lifetime. If the daylilies don't bloom well the first year after dividing, the reason is it takes time for the fans to develop. Daylilies are one of the most rewarding perennials because they have few disease and insect problems. By selecting varieties of daylilies with different blooming times and repeat blooming, the gardener can have plants blooming for several months in the spring and summer.



When I Dream



Photos by MG Patricia Martin

Awakening Dream



Leebea Orange Crush



Butterscotch Ruffles



Marcia Fay

A Master Planned Kitchen

Hard-working gardeners create a place to relax, partake in produce they've grown

(Editor's Note: This is a reprint from the August 2020 *Coast Monthly* magazine by MG Barbara Canetti - Photos by Stuart Villanueva)



By Barbara Canetti
MG 2016

The Galveston County Master Gardeners are putting the finishing touches on the Discovery House, which might be the ultimate farm-to-table kitchen. The building includes a small meeting space, dining room and kitchen for hard-working and hungry master gardeners at their facility in La Marque's Carbine Park, 4102 Main St.

The remodeled building, which previously served as a tractor shed and had grown in size and purpose over the past decade, recently got a makeover that includes an expanded area for tables inside and out, and an up-to-date food serving area and kitchen.

It took more than a year, and progress was further slowed by the COVID-19 closure of the facility, but the shiny new building is ready for use. Master Gardener volunteers did most of the heavy lifting and construction. No tax dollars were used for the project. Instead, the organization used \$80,000 in donations and money raised from its plant sales to pay for the project.

"Master gardeners who work on the gardens can come in here at noon, participate in a potluck lunch with other master gardeners, enjoy the social part of our organization and share their knowledge," said Sharon Zaal, president of the Galveston County Master Gardener Association.

Members sit at long, handmade tables and converse over lunches prepared on the nearby outdoor grill and eat a plethora of fresh vegetables and salads, with many of the ingredients coming from the nearby Discovery Garden.

"We prefer the long tables," said Ira Gervais, past president of the group. "We believe it enhances the flow of knowledge among our members." On any given Thursday before the COVID-19 crisis, up to 70 master gardeners gathered to work in the field — planting, weeding, fertilizing, testing and harvesting. The group donated much of the produce grown in the Discovery Garden to local food banks. A large donation board hangs in the meeting room, noting the amount of tomatoes, onions, peppers, okra and dozens of other fruits, herbs and vegetables given to the community.

But there's always enough for the workers, too. When they go into the building, they're ready to relax and have a good meal.

"We were running out of space," said Gervais, referring to the original structure.

College of the Mainland assistant professor Andrew Gregory helped the project by drawing up plans to expand the footprint of the small structure, Gervais said.

The structure met all hurricane-required codes and county requirements. Two covered patios with ceiling fans for outside dining or classes were added and inside they installed new cabinets and appliances in the kitchen area. Shaker-style cabinets, painted a light gray, were installed, along with a deep farm sink and dark granite countertops. The backsplash and rear wall of the kitchen features oversize white subway tiles, giving the room a clean and industrial look. Outside is a second sink for rinsing utensils, although lunch is served on recycled paper plates.

Extra storage cabinets were needed for supplies, and a special nook for the refrigerator and the freezer was incorporated into the plans. Glass-

fronted cabinets installed high above the others are for rarely used bowls or ornamentals. The concrete floors were sanded and stained and then stained again to get the color right, said Kevin Lancon, a Master Gardener volunteer who helped with the work.

An outdoor grill is used for the burgers, ribs, hotdogs or sausages prepared for the group, and sometimes a brisket or deep-fried turkey is on the menu — cooked in a Cajun style usually, Gervais said. Members bring covered dishes of their favorite salads, side



Galveston County Master Gardeners, from left, Kevin Lancon, Sharon Zaal, Linda Barnett, Ira Gervais and Kathy Maines all had a hand in refurbishing the group's Discovery House in Carbine Park in La Marque

dishes and casseroles and one table is reserved for the outpouring of desserts. A beverage counter was placed near the serving area so diners could pick up their silverware, condiments and drinks before finding an empty seat. “We can’t wait to get back in,” said Linda Barnett, a Master Gardener who chairs the kitchen committee and helped design the industrial farm kitchen.

William Johnson, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service’s Galveston County horticulture extension agent, is proud of the members, who volunteered their time and energy to create the space, he said.

Besides functioning as the kitchen and dining area, the building will serve the Master Gardeners well in the future. Demonstrations on grafting, figs, canning and composting will be held there because of its proximity to the garden, which measures about 4.5 acres. Hands-on workshops on tools, herbs and even cooking classes can be conducted in the space. A large flat-screen TV will allow for presentations for the audience to see and a place where teams can meet as they plan the bi-annual plant sale.

“I am excited that the renovated Discovery House will be able to provide a more comfortable and more functional space to provide educational programs on site for our community residents as well as our Master Gardener volunteers,” Johnson said. “There is also a definite plus for visitors and Master Gardener volunteers to be able take a break from hot, cold or inclement weather conditions that occur in our Gulf Coast region.”



Photos by Stuart Villanueva

The Discovery House in Carbine Park features two covered patios with ceiling fans for outside dining or classes



Sharon Zaal, President of the Galveston County Master Gardeners Association, talks about the improvements made to the Discovery House



The Discovery Garden Update



By Tom Fountain
MG 2008

While the pandemic and a hurricane season continue their threat to our area, seasons in the garden move on. The days are getting shorter and summer is fading. It's time to finish summer harvest and get started on the fall gardens.

Despite the persistent hot weather and concerns about COVID-19, quite a few Master Gardeners continue coming to the garden. They have chosen a somewhat safer way to get out of the house and get a little fresh air and sunshine. I have heard that the coronavirus is less likely to be spread in open air than indoors, so coming to the garden is safer than shopping. However, we still need to practice social distancing, so wear a mask in public and stay at home when you can.

One of the many reasons I enjoy going to the Discovery Garden is visiting with everyone. The Master Gardeners who are there have come together to work and keep our garden in shape and growing. One such group pictured is taking a break from taking care of the community gardens. In Fig. 1, are John, Jim, Jenni, Clyde and Phil. In Fig. 2, David is weeding the grapes, enjoying the flowers and he is taking care of the blueberry beds. Judy and Tish in Fig. 3 are seen heading back down to the serenity or low water garden to keep that area looking nice.

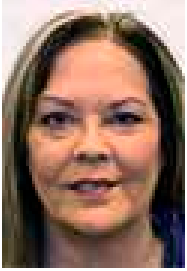
During the past two months the temperature has averaged more than 3 degrees above normal across the area. Rainfall is trending below normal now, so the area is approaching drought conditions. The Weather Service's extended forecast indicates temperatures will likely continue above normal through this fall, while rainfall is forecasted to be below normal. However, we are in the middle of hurricane season and things can change abruptly, so stay prepared.

When there is lots of hot dry weather you find weak links in the irrigation system. In Fig. 4, Julie is testing out the adjustment she made on the sprinkler, as Robert and Vicki look on. In Fig. 5, Kevin is showing Tish how to shut off a water valve in order to repair a leak. The hot weather has also put the new multi-purpose building to use as a place to cool down and take a break. Briana, Glenn, Sharon, Linda, Jane, Kathy, Dr. J, Lisa and Fran are enjoying resting and a little cool air (Fig. 6).



Photos by MG Tom Fountain

Pink in the Pergola



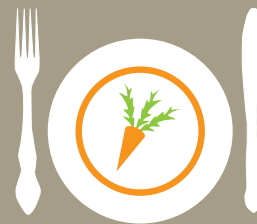
By Pam Hunter
MG 2018



Photos by MG Pam Hunter

Seasonal Bites

easy recipes



By Sandra Gervais
MG 2011

We're all wilting and hiding from glaring sunshine and relentless heat.

The same is also true of our gardens. Outside of succulents, most plants are conserving their resources by slowing down. Even relentless bloomers like salvias and zinnias have slowed a bit. A few super hardy vegetables, mainly eggplant and okra, are still struggling along and even producing a bit. But everything is grateful for a slurp of water. Help from us keeps them going, but a good rain washes their faces and makes them stand up straighter.

So here is a recipe from friends in Louisiana for an eggplant dish that doesn't require much cooking. They like it as a spread/dip, but it can also be served as a vegetable with a meal. It can be spiced up or down as you prefer.

Dessert is a recipe for "No Bake Cookies" that Debra Brizendine brought to the garden early this year. It's yummy, easy to make, has several different variations, and no oven is needed!



Eggplant Appetizer

3 cups of peeled, cubed, medium-sized eggplant
1/2 cup chopped red or green bell pepper
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cloves of garlic, pressed
1/4 cup olive oil

2-3 tablespoons tomato paste
4 oz. chopped mushrooms, fresh or even canned & drained
1/4 cup water
1/2 cup stuffed olives, chopped
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Combine first 5 ingredients in a large skillet, stir, and cover.
Cook on medium for 10 minutes.
Add rest of ingredients, mix well, cover and simmer until vegetables are tender.
May be served hot as a side vegetable, cold as a dip, or spread with crackers, pita bread, etc. Keeps in refrigerator, well-covered, for a week.
Freezes well.

Notes:

Feel free to add more salt and oregano or even other herbs & spices, such as 1/4 teaspoon of cumin, and/or turmeric, or coriander.
Use peppers with a real bite instead of bell peppers.
You may even top it with Parmesan cheese to serve.



No Bake Cookies

1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter
2 cups granulated sugar
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 cup milk (any kind works)
1/2 cup peanut butter (either kind)
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups old fashioned oats

Melt butter in saucepan over medium high heat.
Add sugar and cocoa, then stir until combined.
Add milk and stir until everything is well mixed.
Cook until mixture comes to a boil.
Boil for 2 minutes.

Remove pan from heat.
Stir in vanilla and peanut butter until mixed.
Stir in oats until everything is well combined.
Drop by spoonful onto parchment paper.
Let cookies cool and harden.
Number of cookies will vary by size dropped.

Notes on possible variations:

Add 1/3 cup of coconut & 1/3 cup less of oats.
Add 1/2 cup of your favorite nuts.
Use a different nut/seed butter, such as almond butter.

Texas Master Gardener Association – Awards Program

The Search for Excellence Awards Ceremony

Our Galveston County Master Gardener Association placed in all 7 Categories competing in the Extra Large counties in the 2019 Texas Master Gardener Association State Awards held in a Zoom Meeting on August 20.



Youth / JMG	First Place	Discovery Garden Explorers
Project	Third Place	Discovery Garden Memorial Composting Station
Educational Program	Third Place	Growing Tomatoes in the Texas Gulf Coast Region (a 3-part seminar series)
Written Education	First Place	<i>Gulf Coast Gardening Newsletter</i>
Research	First Place	"A Root-Knot Nematode Control Study: Years 2017– 2019"
Outstanding Individual	Third Place	Briana Etie
Outstanding Association	Third Place	Galveston County Master Gardener Association

Congratulations Galveston County Master Gardeners



Photo by MG Sharon Zaal

Considering current global events surrounding COVID-19, a few of our MGs joined "The Search for Excellence Awards Ceremony" virtually keeping proper social distancing and wearing masks



bulletin board



Volunteer Opportunities

For the **Master Gardener Hotline** contact Ginger Benson by email at galvcountrymgs@gmail.com or call the office at 281-309-5065.

Volunteer Opportunities

Tideway is a program of the Transitional Learning Center

Dr. Johnson has approved Tideway Transitional Learning Center (644 Central City Blvd., Galveston, Texas 77551) as a location where Master Gardener service hours may be earned. Plans to prepare the gardens at Tideway for spring planting are ready and volunteers are needed. Volunteers can contact Jennifer Pinard at jpinard@tlc-tideway.org. The focus is on the long-term needs of individuals with an acquired brain injury. The program offers accessible horticultural experiences, through which individuals with a brain injury can improve sensory awareness, motor skills, range of motion, endurance and flexibility as well as regain confidence, and learn new skills. This provides the opportunity for our residents to develop the necessary skills to gain and maintain a productive lifestyle whether it is on site or volunteering in the community. The residents at Tideway are very much "hands on" in building the different garden beds, in fact some of the residents came up with the designs.

And they have chickens!

Volunteer Opportunities

Libbie's Place Adult Day Care has been designated as a Demonstration Garden for the Master Gardener Association. It is located at 5402 Avenue U in Galveston and is part of Moody Methodist Church outreach ministries <http://www.moody.org/libbie-s-place-senior-day>. A crew is needed to maintain and upgrade the garden as needed with your time spent counting towards MG volunteer hours. MG Pam Windus is heading up the crew and will determine the day, time and frequency of the work days. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Pam at 409.771.5620, email DrPGilbert@aol.com to let her know the day/times (AM/PM) that would work best for you. Thank you for your time and consideration in this great new endeavor for the Master Gardeners.

GalvCity Master Gardener Discovery Garden - Hitchcock, TX, USA

85°F

HIGH: 85°F
LOW: 73°F

at 06:30 PM
at 09:49 AM

Wind: 1 mph SE High gust 18 mph at 08:51 AM

Humidity: 81% Feels like 97°F

Rain: 0.87 in Seasonal Total 32.17 in

Barometer: 29.82 in Hg Falling Slowly

Don't forget to put the link for our weather station on your smart phone and computer:

<https://www.weatherlink.com/embeddablePage/show/269c8db099654c0fa522d3420104b173/wide>

SmugMug

To see lots of photos of what the Galveston County Master Gardeners are up to, we now have access to browse and search photos in SmugMug. Use the following link in your favorite web browser to access: <https://gcmg.smugmug.com/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tour Guides for Thursday Public Access and Tour of our Discovery Garden

Our Demonstration Garden is open for touring by the general public on each Thursday from 9:00 -11:00 am. MGs are needed to serve as tour guides for our Discovery Garden.

Contact Herman Auer - 409-655-5362 or hauersrmga@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed to develop and deliver presentations on various horticulture topics of interest to the public in our surrounding communities and our Master Gardeners. Classes are given at the Extension Office on Tuesday evenings and on Saturday. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute, develop and use skills from life experiences as well as contribute to one of the main GCMG missions of Education. We have experienced GCMG Mentors and Specialist available to guide and support. Please contact if you have any questions and so we can get you scheduled to present a class. Volunteers are also needed to help with the Saturday programs and the Tuesday evening programs. If you can help, please contact

Contact Herman Auer - 409-655-5362 or hauersrmga@yahoo.com

AgrilLife Extension Office Discovery Garden needs volunteers!

The gardens around the AgrilLife Extension Office are maintained by Master Gardeners under the team leadership of MG Ginger Benson. This is an opportunity to make a good impression on the many visitors to the AgrilLife Extension Office. Come out and have a good time while learning more about ornamentals. Please contact Ginger at 281-309-5065, email galvcountrymgs@gmail.com to find out the schedule and join her team.



Here is a great way to support our GCMGA. Amazon will donate 0.5% of our personal purchases to Galveston County Master Gardener Association. All you have to do is: Go to smile.amazon.com - Choose Galveston County Master Gardener Association as your charity. Save smile.amazon.com to your favorites. - Always start from this site to do your Amazon shopping. - You should see your chosen charity in the top bar on Amazon's website. - If you have any problems, search smile on Amazon's website

Galveston County Gardeners ask Q&A

(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of Dr. William M. Johnson's article in the *The Daily News*.)



By Dr. William M. Johnson
CEA-HORT & MG
Program Coordinator

Q: There are several lime-green colored caterpillars feeding on the leaves of my oak tree. What are they and what can I spray to control them?

A: Caterpillars of all kinds make an appearance during the summer. Armyworms, webworms and orange dog caterpillars are all generating calls to the office. Some of these are ferocious looking but are harmless if handled. However, a few caterpillars, if touched, will get your immediate attention. Stinging caterpillars can be found on a variety of landscape plants.

When people think of stinging insects, they typically think of bees and wasps, not caterpillars. However, caterpillars have several species that sting. They usually show up at this time of year and are most often found feeding on the leaves of trees and shrubs. Stinging caterpillars are likely to be more common this year than usual because of the unusually mild winter.

While several species of stinging caterpillars occur in our area, the Io caterpillar is the most reported thus far.

They are referred to as stinging caterpillars, but they do not possess stingers like honey bees and wasps. Stinging caterpillars have spines that are connected to poison glands. When touched, the tips of the spines break and release the poisonous chemicals, which serve as a chemical defense mechanism to protect it from predators.

Many caterpillars have spine-like projections that resemble stinging caterpillars but are harmless. There are no general characteristics that differentiate these from the stinging types, so it's best to leave them alone or learn to identify them and know their host plants.

In general, don't handle caterpillars if you are unsure of their identity. Io moth caterpillars may reach 2 to 2.5 inches long. They are a striking chartreuse green color with well-defined red and white stripes running the length of their bodies.

Distinct groups of long yellow or green spines tipped in black cover most of the body of an Io caterpillar. Io caterpillars have voracious appetites and can quickly strip leaves from host plants. They feed on more than 100 recorded plants, including oaks, azaleas, roses, corn, elm, hibiscus, willow, ixora and palms.

Io caterpillars feed side by side as a family group in their early stages of growth, and entire leaves can be consumed in a short time period. If control is needed, spray young caterpillars with insecticides containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* as an active ingredient (such as Dipel or BT). Older/larger caterpillars should be sprayed with insecticides containing carbaryl as an active ingredient (such as Sevin). If you would like to control these mechanically, remove them carefully with forceps and dump them into a container of warm soapy water.

If you are the recipient of contact by a stinging caterpillar, use adhesive

tape to remove spines and apply ice packs to reduce stinging. A paste of baking soda and water will also help reduce the stinging.

A person with a history of allergic reactions, hay fever or asthma should contact a physician. Initial reaction to a stinging caterpillar is severe burning and pain, numbness and swelling in the affected area. In addition to intense pain, you may experience difficulty with speech and breathing. Allergic reactions may include nausea, vomiting, fever, shock and convulsions.

As a precaution, look before pruning or reaching into plants and learn to identify stinging caterpillars in our area.

Q: I was pruning my oleanders and developed a skin contact rash soon after handling the pruned branches. Then two days later, I got covered in spots and a rash on both arms. I was wondering if plant reactions tend to happen right away, or can they take a couple of days to present, especially with regard to oleanders.

A: Most area gardeners know oleanders are quite poisonous, but that factor is generally related to ingestion of leaves, seeds or other plant tissue. While sensitivity to the oleander sap is not common, it has been reported.

If you have exhibited sensitivity in the past, I recommend wearing gloves, long sleeved shirts and full-length pants when pruning oleanders. If you were pruning during the warmer part of the day, sweat would tend to aggravate the spread of sap on the skin. Similar to rash development after exposure to poison ivy, people with sensitivities to the sap of fresh-cut oleanders can develop rashes in a matter of a few hours or as long as several days after contact.

Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care professional regarding medical treatment.

Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M System. Visit his website at aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston



When people think of stinging insects, they typically think of bees and wasps, not caterpillars. However, caterpillars have several species that sting including Io caterpillars pictured above.

2020 GCMGA Monthly Meetings



By Judy Anderson
MG 2012

October

Please join the Galveston County Master Gardeners for an exciting evening in the Discovery Garden; details below. This would be a good opportunity to introduce children and grandchildren to the wonders of life in the garden at night. This event will observe social distancing and masks as advised.

Night Creatures in the Garden

Anyone who's ever sat near a street light or porch light at night has seen the effect that light has on night time insects. Thousands of crawling and flying insects are attracted to various types of lights, and can be identified, photographed, and collected. Small insects attract larger insects, and provide an opportunity to observe them interacting near their natural habitats.

Join the Galveston County Master Gardeners at Discovery Garden in Carbine Park on Tuesday, October 13, from 7 pm to 9 pm for an insect observation evening, Night Creatures in the Garden.

- Master Gardeners will provide a brief explanation of how insects are attracted to various lights and will come out of their habitats to rest on white sheets and bask in the lights.
- A printed guide will be provided to help identify common night-flying insects.
- Wear clothing and shoes (closed-toe) appropriate for the evening weather.



November

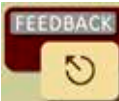
Master Gardeners please mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 10. This will be the Annual Meeting and Elections. It is important for all members to attend this business meeting that will give us the "State of the GCMGA". Look for more information to be provided.

You may contact Judy at
jande10198@aol.com for information.



We Want Your Feedback

We would love to hear from you. Send us your comments or suggestions for future articles, or just let us know how you are using our newsletter. To make sending feedback easy, just click on the button with your response.



Be **KIND**,
Be **RESPECTFUL**,
Be **HEALTHY**
the Master Gardener Way.

Facemasks
REQUIRED
When Visiting
Our Discovery Garden

- Wash with soap and water.



OR

- Clean with alcohol based hand cleaner.

