

GULF COAST *Gardening*

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TEXAS

MASTER GARDENER

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Galveston County

WRITTEN BY GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
IN COOPERATION WITH THE GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE
OF TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Getting your veggie groove on!



Kathy Maines and Sharon Zaal

It's January, the coldest month of the year for Galveston County. With average lows of 45° and average highs of 61°, is it too early to think spring vegetables? Absolutely not!

Spring is just around the corner in our not-so-long winter. Over the last 25 years, last winter frost dates for our area ($\leq 32^\circ$), occurred as early as January 8 and as late as March 21 with an average last frost date of February 14. With this knowledge, early bird gardeners *are getting their veggie groove on* and *cautiously* planning their earliest spring plantings.

There are so many reasons to grow your own vegetables. Check out four of the top reasons to grow vegetables this year (See page 4).

Sharon Zaal

Sharon Zaal
GCMG President 2018-2021



Discovery Garden's first cabbage and broccoli of the season last month. The cabbage weighed 4.9 pounds! Photo by Vicki Blythe

Kathy Maines

Kathy Maines
GCMG President 2022

Happy New Year!

A great New Year's Resolution would be to eat more fresh vegetables and this issue will be encouraging you to do just that, especially with ones YOU have grown in your vegetable garden.

It's a new year with new officers, new meetings planned and plant sales already on the calendar. Continuing education and volunteer hours are waiting to be completed. A new Master Gardener program with interns will begin in June. SO many opportunities and all you have to do..... is to make it happen!

Take the seedling quiz, read a new book, make the soups. So much is here for you to try. Enjoy the first issue for 2022!

Karolyn Gephart

Karolyn Gephart
Editor



Vegetable bouquet. Photo by Michelle Thompson.



Photo by tam.edu

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Cover photo by Michelle Thompson

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TEXAS A&M
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Grow Vegetables This Year



Sharon Zaal
GCMG 2016

There are so many reasons to grow your own vegetables. In no particular order, below are four of the top reasons why gardeners love to make the effort.

Freshness and Taste

Foods are tastiest in their freshest form. Some foods just cannot be grown year-round in our climate. The long cycle of harvesting, processing, packing, and shipping produce to supermarkets is necessary, but understandably not ideal for that fresh “farm to table” taste experience. Many a gardener has taken up the trowel in quest of that experience alone. The most popular home-grown veggie in Texas is the tomato. (Well, it’s actually a fruit, but we won’t quibble over that now.) Nothing is quite like biting into a juicy ripe tomato picked fresh from your garden and there is no comparison with a store-bought hothouse tomato. For produce that delivers the freshest of taste, you can choose to grow your own tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and much more.

Control What’s in Your Food

If you are the one planting and harvesting produce from your garden, then you know exactly where it was grown and what went into it. In your own backyard garden, there are gardening practices to manage pests with the safest and least invasive methods. You can take comfort in knowing that you are the one determining pest management and how your vegetable plants are grown.

Nutrition

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, their research continues to show that those who eat more fruits and vegetables are less likely to have chronic diseases such as strokes and cancers. Vegetables, rich in nutrients, are packed with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. In their freshest form, vegetables that ripen in the garden often have more nutrients than store-bought vegetables that must be picked early. By growing your own, you may also end up eat-

ing more, which is good for your nutritional health.

Well-being

Fresh air, sunshine, and hands in the soil, might seem like a trivial activity, but it may be one of your best indulgences. Who knew sweating in the garden, squatting, stretching, and dragging a bag of mulch could relieve stress, anxiety and depression, while boosting your energy! The rewards of exercise are well known, but the benefits of absorbing Vitamin D, the “sunshine vitamin”, are numerous. Vitamin D is not only crucial for healthy bones and protection against certain diseases, but there is growing evidence of Vitamin D’s importance in preventing depression. And if that doesn’t get you pumped, there is nothing more rewarding than successfully planting a seed, watching it grow, then harvesting and consuming it.

So, if you aren’t already an experienced vegetable gardener, all it takes is a little garden space, some soil, seeds or transplants, water, and a bit of your time. With all the upside benefits and a little help from this newsletter, it may be time to get your veggie groove on!

Sources:

Last Freeze Date-Galveston County

<https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=hgx>

<https://www.currentresults.com/Weather/Texas/temperature-january.php#d>

The most consumed vegetables in the USA

<http://supplementsos.com/nutrition-stats/most-consumed-foods/most-eaten-vegetables-usa/>

Tomatoes are the most popular garden vegetable crop in Texas

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/tomatoes/>

Vitamin D and Depression

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28914205/>

Fruit and vegetable intake and the risk of cardiovascular disease, total cancer and all-cause mortality—a systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5837313/>



Photo by MG Ira Gervais

Maximizing Spring Vegetable Garden Success



Barbara Lyons
GCMG 2014

Galveston County's climate is amenable to year-round gardening, which is an exciting prospect for vegetable growers. Spring brings the promise of a bountiful harvest when planning, execution, and Mother Nature all cooperate. Below are a few suggestions from lessons learned in my backyard vegetable garden that may improve your harvest.

Optimize Garden Preparation

Garden spaces should receive at least 6-8 hours of sunlight per day. Urban or suburban backyard vegetable gardens may have sun blocked by trees, especially over years as trees grow larger. Thinning out tree branches can help. Soil tests are useful to pinpoint deficiencies for amending a bed with compost and fertilizer. Allow 2-3 weeks between sending the sample, getting results, and adding recommended amendments prior to planting. Use the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory to download soil test submission forms and for more information.

Select Best Seed and Plant Varieties

One often overlooked but important part of successful vegetable growing is seed and plant quality. In my experience, quality varies greatly and can be the difference between a successful or mediocre garden. USDA regulates labeling for commercial and agricultural seed allowing consumers to make informed choices. While there are many companies offering seed product on the market, the varieties may not be the best selection for Gulf Coast growing conditions of heat, humidity, and challenging soil. Look for seeds from companies with a wide selection of varieties and seed types (organic, con-

ventional, heirloom, etc.) and with disease resistance (fungus, virus, wilt, root rot nematodes, etc.) to find a better choice for our climate and conditions.

Seed catalogues, both on paper and online, make an excellent resource including information about planting depth, interval and row spacing as well as ideal soil temperature range for optimal sprouting. Some seeds are coated or implanted in a paper tape which offers ease of planting for small seeds prone to dense planting, making thinning less of a chore. If too much information is overwhelming, look for vegetables labeled *All-America Selections* (AAS) which have been demonstrated to grow well in test gardens in various climates throughout the United States and can be selected to maximize results. In recent years the AAS have further divided the US into regions and now also suggest varieties for different geographic areas. The AAS website announces winners annually and is a repository for lists of previous winners (www.all-americanselections.org).

Plant quality can vary due to the care and conditions of the grower or seller. Pick plants which are free of insects or disease. Forgo plants that are overgrown for the size of pot or are long and leggy in favor of ones which are just the right size for transplanting.

Choose Appropriate Date for Planting

A key to a productive garden is to plant so that harvest will occur before the weather gets too hot but also when conditions are not too cold. Finding the exact time to transplant starter plants with a minimum chance of freezing temperatures can be challenging. Some years when January temperatures are moderate, planting in the last weeks of January can be a good



Beets



Carrots

Photo courtesy of pixabay.com

Maximizing Spring Vegetable Garden Success cont'd

idea. In 2020 when extended freezing temperatures occurred in late February, it would have been a disaster. Consider the average last freeze date for the garden location. A savvy gardener might plant a few tomato plants in late January while monitoring daily temperatures, ready to protect the plants by use of cloche, freeze blanket, or row cover in case there is a cold snap. If you are looking for cost savings, a cloche can easily be made from a gallon water jug. These measures not only protect the plant from the cold but also from the effects of wind which can severely damage young tender vegetation and is much more common in our area in early spring.

For planting seeds, it is important to plant when the soil temperature is favorable for a particular vegetable, each variety or cultivar having its own optimal sprouting temperature range. Soil temperature can easily be taken with a soil thermometer by sticking the probe into the soil to the depth where the seeds are to be planted. Recommended temperatures can be found on some seed packages, in seed catalogues, or in Extension publications online. Consult the Vegetable Planting Guide (page 8) for Galveston County for suggested planting date ranges.

Use Adequate Plant Spacing

Pay attention to plant-to-plant and row spacing intervals. In our area fungal diseases are prevalent and can threaten the plant and its productivity. Adequate plant spacing allows for proper air circulation to help keep plants stems and leaves as dry as possible to keep fungal disease at bay. Proper spacing also makes room to maneuver in among the plants for surveillance, pruning, and harvesting.

Monitor garden progress

A lesson learned from the late TMG member Luke Stripling, a vegetable growing mentor, is that “A garden likes to see your shadow and hear your footsteps.” A successful garden needs regular surveillance and attention so that any problems are noticed and acted upon before becoming greater ones. Daily trips are a good time to look closely at plant development, inspect for any insect presence/damage or signs of disease, do a little weeding, observe the need for water, redistribute mulch, do plant pruning, tie up plants to cages or stakes, fertilize, harvest produce, and other general maintenance measures. A garden suffers when left unattended and can easily be overwhelmed by weeds, insects, disease, and over-ripe vegetables. If time is a concern, plant a smaller garden, which requires less daily tending.

Keep records

Refer to last year's notes of what is going on in the garden when beginning the planning phase each growing season. It makes it much easier to reference what the weather was like the last year, the last time tomatoes were fertilized or what variety of green beans was most productive. Your notes give insight into the growing conditions in your microclimate. Information on plant productivity will assist in planning next year's garden so that varieties can be selected which had the best productivity and the least problems. Notes can be made on a large calendar, in a notebook, in a spreadsheet or on a phone or gardening app. I prefer a composition notebook with a heavy cardboard cover because I can attach maps of the garden layout, reference plant information pesticide use, photos of problems or of insects or other garden pests, production charts, and keep all



Leeks



Lettuce



Potatoes

“A garden likes to see your shadow and hear your footsteps.”

records in one place. No matter what method is chosen, it is most important to have information to refer to in the future.

Control Damage by Mother Nature’s Creatures

If diseases and insects were not enough to contend with, many backyard vegetable gardens must also co-exist with animals. There is nothing more discouraging than letting a tomato stay on the vine one more day to ripen to perfection only to find it decimated by a squirrel or finding the corn patch stripped by raccoons just before harvest. Squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, birds, deer, snails, and rats can all be garden pests. Protection of vegetables with row cover, hardware cloth or bird netting may be helpful in limiting access of larger animals.

Judicious placement of a motion-activated sprinkler can deter animals and also the gardener, so be sure to keep a bucket near the sprinkler to cover it during trips to the garden. Use of a PVC pipe structure covered with fine mesh screening over the top and sides, and fastened to the ground with bricks or garden stakes can offer protection. Although this option may be costly at start-up, it can pay benefits for years to come. Covering developing vegetables with plastic clamshell containers, organza bags, or nylon hosiery may provide modest protection. Early harvesting of vegetables before ripening may help.

To ripen tomatoes, simply place them on a counter on paper towels or newspaper out of direct sunlight. They will ripen in time without further intervention. Many other vegetables may be harvested when small and need no additional ripening. Squirrels may be appeased by a more preferred food source and water provided in a part of the yard away from the garden.

Rats may be controlled with proper pest control measures. The use of bird netting, Mylar® helium balloons or streamers, or red Christmas ornaments may be tried to keep birds from vegetables.

Deer may be discouraged by use of tall or electrified fencing. Rabbits can be excluded from the garden with low fencing. Snails can be picked off leaves or the garden can be treated with iron phosphate snail bait. Some gardeners use cayenne pepper sprinkled throughout the garden as a deterrent. However, some animals may not taste the pepper while some have been seen consuming the hottest of peppers on the vine without suffering ill effects, so the effectiveness may be questionable. If used, it must be reapplied often.

Other tactics can include planting more plants to afford some loss to animals or using varieties that have numerous smaller fruit to assure some are leftover after attrition from animals. While many of these methods may not be research-proven they do give some ideas for the harried gardener.

Spring can be a very productive time for vegetable gardens in Galveston County. For particulars concerning various vegetables, consult the Vegetable Easy Gardening Series on the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension website (aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu) for information in English and Spanish.

For a Planting Guide for Galveston County, go to http://counties.agrilife.org/galveston/files/2021/12/GC-125_Vegetable_Planting_Guide_2021.pdf

Reference:

Federal Seed Act; regarding standards for marketing related to seed quality: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/fsa>



Seeding



Tomatoes

Photo courtesy of pixabay.com



Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

for Galveston County

GC-125
12-21
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Galveston County Office
4102-B Main Street (FM 519)
La Marque, TX 77598
281-534-3413
galveston.agrilife.org/

Vegetable	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Beans, wax bush & snap bush												
Beans, lima pole & snap pole												
Beets (fall crops best)												
Broccoli (transplants)												
Cabbage (transplants)												
Collards												
Corn												
Cucumber												
Eggplant (transplants)												
Kohlrabi (fall crops best)												
Lettuce												
Mustard												
Okra												
Peas, English & Snap												
Peas, Southern												
Peppers (transplants)												
Potato, Irish												
Potato, Sweet												
Pumpkin												
Radish												
Spinach												
Squash, Summer												
Tomato (transplants)												
Turnip (fall planting best)												

Average Last Freeze Date for Galveston County February 15

Average First Freeze Date for Galveston County December 17

Stephen Brueggerhoff,
County Extension Agent – Horticulture

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Vegetable Gardening in Containers



Elayne Kouzounis
GCMG 1998

Growing vegetables in containers, or even hanging baskets, is not a new gardening style. Reasons for gardening in containers might be because of the lack of growing room and the need for nutritious food, prompting gardeners to be creative. For successful vegetables in containers, several points of culture must be considered:

All containers must drain well and have at least one drainage hole.

A lightweight potting soil that is rich in organic matter is ideal. You can create a soilless mix that incorporates a combination of worm castings, compost, peat moss, playbox sand, vermiculite or perlite, as well as rock phosphate or bone meal for supplemental nutrients. Moisten and thoroughly mix all of these ingredients before adding them to a container. Penn State Extension has published an article on methods and materials for making homemade potting media online: <https://extension.psu.edu/homemade-potting-media>.

According to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Vegetable Specialist Dr. Joe Masabni and if applicable, the drain holes work best when they are located along the side of the container, about 1/4 to 1/2 inches from the bottom.

Containers should never be filled to the top with soil. After the soil has been placed in the container, water it in well. The soil should settle to a level that is at least 1/2 inch below the rim of the container. This will create a reservoir, which will enable future watering of the container to be more efficient and thorough.

Monitor and adjust watering schedule to environmental conditions. Keep in mind that plants grown in containers dry out more quickly than do plants grown in the ground. During periods of excessive heat, containers may need to be watered more than once a week. Watering with rainwater in the early morning is ideal.

With the containers in good order, it will then be time to select the plant varieties that you prefer to grow and eat. Here are a few varieties that are easy to grow in containers or in the ground.

Tomatoes: Patio, Pixie, Tiny Tim

Peppers: Yolo Wonder, Keystone, Canape

Eggplant: Florida Market, Black Beauty, Long Tom

Squash: Dixie, Gold Neck, Early Prolific, Straightneck

Leaf Lettuce: Buttercrunch, Salad Bowl, Romaine

Radishes: Cherry Belle, Scarlet Globe, White Icicle

Cucumbers: Burpless, Early Pik, Crispy

Parsley: Evergreen, Moss Curled

Another good way to expand your growing space is to grow vertically with the aid of a trellis. Any plant that has a vining habit of growth, like pole beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and even cantaloupes can be grown upward to utilize space and to keep fruit off the ground. Almost any type of surface that allows the plant to climb or work its way up into the air will suffice.

Because I have a very hard time bending, I started using enormous plastic pots that had no holes for drainage. My husband drilled four holes for drainage, and they are a blessing for me. Seeing and caring for your plants gives you such a feeling of achievement along with the joy and satisfaction of consuming fresh home-grown goodness.

Sources: *Vegetable Gardening*, A Sunset Book, Lane Books, Menlo Park, California, ninth printing 1971

<https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/EHT-062-vegetable-gardening-in-containers.pdf>



Kale and Swiss Chard grown in a container.

Helpline: Planting With Seeds



Briana Etie
GCMG 2017

Question: When is the best time to start tomatoes and other early spring vegetables from seed?

Answer: Most vegetables need four to six weeks from seeds to soil contact germination until planting day. Using a calendar, count backward from the time you want to plant your vegetables in the ground.

In Galveston County we use February 15 as the last freeze date. (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/when-expect-your-last-spring-freeze>)

Starting your seeds early to mid-January would give them plenty of time to germinate and the plants to harden off and plant after the last freeze date.

In our Galveston County Master Gardener Greenhouse, we start with sterile trays or pots and use a sterile soil for seeds and cuttings. Seeds can be laid on top of premoistened soil in a seed starting tray or a pot you want to grow your tomato or other vegetable in until you plant it outside. We use a thin layer of soil to cover seeds like tomatoes and sweet peppers and then tap down the soil to get good seed to soil contact. Using a very soft stream of water to prevent the seed from moving, moisten the top of the soil. We use a seed heating mat under the trays or pots to heat the soil to 70 to 80 degrees. A bright south facing window can work, however without bottom heat the seeds could take longer to germinate. The seeds do not need light to germinate, they need moisture and heat. In our trays on the heating mats, the seeds can take three to five days to germinate. Most tomato seed companies print 7 to 10 days on their labels.

Not all seed needs are the same, however most vegetables other than lettuce do not need light to germinate. It is best to read

the seed pack for each variety's growing requirement. Some seeds packets may not have the germination information and researching the information from a good reputable seed company is good advice.

When the seeds germinate, light becomes very important. If the seedling does not have adequate light, it will stretch for the light and become too leggy or elongated and collapse. Do not let the soil dry. It is best to moisten the soil instead of the seedling to prevent damping-off. This disease or fungus is caused by wet conditions. Starting with sterile pots and soil help prevent damping-off.

The first leaves that appear on a seedling do not resemble leaves of the mature plant. We call these cotyledon leaves. When the seedlings grow true leaves, we move the seedlings to a pot that our plants will grow in until they are planted. We also begin to fertilize our seedling at this time. We fertilize seedlings every two weeks with a liquid fertilizer, at half the recommended label application. This should strengthen the stalk of your plants and give them a healthy structure.

Finally, before planting your vegetable plants and after the threat of frost, you want to harden them off. This is a common term that means to slowly acclimate your plants to the outside conditions. This process should take one week. For the first couple of days a good place to do this is on a covered porch for half of a day. If it is warm on the first day your plants will droop. This is a normal response. For the rest of the week move them closer to the edge of the porch until the young plants have a whole day acclimated to sun, wind and temperature of your area.

For a great resource for direct sow seeding click this link <https://www.plantanswers.com/articles/directseedingintogardensoil.asp>



Cotyledon tomato seedlings.
Photo by Kathy Maines.



Cotyledon and true leaves on seedlings.
Photo by Briana Etie.



Tomato seedlings near a window. Photo by Hazel Lampton.



Seedlings on shelves. Photo by MG Kevin Lancon.

MG Delivers Produce to Area Food Banks



Alysha Davila
GCMG 2020

Master Gardeners are known to share their knowledge with each other and their communities but they also share much more: their food.

Members eager to help our community formulated a plan using their capability of growing enough food to make a difference by creating five 12-foot beds at our Discovery Garden for growing seasonal vegetables to donate to food banks in Galveston County.

This idea sprouted in 2012 with Ira Gervais, a 2011 Texas Master Gardener graduate. The Discovery Garden always has horticulture enthusiasts buzzing around, so compiling a Community Bed team assigned to care for the vegetable beds growing food for the food banks blossomed with ease.

Our first year of the program, Galveston County Master Gardeners donated 692 pounds of a variety of vegetables and fruits including: potatoes, lemons and bell peppers.

The next two years, the number of pounds donated doubled, making the grand total in 2014 at 2,761 pounds! Our proudest year to date was 2018 when 3,300 pounds were donated to individuals who worry about where their next meal is coming from.

While Community Bed team members have changed over time, our chapter's dedication to growing food for those in need has never altered. Team members take turns delivering freshly harvested vegetables to several different food banks across Galveston County. Within the past two years, the team needed several additions because existing leaders had moved away. Member Debie Lambson volunteered to be the Community Bed leader with Maria Abad and myself standing by her side.

One of the challenges the team has faced in the past, on oc-

casation, some food banks would kindly turn away the fresh produce offered. These food banks would turn us away if they had too many of one item, or if there was a history of having a hard time giving away a specific vegetable.

“Limiting what we are allowed to grow does not allow us to show the community the variety of vegetables that can be grown in our area,” MG Maria Abad said.

Discovery Garden Vegetable Lead Debie Lambson encourages us to identify community partners in addition to food banks, revealing there are several organizations to choose from that may want a wider range of different produce.

The pandemic was another enormous hurdle to overcome because much like the rest of the world, the entire program shut down. Even though this was a time of devastation, it was not enough to put a halt to the persevering volunteers dedicated to feeding the hungry. In 2020 and at the prime of the corona virus's grasp, our Master Gardeners still managed to produce 1,872 pounds for food banks in Galveston County.

Our last winter was a fatal one for many fruit trees, forcing garden managers to revamp the orchard. The donated produce in 2021 is 880.5 lbs. and with only 150 lbs. of Meyer lemons total 1050.5 for the year (at press time).

However, in the words of Debie Lambson “we will never stop trying to help feed people in Galveston County that need healthy good food.”

Below are two local food distribution centers you may consider for vegetable and fruit donation. Browse online or call to find out more about policies and procedures for donation:

Mary Queen Catholic Church Food Pantry, Friendswood: <https://maryqueencatholicchurch.org/food-pantry>

Interfaith Caring Ministries, League City: <https://icmtx.org/>



MG Ira Gervais with produce loaded



Maria Abad and Alysha Davila harvesting vegetables. Photo by Debie Lambson.

Growing Vegetables in Aquaponics



Briana Etie
GCMG 2017

The Discovery Garden in Carbide Park has a successful aquaponics system.

Aquaponics is the marriage of aquaculture, which involves raising fish, and hydroponics, which involves growing plants in a soilless media. Aquaponics is an integrated and balanced system using the byproduct of one species to grow another.

The Aquaponics Garden has been growing vegetables since 2017. The team consists of myself, MG members Gene Speller, Tom Fountain and John Nisbet. We have had great success growing tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, kale, broccoli, okra, Swiss chard, carrots, radishes, various lettuces and basil. We have even have grown Tilapia and Blue Gill perch.

In comparison to traditional gardens, the aquaponics garden can produce mature vegetables faster and with much less weeding and watering. We still see insect pests, mostly Cabbage Loopers and Tomato Hornworms. For control of moth or butterfly pests, we use a foliar application of pesticides containing active ingredient BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), which is an insecticide that is rated safe to use in aquatic production around fish. However, there are no soil pest or root fungus issues because our plants are grown in a soilless medium.

We use two basic types of growing containers, media beds and raft beds. Our media beds are fifty-gallon plastic containers filled with water and round, porous clay pebbles that are produced from clay pellets baked in a kiln, and fired at 1000°F. In this process the pellets expand and thus become porous. The trade name for this product is Hydroton. Our raft beds consist of three, 50-gallon plastic containers fitted with Styrofoam™ rafts that float on top. Each raft bed holds 42 plugs for plants.

In aquaponics, oxygen is important to the roots much like traditional soil gardening. We use aerators in the raft beds and air is created in the media beds as water falls over the pebbles.

Nitrates created by nitrifying bacteria from the ammonia waste of the fish is a vital part of the success of growing vegetables in our Aquaponic Garden. Occasionally we add chelated iron when chlorosis or yellowing of the leaves appear. In addition, we monitor the water quality weekly to ensure our fish have a healthy environment to thrive and continue to provide us with the nutrients to grow our vegetables successfully.

The GCMG Aquaponics garden was inspired by a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia several years ago. This method gives an alternative way to grow produce on land that is not good for growing anything.



Aquaponics Hoop House area



Plants growing in the pebble beds



Kale, Chard and Broccoli



Plants up close on raft beds



Buttercrunch lettuce in raft bed. Photo by MG Gene Speller.



Strawberry Fountains

Kids in the Garden



Herman Auer
GCMG 1983

I can recall my grandchildren in my garden pulling carrots and beets and digging Irish potatoes. Every potato that was found was greeted with all the excitement of finding Easter eggs, or like a prospector finding gold.

Getting children involved in gardening is both fun and rewarding, plus lifetime memories are made. When children pull carrots, wipe the soil off, and eat this root crop with the top still attached, they remember this event. They will also go to that location looking for more carrots to eat. The size of the vegetable is not what matters. The memory is there and they don't forget.

I didn't forget it either. I remember my mother being in the garden and using wood ashes to deter aphids on mustard greens. In a hole, she put chicken manure under what was to be a cucumber plant on a small hill for drainage. Don't be surprised if children enjoy gardening but have a vegetable that they do not like. It's part of growing up. What I didn't like was the white patty pan summer squash cooked with milk, butter, and sugar. But even then memories are still made.

While children are learning the reward of harvest through patience, consider using radishes that produce in less than 30 days, a great place to start children in the garden. When the harvest takes place, they can still remember when the vegetable was planted. English peas and corn are two vegetables children can eat fresh while in the garden. Green beans planted and packed under the soil have small tendrils that come up very quickly. They look very big to young eyes. They make a statement like "Here I am, watch me grow and soon you can pick the beans I produce." This is when a whole new world opens up to this new young gardener.

Kids are eager to pull or pick and they need to be taught when a vegetable is ready and what is the peak time to harvest for flavor and tenderness. They soon realize the bees and some insects are our friends and you don't need to kill them when you see them. The child's brain will absorb more than you think it will. Soon you will hear them tell others what they have learned. Then they become the educators. This is your reward and all you have to do is just listen.

To get a child started in growing vegetables, create a theme garden. It can get children excited about gardening. The children's garden can be made very inexpensively. Think like the child and be creative. Remember that what interested you as a child is the same today: watching things grow. Share your stories with your children. These make wonderful memories for both you and them.



Herman and his grandchild learning about timing for harvesting



Children having fun with vegetables in the garden



McGregors Garden for children



Herman has a teachable moment when harvesting

The 100 Kitchen Garden Program - Galveston Island Has Reached Its Goal!



Cheryl Watson
GCMG 2018

We have officially achieved our goal of building 100 kitchen garden raised beds at locations of deserving participants on Galveston Island. The 100 Kitchen Garden Program is one of the major projects initiated by the nonprofit organization Seeding Galveston that our chapter supports through volunteerism. Thanks to Master Gardener and community volunteers and garden managers, the urban farm main gardens are thriving despite the ravages of freezes, droughts, and excessive rains. We support Seeding Galveston by building new styles of beds (tiered), planting new fruit trees, and training new volunteers.

We recently reassessed our Kitchen Garden Program roster to identify those amateur gardeners most in need of advice for their gardening project. Master gardeners considering mentoring a beginning gardener on how to best manage their kitchen gardens and wanting to earn volunteer work credit, can send an email to cherylswatson@yahoo.com with *Kitchen Gardens* in the title. There are many ways that you can mentor beginning gardeners including in person, via phone/email/FaceTime, etc. If you invent a new way let us know.

Periodically, we help host chef-prepared or potluck farm dinners at the Seeding Galveston farm where kitchen gardeners, mentors, volunteers, farm animals (goats, chickens, guinea fowl, turkeys and the occasional very friendly dog), and interested Master Gardeners can meet each other. The next such event will be in late January. We give tours of the farm, introduce all participants to the management (Debbie Berger, John Sessions, and Deputy Manager Paula Mian), and discuss our progress while eating wonderful garden-fresh food served outdoors. The farm is at the corner of Avenue N and 33rd streets in Galveston, and covers several city lots. If you would like to

find people to talk with about the farm in general or about the Kitchen Garden project, it is best to come to the weekly farm stand where you may also buy some freshly picked produce. It is open on Wednesdays from 8-10:30 am, weather permitting. You can also bring your compostable garden or green food preparation waste to contribute to the large composting operation. Note to Galveston County Master Gardeners: if you can't come on weekly market days, contact me and I can give you a personal tour.

One of our chapters more recent large multi-client projects is the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute (OLLI) kitchen gardens, with multiple beds serving many of the OLLI retirement-age clients. It is on the UTMB campus in the 1200 block of Market St. (at the back). We've recently planted lots of greens including lettuce, kale, kohlrabi, spinach, chard, pak choi, cabbage, mustard greens and collards, and also fennel, beets, radishes, broccoli and tomatoes. These plantings match the selection from which the other Kitchen Gardeners have planted this time of year as well. The OLLI gardens now also have dedicated herb and pollinator gardens. Master Gardeners, OLLI member volunteers, and a group of nursing students help with the maintenance and watering. A nutrition graduate student has made nutrition card labels for all the plants so clients can benefit from this knowledge. If you are interested in the OLLI gardens, please contact Master Gardener Debbie Valdez who manages this site.

We are very proud of this wonderful healthy home-grown food community enterprise. Please come by and see us. Also see the Seeding Galveston website at <https://seedinggalveston.com> and sign up for their weekly newsletter, or email them at seedinggalveston@yahoo.com for further information.



Tiered beds in the garden



Herb garden



Tiered beds in the background of the garden

Sam's Special Starter Mix



Linda Steber
GCMG 1991

GCMG Sam Scarcella was renowned for his tomatoes and spent many years developing the perfect starter mix to give them a solid healthy start. Master gardeners still use this mix in the Discovery Garden at Carbide Park as the starter fertilizer mix for tomatoes, peppers and eggplant transplants these many years later.

This mix has become very popular with our chapter Master Gardeners. It is also discussed during Ira Gervais' Tomato seminars and is used in the MG Intern tomato trials assignment in the Discovery Garden.

The following is the recipe for Sam's success:

- 1ea 40# bag- 3 parts Gypsum (pelletized) - 20 percent Ca, 16 percent S)
- 2ea 4# bag- 2 parts Bonemeal - (0-10-0)
- 1ea 8# bag- 2 parts Bloodmeal - (12-0-0)
- 4ea 4# bag- 3 parts Cottonseed meal - (6-1-1)
- 2ea 4# bag- 1 part Super Triple Phosphate - (0-46-0)
- 4ea 4# bag- 3 parts Soluble Potash - (0-0-22) - (Includes 11 percent Mg, 22 percent S)
- 1ea 4# bag- 1/4 part Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom salt) (Mg)
- 1ea 4# bag- 1/16 part Copperas (Soluble iron) (Fe)
- 1ea 4# bag- 1/16 part Zinc Sulphate (Zn)
- 1ea 8# bag- 2 parts Alfalfa Meal - Triacontanol growth stimulator - plus Mg, phos, potash & sul.
(Measures are by volume)

Approximate Nutrient Analysis of above Fertilizer Blend

N	Nitrogen	2.5 percent
P	Phosphorus	4.3 percent
K	Potassium	4.1 percent
Ca	Calcium	10.0 percent
S	Sulfur	10.1 percent
Mg	Magnesium	2.0 percent
Fe	Iron (Copperas)	0.5 percent
Zn	Zinc	0.5 percent

Add approximately 3 oz. total (1/2 of a 6 oz cup) of this mix to the soil that was removed for the planting and placed in the container...mix well.

**Only use this mix for starting transplants. Do not side dress with this mix.

Sam Scarcella (image at right) was in one of the early MG classes. He started the Master Gardener Association and was the first President from 1986-89. He wrote the first MG newsletter. His specialty was tomatoes. He passed away in May 2013.



Eggplant growing



Pepper growing



Tomatoes growing

Onions, Garlic Proves Easy to Grow



Debie Lambson
GCMG 2020

As a vegetarian, I love growing and eating vegetables – tomatoes, squash, peppers, cabbage, greens, etc. – they are all yummy. But what makes my plate even better are onions and garlic. Onions and garlic are a staple of many dishes, so why not grow your own. They have a long growing season, are easy to cultivate and can be tucked in just about any sunny empty spot in your garden.

In our area, short day onion varieties grow best such as 1015 Texas Super Sweet, Texas Early White, Red Creole or Southern Bell Red. They all take about 100 days from transplant to harvest and should be planted in November if planting from bunches or “sets,” which are small onion bulbs grown from previous year.

Before planting, make sure to work the soil loose about six to eight inches deep and mix in good compost in the top inch or two. Spread a balanced fertilizer and mix into the top of the soil. Plant the seedlings about four to six inches apart and three-fourths inch deep – only deep enough to get your little onions to stand up! Pinch the soil around the top. You will want to reapply fertilizer every three to four weeks but be sure to water in the fertilizer after each application.

Although you want to keep your onions from drying out, you do not want to overwater either. An inch of water once a week should be sufficient. In the late spring you will see the stem and leaves dry out and fall over; no worries – that just means your onions are ready to harvest. They can be harvested May to June and will store well if kept in a cool dry place.

Garlic is just as fun and easy to grow. The softneck varieties like Silverskin and Artichoke grow best in our area.

Preparing the soil is the same as for onions and watering and fertilizing is similar but garlic does well with bone meal added to the soil.

Just break apart the cloves from the bulb being careful not to remove all the paper-like skin around the clove, plant the root end, or basal plate, down with the pointy end up - about two inches deep and about four inches apart. Once the plants sprout it is good to mulch around them. Garlic grows better in cooler temperatures so the deeper the mulch, the cooler the ground will stay. Light colored mulch like straw may deflect heat more than dark colored mulches so stay away from those.

When flower stalks appear, cut them back to focus the plant’s energy on growing the bulb. The flower stalks are called scapes and are a tasty treat.

Harvest the garlic when the top four to five leaves are 50 percent green and the lower leaves are completely dry. Brush off the excess dirt and hang bundles of 5 to 10 plants out of direct sunlight where there is good air circulation. Allow them to hang around for three to four weeks to cure. After curing, trim the roots and cut the neck one-half inch above the bulb. Most garlic will store well anywhere from six months to a whole year.

Onions and garlic are much tastier when grown in your own garden. Even though they take all winter and spring to mature, they are worth the wait.

Sources:

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/mulching/>

Texas A&M Aggie Horticulture Easy Gardening Fact Sheets:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/easy-gardening-series/>



Garlic Planting



Onion sets. Photo by Debie Lambson

Quiz: Name That Seedling!



Lisa Belcher
GCMG 2014

We've all done it at least once in our gardening foray. Even experienced gardeners shake their heads when they realize their vegetable rows have been mislabeled. Thinking we will soon be harvesting beautiful snowy colored cauliflower heads only to find out the row is actually squash seedlings can be quite a surprise. Take this quiz

to test your seedling knowledge. What vegetable is each seedling producing? Choose from the following list.

Pea Sprout

Cabbage

Tomato

Bean

Radishes

Cucumber

Zucchini

Green Onion

Cauliflower

Pepper

Pumpkin

Carrot

• Answers on page 34.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____



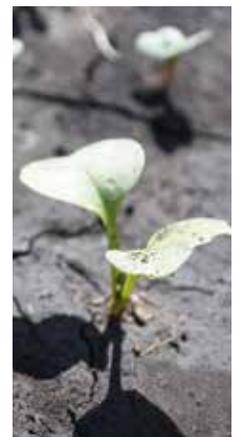
9. _____



10. _____



11. _____



12. _____

Photos courtesy of Pixabay.com

Winter Garden Insects



Hedy Wolpa
GCMG 2018

Garden insect pests are still with us well into the cooler months. When we know what to expect from these aggressive insects, and are observant as our crops mature, we can act and save the harvest. Here is a short list of the most active fall-winter garden insects, and how to identify and control them.

Aphids

Aphids can impact every vegetable in your garden; including tomatoes, lettuces, kale, and cabbages. These small, pear-shaped, soft-bodied insects pierce plant parts and suck out the fluids, excreting honeydew and causing sooty mold in the process. Aphids, vary in color from green to yellow, brown to red or black, and give birth to live, hungry young that can then reproduce as soon as 10 days after birth. Carefully check new growth and the undersides of leaves for their presence. Beneficial insects such as lady beetles and lacewings larvae eat and can help manage aphids, so consider planting flowering plants nearby that will attract them. Control includes spraying with a sharp stream of water to knock them off of the plants or hand-squash them. Applying horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, and neem-based products are also helpful.

Cabbage Loopers

These leaf-feeding caterpillars chew on the leaves of plants such as cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kale and bok choy, as well as other fall vegetables. From white to pale green with

whitish stripes, cabbage loopers arch like inchworms as they eat their way through your vegetables. The cabbage looper is the larvae of a moth, and reproduction continues year-round in moderate winter climates. Cabbage loopers can completely defoliate plants as they chew on leaves, leave ragged holes or bore into a cabbage head. Control of these caterpillars includes hanging birdhouses and bird feeders in the garden to attract plenty of hungry birds. Consider covering plants with floating row cover from the time of planting until harvest, as host plants do not need to be pollinated to be productive. Inspect plants and handpick the caterpillars as another effective measure. Two insecticide products to try contain active ingredient Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) and Spinosad.

Colorado Potato Beetles

Potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers are damaged by the Colorado potato beetle, which is a serious pest in fall vegetable gardens. Larvae are red with black spots along their sides, and adults are yellow-tan beetles with five black stripes on each wing cover. With multiple generations possible, late-season gardens may get all stages of this pest at once, from eggs and larvae to adults. You will spot larvae and adults near the tops of plants, and they will eat almost all foliage down to the leaf veins. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomology suggests that gardeners rotate crops and clean up all plant debris after harvest since the adult beetles will overwinter and begin their life cycle again early in spring. Con-



Cabbage Looper. Photo by MJ Hatfield.



Aphids. Photo by MJ Hatfield.



Colorado Potato Beetle. Photo by John Richards.

“When we know what to expect...we can act and save the harvest.”

Control includes hand-picking the adults and larvae when you see them, or keeping floating row covers in place through harvest. Neem oil products and spinosad-based sprays are effective.

Cutworms

Cabbage, carrots, lettuces and peppers are just a few of the usual victims of cutworms. Partial or completely cut stems and wilted leaves are the damage you will see from cutworms. Late-season seedlings and transplants meant for fall harvests are especially vulnerable. They are difficult to spot because they spend their days in soil and come out at night to eat. In our region, three or more generations of cutworms in one garden bed -is not unusual because they overwinter as larvae in the soil. Turning your garden soil in fall and spring helps reduce carryover. Adult cutworms are brown or gray night-flying moths. The caterpillars grow to 2 inches long and curl into a tight C-shape when disturbed. They are found in the top few inches of soil and depending on the species can be colored green, yellow, brown, or gray. Prevention is fairly effective, and measures include rotating crops and protecting young seedlings by making a collar of aluminum foil or cardboard at the soil level. Beneficial nematodes are also helpful.

Stink Bugs

Stink bugs can be as troublesome for gardeners in fall as in spring and summer. You will find them on last harvest okra and tomatoes, as well as broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in cooler fall months. Adult stink bugs overwinter in the gar-

den or in our homes, only to emerge in spring and begin to reproduce in numbers. Young true stink bugs retain their basic shape, but vary in color as they mature from nymph to adult. They emit a stinky smell when smashed. They damage vegetables by piercing the skin or leaves and sucking out juices and can quickly destroy an entire crop. Practicing good garden sanitation so there are few places for insects to hide will help with maintenance and control. Hand picking or vacuuming insects is very effective. You can also drown them in soapy solution to avoid the characteristic smell when smashing them. Spraying with insecticidal soap causes the surface membranes of the insect exoskeleton to be impaired. Attracting beneficial insects to the garden will help control stink bug eggs and larvae. Pesticides can be used if applied according to label directions and are unlikely to harm the garden environment long-term.

Gardeners can be as tenacious as fall insects when seeking methods to control them. Vigilance and good observation skills in the garden will reward you with healthy crops and some good eating!

Remember that when you choose to use pesticides/insecticides to control insect pests, follow the label directions and safety precautions.

Thanks to Texas A & M AgriLife Extension for research information for this article.



Stink bug. Photo by GCMG.



Cutworms. Photo courtesy of Iowa State University.

Gardeners Tasks for January & February



Patricia Martin
GCMG 1998

January

Prepare beds for vegetable gardening. Raise the beds 6-12 inches above ground level for proper drainage and aeration.

Set out onion transplants. Mid-January, kale and lettuce seed can be planted directly in the garden, as well as chard, collards, kohlrabi, English peas, Irish potatoes, parsley, radish and spinach.

Fertilize pansies and other winter annuals with a light application of blood meal or 21-0-0 fertilizer, one-half pound per 100 square foot of area.

This is an excellent time to prune landscape trees as well as most shrubs grown for foliage.

The following seeds can be sown outside after the last estimated frost: Alyssum, cosmos, salvia, sweet pea and verbena.

These bulbs can be planted now: agapanthus, amaryllis, canna, calla and crinum.

Do not fertilize newly planted trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow and then only very lightly the first year.

Roses have high fertilizer requirements. For most soils, use a complete fertilizer for the first application as new growth starts and after spring pruning. Then every four to six weeks, usually just as the new growth cycle starts following a flowering cycle.

Reduce watering for poinsettias.

Remove thatch in lawns.

Monitor for pest insect infestations and use dormant oil to kill scale and many other insects and their eggs on affected shrubs and trees.

Check narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs over winter in the pouch and start the cycle again, emerging in the spring feeding on the foliage. Remove the pouches by hand to reduce damage.

Sources:

Spade to Spoon by GCMGA

A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast by River Oaks Garden Club, fifth edition

A gardening column written by Dr. William Johnson, February 2001

February

Plant onion sets and transplants throughout the month.

Mid-February is the last chance to plant Irish potatoes for best yields.

Plant beets, chard, collards, kale, lettuce, spinach, radish and English peas. These herb plants can be planted: rosemary, parsley, mint and dill.

Transplants of broccoli and cabbage should be set out before February 15.

Sweet corn should be planted after February 15.

Start setting out gladiolus bulbs at two-week intervals up through early May for an extended bloom period.

Transplant established shrubs while they are dormant.

Plant bare-root roses, fruit and shade trees, pecan trees and dormant shrubs. Remember the medium to small size trees, about four to six feet, are usually faster to become established and more effective in the landscape than the large sizes.

Prune established hybrid tea, floribunda and grandiflora roses about Valentine's Day or by the end of the month. Do not prune one-time spring bloomers, climbing roses and antique roses until after the bloom cycle is finished. Also, do not fertilize newly planted rose bushes until after the first blooming cycle is completed.

Plant the following plants to attract butterflies: ageratum, phlox, buddleia, salvia, rudbeckia, bee balm and lantana.

These seeds can be planted: nasturtium, ageratum, portulaca, sunflower, and torenia. Zinnia can be planted after soil temps warm to 70-degrees.

Late in the month pot plumerias and move outside when evening temps remain at 50-degrees and above. Be ready to move them back in with anticipated late freeze. For larger plumerias, sink the pot in the ground.

St. Augustine lawns should not be fertilized this time of year until after the grass starts to actively grow.

Use a high-pressure stream of water and horticulture soap to remove aphids.

This is the last chance to prune figs to shape, other fruit trees after flowering and many shrubs to avoid losing summer bloom. Remove diseased, dead, or weak wood.

Wicked Weeds: Chickweed



MaryJane Fortney
GCMG 2017

This cool and warm season broadleaf annual is a major pest to gardeners. Beware, this weed is on the invasive plant list of most states. In Galveston County, this weed is common in gardens, lawns, and fields. It is sometimes called common chickweed to distinguish from other plants called chickweed. Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) has other common names that include chickenwort, craches, maruns, winterweed, tongue grass, star weed, and satin flowers.

Chickweed is native to Europe, but naturalized in many parts of North America. It is also widespread in Asia, Europe, and other parts of the world.

Although chickweed is annoying to gardeners, it does have redeeming qualities if growing in the proper place in the garden. It is considered an edible herb, and while often found coming up in the yard, seeds can be purchased for growing. Chickweed is more regarded as a weed than as a useful plant, but has a place in folk medicine as a remedy for asthma, constipation, cough, fever and various other ailments. The seed of chickweed is a source of food for birds. The plant attracts wildlife, especially songbirds, which eat its leaves and flowers.

Chickweed will often grow in large patches, which is why it is considered a weed. Seed output can be from 600 to 15,000 per plant. It is one of the top most common weeds at residences as its seeds are readily dispersed. The numerous seeds are small, reddish/brown, and disc-shaped. It reproduces vegetatively by rooting stems. Chickweed can be found in a wide variety of habitats and soil textures. Soil pH ranges from 4.8 to 7.3. It prefers soil with

a high level of nitrogen. Stems are found lying along the ground with rising tips. They are decumbent to 19 inches long with a longitudinal line of hairs. Leaves are opposite, oval, to .8 inches long, and are pointed at the tip. Flowering occurs in early spring when small white flowers develop in the leaf axils. Flowers appear alone or in small clusters. Flowers have five cleft petals, appearing that there are ten. Fruits are very small and are covered by hairy calyces.

Management

Manual: Hand pull or dig, making sure to remove the entire plant and root. Dispose of all plant parts because plant shoots have the ability to re-root. Keeping a healthy, dense lawn by seasonal mowing and fertilization will also reduce competition with weeds like chickweed.

Chemical: Weed identification is of utmost importance in selecting the proper herbicide for the job. While Chickweed can be effectively controlled using broad spectrum herbicides rated for broadleaf weeds, lawns with St. Augustine grass can be sensitive to specific products. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Aggie Turf specialists offers fact sheets for pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicide recommendations from the following website: <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/publications/>.

Source:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

<https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/publications/>

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/weekly_Q&A/t_6_chickweed.htm

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/turf/publications/weed4.html>



Photos courtesy of tamu.edu

Meet a Master Gardener: Debie Lambson



Trish McDaniel-
GCMG 2001

Debie Lambson, MG Class of 2020, considers herself a “new kid on the block,” so she was puzzled when asked to be the subject for an upcoming *Meet a Master Gardener* article. I assured her that she was heartily recommended by Newsletter Editor Karolyn Gephart for the enthusiasm and resourcefulness she demonstrated during her internship, and now as Team Lead in the vegetable beds at Discovery Garden.

We met in the gardens on a bright October morning while helping to unload a truck of citrus trees for the then upcoming plant sale. After the work concluded and the delectable lunch of etouffee that followed, we found a shady bench in the garden to talk.

Debie describes herself as a latecomer to gardening. Only after her retirement as Chief Marketing Officer and VP Health Division of American National Insurance Company did she move to League City and discover a new-found interest, now her passion, for growing her own food. Four years a vegetarian and two years a vegan, Debie finds growing her own food more than an enjoyable pastime; it’s an intentional and satisfying way of life.

While attending church in her new community, Debie made the acquaintance of Clyde Holt (MG 2005). The two enjoyed shared gardening stories and Clyde encouraged her to apply to the Texas Master Gardener program.

She and her husband Brent have a blended family of seven children and 16 grands, all living happily within the cities of Houston, Fort Worth and Austin. Brent’s passion is teaching English to Spanish speaking adults through a program at Houston Community College.

Debie loves her chosen home state of Texas, though she was only three years old upon arrival. She is an avid reader of Lone Star history. However, she was not so happy with her last selection, *Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth*. She laughed that she was compelled to finish it, begrudgingly, as she always finishes what she starts.

Debie’s success with the requisite Tomato Trials during her internship inspired her to make the Discovery Garden’s community vegetable beds her chosen activity. Here she and fellow interns grow a bounty of produce for regional food banks, while keeping carefully recorded details of crop production for future reference.

She shared an interesting crop note: while the seasonal cold

crops of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower were coming in as expected, the spinach seeds failed to germinate. It was thought to be due to the unusually warm October temperature. An experiment was devised: one batch of seeds were laminated inside paper towels and refrigerated, and another batch was frozen into cubes. Now weeks after the interview, Debie reports that the spinach is now coming up everywhere!

From her experience with her fellow Master Gardeners, Debie finds that “folks who grow things” are intrinsically kind and helpful sorts. Laughing, she says she especially enjoys the copious, although sometimes contrary advice from her fellow gardeners – a reflective nod to Dr. Johnson’s mantra, “Knowledge not shared is knowledge lost.” How one chooses to implement that knowledge can be marvelously inventive.



Debie with her vegetable team, Alysha Davila and Maria Abad



After completion of planting over 200 onions

New President Introduces Officers, Board



Kathy Maines
GCMG 2007

I am honored and proud to serve as president of the Galveston County Master Gardener Association. My goal is to continue the high standards for our association that has been set by all of our former presidents. Former presidents in attendance at our November Association and Board Meeting were Herman Auer, Jim Edwards, Ira Gervais and Sharon Zaal.



Board of Directors

Presidents since 1986

Sam Scarcella	1986-1989
Herman Auer	1990-1991
Sam Scarcella	1992-1993
Larry Baker	1994
Anna Wygrys	1995-1997
Jim Edwards	1998-2013
Ira Gervais	2014-2017
Sharon Zaal	2018-2021

I am excited about the individuals who have made voluntary commitments to lead our association with me. They include the following:

Executive Committee

President Kathy Maines	MG 2017
Sr. Vice-President Kevin Lancon	MG 2018
Secretary Briana Etie	MG 2017
Asst. Secretary Nancy Langston-Noh	MG 2016
Treasurer Debra Brizendine	MG 2015
Asst. Treasurer Sharon Zaal	MG 2015



President



Executive Committee

Delegates (Texas Master Gardener Association)

State Delegate I Velda Cuclis	MG 1987
State Delegate II Terry Cuclis	MG 1987

Board of Directors

Board Chairman Frank Resch	MG 2007
Board Member Ira Gervais	MG 2011
Board Member Tish Reustle	MG 2008
Board Member Linda Steber	MG 1991
Board Member Judy Anderson	MG 2012



TMGA Delegates

Support Continues for Discovery Classroom

Dr. J's favorite adage . . .

Knowledge not shared is knowledge lost

This motto instilled in the Galveston County Master Gardener program by the late Dr. William McCray Johnson is more than an expression to us.

Please join us in supporting the *Dr. William McCray Johnson Discovery Classroom*, planned to be built in the Discovery Garden in memory of Dr. J's contributions and love of education. The Discovery Garden is a 4-1/2 acre public demonstration garden maintained by Galveston County Master Gardeners. Your gift will help provide a quality outdoor learning space that connects students to nature.



Donations can be made -

- By check, payable to Galveston County Master Gardeners, 4102-B Main Street, La Marque, Texas 77568
- By credit card, at the following link:
<https://store.galvestonmg.org/>

Thanks to the following individuals who have donated so far:

Anderson, Judy
 Anderson, Melissa
 Barnett, Linda & Steve
 Barton, Pamela
 Baugh, Anne
 Blythe, Vicki
 Brizendine, Debbie & Larry

Brockington, Fran
 Brokmeyer, Wade
 Brueggeman, Cheryl
 Canavan, Margaret
 Canetti, Barbara
 Caskey, Nita
 Caulfield, Arthur
 Corey, Kaye
 Cothorn, Mike
 Cuclis, Terry & Velda
 Cummins, Bill & Joanie
 Davila, Alysha
 Davis, Mosette
 Demeny, Mary & Roger
 Dreesen, Alan
 Duray, Sharon
 Edwards, Jim & Joy
 Etie, Briana
 Fountain, Tom & Jan
 Franke, Denise
 Gauthier, Anna
 Gephart, Karolyn
 Greenfield, Nancy
 Hankins, Barbara & Gary
 Hardgrove, Joanne
 Harris, Brian L
 Haight, Phillip
 Heard, Doris
 Isbell, Mikey & Allen
 Ivey, Bobbie & Marty
 Jewell, Patsy
 Jones, Jacqueline
 Leonard, Mary
 Levine, Andrea
 Linton, Penelope
 Lyon, Ann
 Mabe, Helen
 Maines, Kathy
 Martens, Monica
 Martin, Patricia
 Massey, Massey
 Meads-Leahy, Susan
 Michejenko, Bronia
 Moffa, Sherri
 Morris, Karen
 Moss, Betty
 Nisbet, John
 Owens, Jerlee
 Parsons, Lynette
 Peterson, Nancy Lee
 Prince Jr., Rev. & Mrs Paul
 Progressive Missionary
 Baptist Church
 Schaub, Gerald
 Schenke, Diane
 Shook, Lynn
 Simmons, Maryland
 Smith, Mrs. Carol
 Speller, Gene
 Steber, Linda & Rich
 Stone Collins, Robin
 Stone-Peterson, Margie L
 Terrell, Melissa
 Vanderlip, Jack & Jemmie
 Winn, Mrs. Linda
 Zaal, Sharon

Discovery Garden Update



Tom Fountain
GCMG 2008

Now that the weather is cooler, more folks have been coming out to the Discovery Garden. It seems everyone has been ready to enjoy being outside doing some much needed gardening projects and catching up with friends. These projects were started slowly due to the pandemic and all our crazy weather.

After Hurricane Nicholas left a mess in the Discovery Garden, the decision was made to hire a crew to do a quick cleanup and trim some large trees. Kevin Lancon provided this picture (Fig. 1) of their crew at work. They did a great job.



1

Our master gardeners have been busy planting fall and winter gardens and doing other projects. Pictured in (Fig. 2) Debie Lambson, Maria Abad, Kevin Lancon and Alysha Davila are planting garlic in one of the community beds. In the pollinator garden I found Ken Deslattes, Vicki Blythe, Hazel Lampton, and Hedy Wolpa waiting for Phil Haught to return with another load of granite (Fig. 3). The crushed granite was being added to the garden walk area in an effort to keep the walk from turning into a bog and staying muddy for long periods of time.



2



3

We will soon be getting a couple of new raised beds to test in the garden. One of the new beds was being demonstrated to a large group of our master gardeners (Fig. 4). It will be interesting to see how the beds hold up and work in our garden.



4

Our plant sales are one of the activities here that most of us don't think about very often. However, the sales are one of the keys to a successful program. Pictured here is about one tenth of the team during fulfillment day at the fall plant sale. (Fig. 5) Maria Abad, Glenn Diket, Debie Lambson, Briana Etie and Sharon Zaal are working on consignments. I am always amazed at how well the team works together to help make it a success.



5

We are thankful for the kitchen crew who prepares lunch for those out working in the garden on Thursdays. (Fig. 6) David Brizendine and Phil Cone were out grilling hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. The food is always fresh and good. See you in the garden soon!



6

Photos by Tom Fountain

Heritage JMG Kids: Citizenship, Bluebonnets & Bulbs



Kaye Corey
GCMG 2001

Heritage Junior Master Gardeners meet every second Thursday at the Heritage Garden Center in Friendswood. Meetings begin with the Kids holding and pledging to the United States and Texas flags. I asked why we pledge the flags and what do the words mean. Our older Kids said it was a patriotic tradition. Nothing wrong with their answer, it opened an opportunity for more discussions.



“Honor the Texas flag, I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.” This means you stand with your hand over your heart to show respect to Texas and its flag. By pledging, you are promising to be loyal and to honor and respect the Texas flag and the State of Texas. Our State of Texas is under God’s care and can never be conquered.

The same discussion was conducted for our United States Pledge of Allegiance as part of the JMG program to teach good citizenship. Its meaning...You promise to be loyal and honor the flag of the United States of America and its government. It is a nation of citizens that is under God’s care and can never be conquered.

The Kids harvested Texas Bluebonnet seeds from the Keep Friendswood Beautiful Pollinator Garden in the spring and learned to make Seed Balls. In November, it was time to sow the seeds at the newly established KFB Bluebonnet Field in Old City Park in Friendswood. Figgy, the KFB mascot, met us at the new Bluebonnet site and the fun began. We thank Andrew Shelley, a JMG family member, who earned funds to purchase additional bluebonnet seeds for this project. The Kids then moved on to plant seeds in the KFB Pollinator Garden and in their garden at the Garden Center.

How to Make Seed Balls

On a tray combine: 3 tablespoons of sifted garden soil, 1 tablespoon of compost, 1 tablespoon of sand, and mix well with fingers. Add 1/2 teaspoon of seeds to the dry soil and mix in. Add a little bit of water at a time and mix with fingers to a consistency like cookie dough. You want a mixture that will stick to itself enough to form mud balls. You can form seed balls like small marbles. Let them dry into hard little rocks. When distributing, make sure they hit bare ground. Natural rains will be their water. Just wait for your flowers to bloom.



When an Amaryllis bulb in the garden was identified as a “big onion” a lesson and bulb forcing project were in the making. A collection of very tall vases that allowed for small hand entry was needed. Holding their paperwhite bulbs, we discussed the bulb nose, tunic and base, and how to plant in the soil. We learned not to remove the leaves after the blooms to allow the bulb to rebuild its nutrients. Growing bulbs in vases in water allowed a close up visual of how bulbs work.

Placing about three inches of white pebbles and colored glass stones in their vases, the bulb was placed on top. We poured water up to the base of the bulb. More water covering the bulb will cause it to rot. A competition began with who could grow the tallest paperwhite. Pictures and measurements were to be brought to our next meeting.

Book Review

Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities

by Amy Stewart



Lisa Belcher
GCMG 2014

The Green Thumb Book Club selection for September and October was a very short book by Amy Stewart with a rather lengthy title. That being said, *Wicked Plants* is filled with wit and wisdom as Stewart describes over two hundred botanical plants, vines, trees, flowers and nuts that may not seem as innocent as one might

think. There are simple pen and ink drawings throughout the book, all in black and sepia tones, which adds to the spooky tone of some of these stories. The introduction sets the tone of what lies in the book: “a tree that shed poison daggers; a glistening red seed stops the heart; a shrub causes intolerable pain; a vine intoxicates, a leaf triggers war. Within the plant kingdom lurk unfathomable evils.”

Stewart educates the reader about the following areas: intoxicating, illegal, deadly, dangerous, painful and destructive categories of plants. She does so with a brief history of the plant, recent medical uses for certain deadly (yes, deadly!) plants, all

with short chapters that are not only fascinating to read but educational as well. There were many plants, fruits and berries that many of our book club members were familiar with, yet most of us learned a new fact that, at times, had us shaking

our heads and saying out loud “I never knew that”. Many of us are familiar with delicious elderberry wine or jam and pies, but did you know that you cannot consume elderberries raw as they contain a small level of cyanide? No, we didn't either!

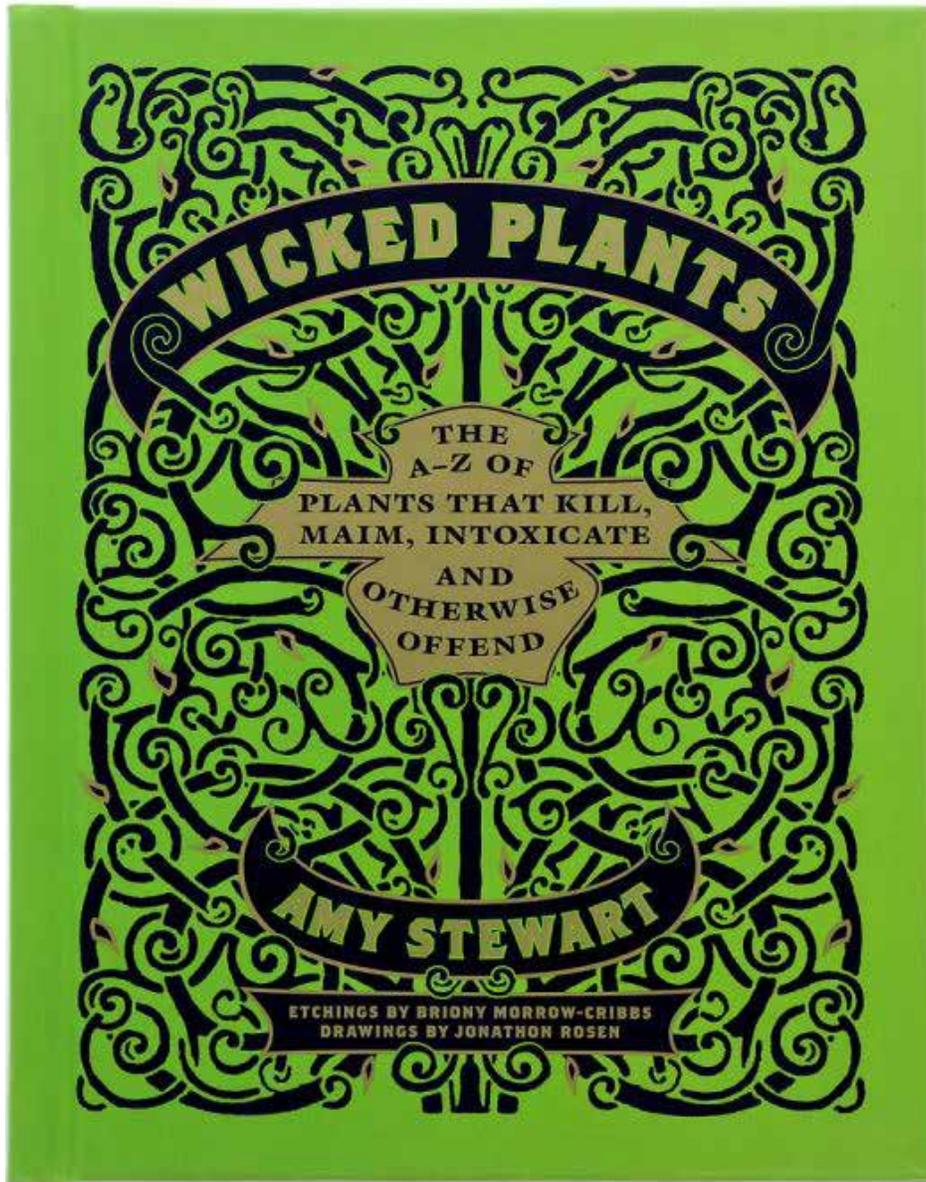
Not all stories are doom and gloom and many are quite fascinating. Readers can't help but shake their heads and smile when they read about a plant that was used to make a ruler of a

country temporarily ill, the country overthrown and realize that today, we can buy that same plant to beautify our back yards.

Our book club members felt this was such an informative book that we will be working together to prepare a seminar sometime next year to offer at the extension office.

Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities is published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, is 221 pages, and can be found at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, as well as many online half priced book sellers. After reading this book by Stewart,

you may be interested in her other two books: *Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleons Army & Other Diabolical Insects* and *The Drunken Botanist: The Plants that Create the World's Great Drinks*.



Seasonal Bites



Sandra Gervais
GCMG 2011

The new year has started and the cycle of life in the garden begins once again, no matter what the weather does. Since this is Texas where our weather can vary drastically from day to day, let's think about soups. On a cold, miserable day, a steaming, fragrant pot boiling happily on the stove reminds us of the warm veggies of summers past and future. These recipes can be made without meat; just be sure to add extra herbs and seasonings to fortify the flavor. And if you're not a pepper lover, add your favorites.



Easy Vegetable Soup

- 1 pound ground beef or Italian sausage
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 (15-ounce) can beans, undrained (can use kidney beans, white beans, etc.)
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1/4 cup raw rice
- 2 (16-ounce) cans stewed tomatoes, undrained
- 3 1/2 cups of water—mixed with either five beef bouillon cubes or five teaspoons of beef bouillon base
- 3 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1/8-1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup cut fresh or frozen green beans

Brown meat with onion and garlic in a Dutch oven over medium heat for about five minutes. Drain off fat.
Add beans, carrots, celery, rice, tomatoes, water, bouillon, parsley, basil, and pepper.
Bring to a boil.
Reduce heat, cover and simmer 40 minutes.
Add green beans.
Continue simmering 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
Serve with a sprinkle of grated Parmesan cheese and hot sauce if desired.

Makes three quarts.

Note:

Don't be afraid to add any leftover veggies from your fridge. And add extra herbs, fresh or dried, like basil, oregano, thyme. Be creative; it doesn't have to taste the same every time! And remember, a homemade broth makes everything tastier.



Crock-pot Chicken Tortilla Soup

- 1 1/2 pounds cooked, shredded chicken (can use turkey or rotisserie chicken leftovers)
- 1 (15-ounce) can whole tomatoes
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans rinsed and drained
- 1 (10-ounce) can enchilada sauce
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 (4-ounce) can chopped green chilies
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 cups water
- 14 ounces chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon each: ground cumin, chili powder, salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1-2 bay leaves
- 1 (10-ounce) package of frozen corn
- 1 tablespoon dried cilantro or 3 tablespoon fresh cilantro
- 3-4 corn tortilla cut into strips and toasted

In Crock-Pot (6-8 quart), combine chicken, tomatoes, black beans, enchilada sauce, onion, green chilies, and garlic.

Add water, broth, cumin, chili powder, salt, pepper and bay leaves. Stir in corn and cilantro.

Cook in Crock-Pot on low 6-8 hours or on high 3-4 hours.

Serve topped with grated Monterrey Jack cheese and toasted tortilla strips.

January & February 2022 GCMG Calendar of Public Educational Programs

Unless otherwise noted all programs are conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located inside Carbide Park at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519), La Marque, 77568

You must pre-register to attend any class.

Register at <https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/>

WEDGE GRAFTING

Saturday, January 8, 2022 / 9 - 11:30 am

Master Gardeners Hazel Lampton, Debbie Espinosa, and Herman Auer will discuss the how, when & why of wedge, whip and tongue, and chip bud method grafting. This hands-on program will give you choices to graft stone fruit, pome, and evergreen fruit trees.

NOTE: Class is limited to 20 persons participating. Others may attend for observation only. You must pre-register to attend.

PLANTING FRUIT TREES

Saturday, January 15, 2022 / 9 - 11:30 am

Master Gardeners Hazel Lampton, Debbie Espinosa, and Herman Auer will present information to help you plant your desired fruit trees to ensure a long, productive life with a well-anchored root system. With over 50 years of combined experience these instructors will show you there is no limit to what your fruit trees can do.

FRUIT TREE SELECTIONS

Saturday, January 15, 2022 / 1-3 pm

Master Gardener Robert Marshall will present information on the better, easier to grow fruit trees for Galveston County. Rootstock, variety, pollination, and chill hours will be discussed.

GROWING GREAT TOMATOES, Part 2 of 3

Saturday, January 22, 2021 / 9 - 11:30 am

This is part two of the three-part program on Growing Great Tomatoes by Galveston County Master Gardener Ira Gervais. Gervais reveals his secrets of successful planting and production of great tomatoes. Learn about the various varieties that do well in this area, making your selections, when to transplant your seedlings and various growing techniques. Information on soil requirements, needed nutrients and the temperature ranges for best tomato fruit set will be included.

SUCCESSFUL SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING

Saturday, January 22, 2022 / 1 - 3 pm

Master Gardener Kevin Lancon, a vegetable enthusiast with a passion for garden fresh vegetables, will share his knowledge of years of hands-on experience growing vegetables. Topics will include how to plan and plant a vegetable garden, location, and the best

varieties for Galveston County. Also included will be pollination, mulching, the effects of full sun and shade on leafy and fruiting vegetables, and garden failures.

GROWING PEACHES IN GALVESTON COUNTY

Saturday, January 29, 2022 / 9 - 11:30 am

Master Gardener Herman Auer, an avid gardener with over 60 years of experience growing stone fruit in Galveston County, will guide you through what it takes to grow peaches. Learn the better variety selections for Galveston County, what to look for when buying your peach or other stone fruit tree, and the best planting locations. Topics discussed will include chill hours, rootstock, pruning to shape for air flow, production, thinning methods that lead to larger fruit, and diseases & insects.

GARDEN BULBS FOR GALVESTON COUNTY

Saturday, January 29, 2022 / 1-3 pm

Master Gardeners Fran Brockington & Lisa Davis, bulb enthusiasts, will introduce participants to true bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes that can be grown successfully in Galveston County. The history of bulbs, gardening techniques and calendar care will be covered.

IRISH POTATOES

Saturday, February 5, 2022 / 9 - 11 am

Galveston County Master Gardener Kevin Lancon will provide a detailed overview of how to grow Irish potatoes in your home garden. This presentation of best practices for maximum production is for beginners and seasoned potato enthusiasts alike.

GROWING AVOCADOS

Saturday, February 5, 2022 / 1-3 pm

Hazel Lampton, Galveston County Master Gardener, has years of experience growing avocados and will cover the best varieties for the Gulf Coast, how to start plants from seeds, as well as tips on tree planting and cultivation methods for growing avocados.

GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ONLINE SPRING PLANT SALE

February 11 - 12, 2022

Choose from hundreds of plants adapted to the Texas Gulf Coast growing area. We will have a selection of fruit & citrus trees, tomatoes, potatoes, sweet peppers, bulbs, and perennials available for purchase. [Browse](#) online starting February 4! [Shop](#) NOON TO NOON Feb 11 - Feb 12 online & schedule a curbside pick-up time. Visit the Galveston County Master Gardeners' online store for more details - <https://store.galvestonmg.org>

Ribbon Cutting Held for Renaming Extension Office

Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark, Commissioner Stephen D. Holmes, and District Extension Administrator Eric Zimmerman participated in the ribbon cutting to rename the extension office. Originally set for September, the event was moved due to inclement weather to December 3.



Commissioner Holmes spoke to the crowd with Julie Massey and Phoenix Rogers beside him. Commissioner Clark also shared with the crowd his memories of Dr. Johnson.



The new name for the Extension Office is the Preston E. Poole and Dr. William McCray Johnson Extension Office located in Carbide Park in La Marque.



A special reception was held following the ceremony and hors d'oeuvres and cake were served under the direction of GCMG Linda Barnett.

Photos by Karolyn Gephart

Libbie's Place Has New Contacts



Kathy Maines
GCMG 2017

A big thank you to MGs Mary Leonard and Roxanne Rosson. They are the new master gardener contacts for Libbie's Place.

Master Gardeners have two volunteer opportunities at Libbie's Place. Each Friday, except the second Friday of the month, we have the Green Thumb Club where we meet directly with Libbie's clients. Libbie's Place continues to allow volunteers outside only. With changes in the weather, it can easily be too cold or too windy for the clients to come outside. The second Friday of the month, we have the Beautification Bunch where we work in the Libbie's Place garden. Our volunteers in November were Ann Anderson, Stephen Brueggerhoff, Barbara Canetti, Nancy Greenfield, John Hall, Bobbie Ivey, Mary Leonard, Kathy Maines, and Celia Philpot. We weeded, pruned, raked, swept and hauled limbs out to the street. We harvested sweet potatoes that had been started in jars and then transplanted. This was followed by our horticulture agent, Stephen Brueggerhoff, filming his FaceBook Live video, Floral Fridays. The Libbie's Place staff members were excited and appreciative.

The following Friday, at the Green Thumb Club, the clients viewed the video. They reported that they learned something new about the plants in their garden. Check out the video at: <https://www.facebook.com/galvestontxext/videos/667907677947869>.

Holiday Fun at the December Event

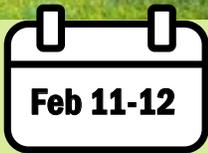
The holiday party for GCMGs was December 14 at the home of Mikey (GCMG 1992) and Allen Isbell in Galveston. A holiday potluck, White Elephant, toy donation and officer installation were all part of the fun.



Photo by Carlos Rios

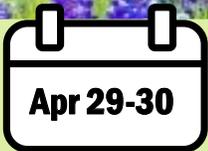
Photos by Karolyn Gephart

Galveston County Master Gardeners 2022 Plant Sales



Ready, Set, Spring! Sale

Fruit & citrus trees, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, bulbs, & perennials



Spring Fling Sale

Master Gardener grown items, perennials, herbs, & peppers



Sizzling Summer Sale

Plumeria, tropical hibiscus, Louisiana irises, & okra



Summer Sundown Sale

Fruit & citrus trees, tomatoes, & perennials



Fall Festival - In person at the Discovery Garden

Master Gardener grown items, fall vegetables, & herbs



Blooms & Bulbs Sale

Hardy hibiscus, snapdragons, amaryllis, narcissus, various lilies, & more



Unless otherwise noted, all sales will be held online.

For more information visit:

<https://store.galvestonmg.org>



If you need special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Time to Think About Fruit Tree Cultivation



Stephen Brueggerhoff
Extension Agent - Horticulture
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension
Service Galveston County

As your Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent. The welcome from our membership and from my office has been outstanding, a testament to a culture of hospitality and friendship cultivated over many years by each of you and by our beloved Dr. William Johnson. I look forward to getting to know you all better through the coming years, exploring ideas and knowledge, learning from each other and growing together as we support our mission sharing best practices in horticulture with our community.

I have many gardening interests including vegetable gardening, and I want to focus on home fruit production. Late winter is a great time to search for fruit trees at places like the Galveston County Master Gardeners Ready, Set, Spring! Sale on February 11 and 12, an online experience offering fruit and citrus trees as well as select veggies. Browse online to the plant store for more info: store.galvestonmg.org/.

Of course there are a few steps prior to purchase and planting to ensure years of production that include site location, soil testing as well as varietal chill hour requirement. Once purchased and you get it home, planting seems like it would be a simple task: dig a hole, plop in the arboreal beauty, water and done. Not so fast, my intrepid gardener. Next step is to dig a hole twice as wide as and no deeper than the root ball. Remember that you will have a bit of settling after planting, and I suggest leaving about one-inch higher than soil level to accommodate. Next look over the root mass and remove any inward growing or curling woody roots. Use a technique called root washing, removing all soil from the mass by washing with a hose, exposing any malformed roots that provide an opportunity to clearly inspect and prune them.

Tree roots serve a dual purpose: they absorb and transfer water and minerals, as well as provide a foundation and support. Supplemental material like peat moss or composted material may encourage roots to become more localized and not readily move out of the rich environment of the planting hole. Always save and use the native soil for back fill. Once you place the tree in the hole, back fill with one-third of the native soil, making sure to lightly tamp the soil to hold everything in place. Water until you see it slightly pool, then let drain to reduce air pockets created in planting. Repeat this activity until you fill up the hole to level. Build a 4-inch berm around the tree at least 2-feet away from the trunk and fill the berm with water for final settling. Staking is not necessary unless the

tree is top-heavy. Hand water your trees every four days for two weeks, then every five days for two weeks and increase the time between watering until you can water the tree every twenty days. Always adjust water schedule for seasonal rains, the key point is to not over saturate the soil that may lead to root rot. Remember that lawn sprinklers do not replace good old hand watering. These steps are just the tip iceberg for fruit production, and we'll be hosting programs focusing on home citrus and fruit cultivation through our Gulf Coast Gardening Education programs starting in January that includes planting, fruit tree selections, growing peaches and more. Check them out online, be well and I'll see you in the garden.



A variety of fig trees will be offered at sale February 11-12.



Fruit and citrus trees will be in the online GCMG Plant Sale February 11-12 (noon - noon)

2021 Master Gardener Association Leadership

President

Sharon Zaal

Sr. Vice President

Kathy Maines

Treasurer

Debra Brizendine

Secretaries

Briana Etie and Nancy Langston-Noh

State Association Delegates

Terry and Velda Cuclis

State Association Alternate Delegate

Ira Gervais and Sharon Zaal

VP for Programs

Herman Auer,

Education Programs

Judy Anderson,

Monthly Meetings

Speakers Bureau Coordinators

Betty Webb and

Nancy Langston-Noh

Plant Sale Chairmen

Kathy Maines and Kevin Lancon

Discovery Garden Coordinator

Kevin Lancon

Discovery Garden Area Leaders

Judy Anderson, Sue Bain,

Linda Barnett, Julie Cartmill,

David Cooper, Lisa Davis,

Briana Etie, Pam Hunter,

John Jons, Debie Lambson,

Kathy Maines, Monica Martens,

Rachel Montemayor,

Tish Reustle and Jim Waligora

VP for Volunteer Development

Nancy Greenfield

MG Intern Course Team Leader

Pam Hunter

VP for Media Relations

Nita Caskey

Newsletter Editors

Karolyn Gephart and

Robin Stone Collins

Fellowship

Penny Bessire

MG Volunteer Hour Recorders

Wayne Elliott,

Dr. Margaret Canavan

and Linda Steber

Jr. Master Gardener Programs Leaders

Kaye Corey and Gayle McAdoo

Photography Team Leaders

Herman Auer, Tom Fountain

and Chris Anastas

Webmaster

Genevieve Benson

Board of Directors

Ira Gervais, Tim Jahnke, Frank

Resch,

Tish Reustle and Linda Steber

CEA-HORT and Master Gardener

Program Coordinator

Stephen Brueggerhoff, M.S.

Galveston County Monthly Meetings



Judy Anderson
GCMG 2012

January 11, 2022

Please mark your calendars for the Galveston County Master Gardeners Monthly Meetings in January and February. You will want to attend the January meeting where the GCMG leaders will be telling us about the many changes ahead for the organization.

We will be starting the new year with new President Kathy Maines, and new Vice-President Kevin Lancon. They will be sharing their plans for the year ahead and the Discovery Garden, where we can expect changes during the next year. Modifications to the raised vegetable garden beds, plant sales and other additions to the garden will be discussed.

Robin Collins will explain how the Texas Master Gardener Association is organized and how she is involved.

Stephen Brueggerhoff will offer a road map for the year ahead.

Plans for the development of the Dr. William Johnson Outdoor Classroom will be presented. The evening will begin with a potluck dinner. The good food is always a treat.

Monthly meetings count for volunteer hours. What a great way to get volunteer time!

February 8, 2022

February will be an important meeting for all Master Gardeners. We will be hosting Janis Teas, Texas Department of Agriculture Inspector, who will present about Citrus Canker. Citrus Greening has been a serious concern in the state during recent years. Recently, Citrus Canker has become an issue in the state and surrounding counties. Citrus Canker causes the fruit and leaves of the infected tree to drop early. This presentation will provide a management program for a disease that is currently incurable.

Bring a dish for the potluck dinner to be shared before the program.

This Citrus Canker presentation will qualify for educational hours for Master Gardeners. The monthly meeting qualifies as volunteer hours.

Answers to Seedling Quiz on page 17

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bean | 6. Zucchini |
| 2. Cabbage | 7. Carrot |
| 3. Pumpkin | 8. Pepper |
| 4. Cauliflower | 9. Cucumber |
| 5. Tomato | 10. Green Onion |
| | 11. Pea Sprout |
| | 12. Radishes |

Kitchen Crew and Mikey for GCMGA Holiday Party.



Photo by Karolyn Gephart